COVID-19, RESURGING DANGER OF PANDEMIC TO THE PEOPLE PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL
Harmonious progress needs to meet the sustainable development goals-SDG: Vice-Senior General
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Immigration and citizenship verification working committee holds meeting (1/2021)
PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 54, 3rd Waxing of Nayon 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Saturday, 12 June 2021

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to remains of Zaygon Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is paying homage to the remains of Zaygon Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid homage to the remains of Presiding Nayaka of Zaygon Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara yesterday afternoon.

First, the Senior General paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw kept at the Golden Jubilee Beikman Chamber of Zaygon Monastery.

After paying homage to Ovadacariya Sayadaws, the Senior General sought the words of advice from Ovadacariya Sayadaws for the plans to hold the final rites of the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw.

Presiding Nayaka of Zaygon Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara served the duty of State Ovadacariya. The Sayadaw established Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery in Pyinmana as the Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre. The Sayadaw gave lectures on Pariyatti literature to some 300 student monks until he passed away. The Sayadaw established U Buddho Tawya Yeiktha, where he himself took meditation and gave meditation guidelines to members of the Sangha and disciples and Yogis. The Sayadaw had served the Pariyatti and Patipatti duties with earnest efforts while managing many branches of the monastery. The religious miracle Sayadaw passed away aged 95 and vasa 75.—MNA

188 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 11 June, total figure rises to 145,064

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **145,064 after 188 new cases** were reported on 11 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **132,765** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **3,239** after two died. — MNA

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Magway govt to plant 160,000 trees this year
PAGE-4

LOCAL BUSINESS
CMP garment exports drop by 20 per cent in eight months
PAGE-5

LOCAL BUSINESS
Myanmar ships over 1.14 mln tonnes of rice worth $546.6 mln this FY
PAGE-5

LOCAL NEWS
Dollar exchange rate falls by K10 after CBM sells $3 mln
PAGE-6

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.

(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee
Declaration of Terrorist Groups
Notification No 2/2021

12th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME

8 May 2021

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

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

Chairman

Anti-Terrorism Central Committee

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)

Harmonious progress needs to meet the sustainable development goals-SDG: Vice-Senior General

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win is addressing the first meeting of the National Land Utilization Council yesterday.

THE National Land Utilization Council held the first meeting at Ingyin Hall of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm yesterday, with an address by Chairman of the Council Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General stressed that emphasis must be placed on systematic management of land resources as it is necessary to take account of land resources not only for the current situation but also for posterity so as to fulfil the needs of the people in food sufficiency, the richness of water sources, good transportation, peace and tranquillity of urban and society, growth of businesses, conservation of environment and preservation of cultural heritage.

It is important that the management of land resources must be reviewed on various outlooks such as economic, political, legal and social affairs to adopt and implement the correct and comprehensive policies, firm legal framework and capable land management and administration systems.

As the exact land utilization policies were not adopted in Myanmar in addition to the weakness of land management, land utilization problems happened among the government, the people and the investors and land disputes among industrial, mining, tourism, agriculture, forestry and urban sectors. Small- and medium-scale businesspersons faced lesser investment opportunities due to difficulties to get the adequate land area for foreign investors and unprecedented hoking of land values. Moreover, inaccuracy of data and maps on land utilization and land invasion caused disputes on permission and ownership rights between those in the management sector and the people.

It is necessary to further strengthen the cooperation in groups and individuals among relevant ministries for strategically implementing the decisions on land and natural resources in order to easily use exact and correct information with better management for land information. Harmonious progress needs to meet the sustainable development goals-SDG.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to scrutinize some old land resource laws and management systems to be in conformity with the current situation, to serve the interests of the people and to be fair. By overcoming the challenges, the above-mentioned measures must be amended to be systematic policies, fair laws and procedures and a new management system. If necessary, a national land law must be drawn.

> The council needs to form land utilization committees in the Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw Council) and regions and states to effectively supervise the land utilization in respective areas and assign duty and functions for these committees.

The duty and functions of the National Land Utilization Council comprise the tasks to draw the national land law.

The council needs to form land utilization committees in the Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw Council) and regions and states to effectively supervise the land utilization in respective areas and assign duty and functions for these committees.

Necessary supporting work committees must be formed in the Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw Council) and regions and states to contribute to tasks of the National Land Utilization Council, including long term utilization of land resources, firmness of farming rights and drawing of the national land law.

The Vice-Senior General urged all to discuss processes to be based on undertakings of tasks and projects based on land utilization policies. To do so, members must be participated in the respective sectors.

Secretary of the national council Union Minister for National Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi reported on duty and functions of the council and undertakings of national land utilization.

Members of the national council and officials discussed information security for mapping system, implementation of the council's policies, investment for land utilization, review of the national land policies and efforts for the emergence of the national land law.

Next, the Vice-Senior General emphasized fairness of existing laws and procedures related to the land for land utilization and rights in urban and rural areas in the country.

A national land law must be drawn as quickly as possible. Relevant departments and organizations need to implement clear, easy and accurate land management machinery for land utilization and farming rights. In addition, the capacity of staff from departments and organizations must be enhanced for realizing the policy, law, and procedure of land utilization.

Land utilization-related organizations such as the central farmland management body, the vacant, fallow and virgin land management central committee and the Myanmar Investment Committee have been formed for land utilization. These organizations need to coordinate with the national council, which will give appropriate guidance for necessary measures.—MNA

Immigration and citizenship verification working committee holds meeting (1/2021)

THE Immigration and Citizenship Verification Working Committee, one of the committees formed for the successful implementation of the Rakhine State Central Committee for Peace and Development activities, held its first coordination meeting yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister said Rakhine State Administration Council requested approval under the CHRD programme to provide humanitarian assistance to 72 displaced persons who wanted to return home from Bangladesh if they were found to be living in Myanmar and not related to crimes, including violence.

Due to the terrorist incidents that happened in 2017 in Rakhine State, the displaced persons who fled to Bangladesh contacted the Committee on Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development-CHRD and asked for help to return home. As a result, as of 29 April 2021, 790 displaced persons were repatriated and given National Verification Card (NVC).

The meeting discussed the current repatriation of 72 displaced persons from Rakhine State to Bangladesh, further action plans and work requirements. The meeting was concluded after the Secretary of the working committee had approved the decisions of the meeting.

Displaced persons are returning on their own account as the Bangladesh government has not taken any action yet to repatriate those who have found evidence of residing in Myanmar, according to the agreement signed between two countries on the readmission of displaced persons from Rakhine State.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the working committee Union Minister U Myint Kyaing of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Vice-Chairman of the working committee Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut, members of the committee Deputy Ministers U Ye Tint, Dr Aung Gyi, U Zaw Win, Dr Aye Tun, U Htay Hlaing, and officials.

Chairman of the Rakhine State Administration Council Dr Aung Kyaw Min and three other members joined the meeting via a virtual system from Sittway, Rakhine State. — MNA

Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

From 7-6-2021 to 11-6-2021, local/foreign donors contributed 0.301 million Kyats to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA 013733 and foreign currency account EDC 600012 opened at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 11-6-2021 is as follows:

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List

	Kyat
Account opening balance on 7-6-2021	30,807,193,615.39
Received amount of money from (+) 7-6-2021 to 11-6-2021	301,000.00
Closed balance on 11-6-2021	30,807,494,615.39

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List

	USD
Account opening balance on 7-6-2021	178,140,149.53
Received amount of money from (+) 7-6-2021 to 11-6-2021	-
Closed balance on 11-6-2021	178,140,149.53

Magway govt to plant 160,000 trees this year

A total of 163,320 trees will be planted in Magway Region in the 2021 monsoon, according to the Forest Department of Seikphyu Township.

The department conserves the forests and establishes forest plantations to reduce the temperature and maintain the ecosystem. In addition to state-owned commercial teak plantations, the officials established village firewood plantations, collective forest plantations, and public plantations to protect against natural disasters.

The government arranged 6,050 plants, including eucalyptus and wild almond for 50acres of village firewood plantations, 31,000 trees for public farm, 15,520 teak/wild almond trees for 103.47 acres of collective plantations and 23,000 plants for special greening operation in Kazunma, Thabyay and Myoma gardens.

Currently, the government operates 100 acres of commercial teak plantations and arranges to plant 54,000 teak trees, said U Zin Win Htut, head of township Forest Department. – Ko Zwe/GNLM

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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.

CMP garment exports drop by 20 per cent in eight months

MYANMAR'S garment exports witnessed a decline of over 20 per cent in the past eight months (Oct-May) of the current financial year 2020-2021 compared with a year-ago period on the back of a slump in demand by the European Union market, stated the Ministry of Commerce.

Exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued at US$2.2 billion between 1 October and 28 May in the current FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures plunged from $2.7 billion in the corresponding period of the last FY2019-2020.

The factories are facing cancellation of order and slump in output, new orders. However, 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 start to resume new orders. Additionally, Germany will also continue its support for Myanmar garment businesses so that Myanmar women can continue their livings, posted the Germany Embassy Yangon's Facebook.

Exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued US$2.2 billion between 1 October and 28 May in the current FY.

The garment sector is among the prioritized sectors driving up exports. The CMP garment industry emerged as a promising one, with preferential trade from Western countries. Nevertheless, All cannot still expect normalcy for now due to the possible disruption in the logistics and supply sector and other serious consequences amid the political instabilities and the COVID-19 impacts, traders stressed.

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 the majority of the foreign investment with 302 factories.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector recorded an accelerated downturn in the previous months as political changes led to factory closures. The layoff is extended, and some workers were forced to return to their hometowns. Turning to prices, higher material costs and unfavourable exchange rate movements contributed to a sharp increase in cost burdens, the HIS Markit stated.

More than 500 members and over 700 garment factories in Myanmar are listed on the MGMA, with an employment of about 600,000 workers. Women account for 95 per cent of workers in the garment industry. However, a third of garment industry workers are out of jobs in difficult times.

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.

Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe and the Republic of Korea, China, and the US.

The export value of CMP garments was only $850 million in the 2015-2016 FY, but it has tripled over the past two FYs. In the 2016-2017FY, about $2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments.

The figure increased to an estimated $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and $2.2 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September). According to the Commerce Ministry, it tremendously grew to $4.6 billion in the 2018-2019FY and $4.8 billion in the 2019-2020FY. — KK/GNLM

Myanmar ships over 1.14 mln tonnes of rice worth $546.6 mln this FY

THE volume of rice and broken rice, exported in the nearly eight months (1 Oct-28 May) of the current financial year 2020-2021, was estimated at over 1.14 million metric tons, generating US$546.6 million income, the Ministry of Commerce reports.

The country shipped $576.28 million worth of 1.958 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the same corresponding period of last FY.

Myanmar exported 802,000 tonnes of rice and 601,000 tonnes of broken rice, totalling 1.14 million tonnes. In the past eight months, the export volume showed a decrease of over 500,000 tonnes as against last FY.

At present, rice shipment to European countries is declining. However, Myanmar is constantly delivering rice and broken rice to China and Bangladesh. The market cools down for now due to the transport difficulties and dollar gains.

The export price of Myanmar's rice is relatively lower than the rates of Thailand and Viet Nam. Yet, the prices are higher than those market prices in India and Pakistan, Myanmar Rice Federation's data showed.

Myanmar set the rice export target at only 2 million tonnes in the current FY as summer paddy growing acreage drops.

Next, China Customs granted licences to 47 Myanmar companies on 26 February 2021 to legally export the rice to China through the Muse land border this year. The authorized companies for rice export to China increased this year as against last year. However, the permitted volume of rice for exports has not been confirmed yet, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

Myanmar set the rice export target at only 2 million tonnes in the current FY as summer paddy growing acreage drops. Weather changes affected irrigation water resource availability on agriculture, said U Ye Min Aung, chair of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar generated over $800 million from rice exports in the previous FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, with an estimated volume of over 2.5 million tonnes. — KH/GNLM

Domestic gold price likely to drop soon

PRICE of precious yellow metal is expected to fall soon in the domestic market, General-Secretary U Myo Myint of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA), said.

"The dollar gains in the local forex market, rise in the international gold price, the banking restriction, and lack of raw material in gold mining businesses are contributing factors to the price uptrend in the domestic gold market. Additionally, high-security measures at the toll gates spark the concerns of the freight forwarder. Nevertheless, this is a temporary problem. The market will return to normal," he said.

The YGEA reportedly decided not to sell the gold to those who influence and manipulate the gold market.

"The main point is not to sell those traders who practise market manipulation. Only gold retailers and gold shops from regions and states are available to buy the gold. This is an attempt to control the price as well," U Win Myint, general secretary of YGEA, pointed out.

The association has called for the members to make the gold transaction with only immediate cash payment. This move is to regulate unsustainable rally in the gold market, urge the members to run a cash only for the gold transaction and avoid verbal transactions over calls, he added.

At present, selling is surpassing the demand in the Yangon market.

The precious yellow metal fetched K1,568,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes). The price of pure gold slightly increased to K1,575,500 per tical on 11 June. The price will not fluctuate widely on account of the concerted efforts, according to YGEA.

The domestic gold market was bullish, tracking the dollar gains in the local forex market. The price reached an all-time high of K1,706,000 per tical on 12 May, while the dollar exchange rate against Kyat strengthened up to K1,760. The rate is recorded as the highest in history. — MM/GNLM

Dollar exchange rate falls by K10 after CBM sells $3 mln

CBM is selling the US dollar at an auction rate, intending to keep the exchange rate stable.

THE US dollar exchange rate fell by K10, following the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) selling 3 million US dollars, according to the local foreign exchange market.

The US dollar exchange rate dropped when the CBM started to sell 3 million dollars at an auction rate for the first time on 7 June.

The dollar exchange rate against Myanmar Kyat stood at K1,590 per dollar on 7 June. The rate directly fell to K1,577 per dollar on 11 June.

On 12 May, the dollar exchange rate hit a high of K 1730 per dollar in the local foreign exchange market.

Consequently, the CBM has been selling dollars at an auction rate since 12 May, resulting in the exchange rate falling to K 1,580 per dollar this month.

CBM is selling the US dollar at an auction rate, intending to keep the exchange rate stable.

In the domestic market in 2021, the highest and lowest exchange rate is currently fixed around K1,327-1,345 in January, K1,335-1,465 in February, K1,420-1,550 in March, K1,550-1,610 in April and K1,585-1,730 in May.

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.

Last year, 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

900,000 fingerlings released into Yeywa hydropower project reservoir in Kyaukse

THE Fisheries Department added about 900,000 fingerlings into Yeywa hydropower project reservoir in Kyaukse township on yesterday.

This effort aims to effectuate sustainable development of the fisheries resources, ensuring sufficient fish ration and enhancing domestic fisheries consumption.

The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Region Fishery Department Head U Aung Nyi Toe and his staff, Kyaukse District Administration Body Member 1 Lieutenant-Colonel Zaw Naing Oo, Member 2 U Aung Thu, District Fisheries Department Head Daw Khaing Khaing Win and officials and the camp authorities.

According to the District Fisheries Department, 900,000 fingerlings were added to the reservoir, including 650,000 Rohu fingerlings, 200,000 barb fingerlings, and 50,000 golden Mrigal fingerlings. — Tin Tin Htwe/GNLM

The Fisheries Department added about 900,000 fingerlings into Yeywa hydropower project reservoir in Kyaukse township on yesterday.

Farmers re-cultivate maize as monsoon crop in Minbu

Growing maize requires adequate soil moisture. Therefore, it is necessary for summer and cold season planting to provide water to the soil to ensure the proper soil moisture.

FARMERS in Kyauktan Village, Minbu (Saku) Township, Magway Region, are re-cultivating maize as a monsoon crop because of its high yields and reasonable prices.

Growing maize requires adequate soil moisture. Therefore, it is necessary for summer and cold season planting to provide water to the soil to ensure the proper soil moisture. The maize can be harvested two months after planting. The current retail price of corn is K100 per one, and the wholesale price is K80.

Systematic cultivation of maize will increase yield more. Among three types of corn, dent corn is primarily grown for animal feedstuff.

There are various methods of maize cultivation, such as sowing seeds and planting seeds in rows. The latter method can help the corn plant grow and make the kernels smoother since they can be watered and weeded.

There are around 10,000 acres of maize per acre, with three corns in one plant. The maize growers in Kyauktan village, Minbu (Saku) Township, are planting it as a monsoon crop because it is more cost-effective than other crops. — Zeya Htet/GNLM

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.

Terrorists set school on fire in Sagaing Region

THE insurgents set the school on fire in Monywa Township of Sagaing Region on 10 June.

A group of terrorists threw the fire bottle into No (5) B.E.H.S in Aung Chan Tha Ward of Monywa Township of Sagaing Region. A building for a school guard was damaged in the fire.

The police also found a fire bottle in the school compound, and no one was injured in the arson.

The officials investigate to arrest the suspects who committed arson attack. – MNA

Police arrest people together with firearms

SECURITY forces seized the firearms and other materials used in riots in some townships.

On 10 June, the police raided the 6th floor of No (3) apartment in Salin street of Magyee Tan North-East Ward of Kyimyindine Township in Yangon Region. Then, they arrested five suspects, including Htet Paing Soe, from Yay Kyaw Ward of Pazundaung Township together with the anti-government documents, vinyl, six bank saving books, six cheque books, three inventory lists of transfer and withdrawal of foreign currency and Myanmar Kyat, K1,632,500 and a vehicle.

Similarly, the combined team conducted security measures at Mar Tin Chaw Le checkpoint in Kalaw Township of Southern Shan State yesterday. Meanwhile, the officials examined the six-wheel vehicle driven by Nay Myo Aung (aka) Nay Aung from No (30) Ward of Yinmabin Village in Thazi Township heading from Loikaw to Aungban Township, carrying another four people including Soe Lin (aka) Kuban from Kyauk Myat Village of Myaung Township. They seized 20 packs of TNT and eight bottles containing 1 litre of acid in each.

Actions will be taken against those who keep and use firearms and materials under the law. —MNA

COVID-19, resurging danger of pandemic to the people

THE information reported by various news agencies and social networks, including daily newspapers and TV broadcasting stations, states terribly surging amounts of positive patients in the laboratory tests of COVID-19 on a daily basis.

The tally of confirmed COVID-19 patients in Myanmar are gathered from laboratories from the Ministry of Health and Sports, Defence Services General Hospitals (1000-bed) in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, No 1 DSGH (700-bed) in PyinOoLwin, No 17 military hospital in Sittway, private hospitals and laboratories and hospitals as well as public health departments in regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

> All the people need to unite in the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic. Be cautious about the disease! Don't move back! Let's bravely march forward to fight against the COVID-19!

These health facilities release results in COVID-19 rapid antigen diagnostic tests performed on the patients. In this regard, two digits of confirmed patient numbers were released by newspapers issued on 1 June, but the number of patients started three digits the next day. Now, more than one hundreds of positive patient numbers are released on a daily basis.

Currently, variant COVID-19, a pandemic declared by the World Health Organization, spreads to neighbouring countries of Myanmar. Hence, people should take care of the dangers of the disease by following the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports to prevent the pandemic's threats.

The government is striving for tightening restrictions against the departure and arrivals of flight passengers. Most of the flights leading to border towns were recently suspended as part of efforts to take preventive measures against infection of the pandemic.

While giving COVID-19 vaccination to the people, necessary preparations should be made to set the quarantine procedures for the patients and those with symptoms of the disease at the health units such as hospitals and clinics being operated by both government and private sectors.

Vigorous efforts must be made for providing necessary aid to the patients similar to that of the first and second waves of the disease. Health workers and volunteers need to serve their strength in fighting against the pandemic relentlessly.

All the people need to unite in the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic. Be cautious about the disease! Don't move back! Let's bravely march forward to fight against the COVID-19!

■ ■ ■

Essential elements of civil litigation

Kyaw Kyaw (Judicial Officer)

Litigation is the main method and by which parties seek to resolve civil disputes.

Litigation means a legal process in which civil disputes are resolved in a Court of Law. Civil disputes can be mentioned as a situation dealing with conflict between two parties, such as a breach of contract, marriage, loan, vested rights, intellectual property right infringement disputes.

A litigant is a person who is involved in a civil legal case, either because they are making a formal complaint about someone or because a complaint is being made about them.

Litigator means any attorney, whether an Advocate or a Higher Grade Pleader, who carries on a legal contest by judicial process.

Civil litigation is governed by the Civil Procedure Rules. It involves each party trying to prove their right on a balance of probabilities, usually before a judge. Parties to the civil litigation must comply with the Civil Procedure Rules, although these Rules vary depending on the type of the case and the value of the relief.

Framing of issues is a very important stage in civil litigation, and it is the bounden duty of Court that due care, caution, diligence and attention must be bestowed by Presiding Judge while framing issues.[1] Framing issues entirely depends on material propositions of which are disclosed in the pleadings.

Material propositions are those propositions of law or the fact that a plaintiff must allege to show a right to sue or a defendant must allege to constitute his defence.[2] Being based on the material propositions, the Judges frame correct and accurate issues. These issues can assist the Court to make the correct decision with due process in a speedy trial.

Commencing from framing of suits up to making of a judgment in a civil litigation, there are different stages and elements. The essential elements of civil litigation are (1) Right to sue, (2) Cause of action, (3) Form of the suit. In many cases, the Courts frame preliminary issues regarding the maintainability of the suit. For example, (1) whether the plaintiff has the right to sue or not, (2) whether the plaint discloses the cause of action or not (3) whether the form of a suit is correct or not.

The first essential element of civil litigation is the plaintiff must have the right to sue. The word right to sue, or right to file a lawsuit in Court, is the right to seek relief by means of legal proceeding.

The Courts shall have jurisdiction to try all suits of a civil nature excepting suits of which their cognizance is either expressly or impliedly barred.

The law confers on every person an inherent right to bring a suit of civil nature of one's choice, at one's peril, howsoever frivolous the claim may be unless it is barred by a statute.[3]

Maintainability of the suit is the question of law. All civil suits are maintainable unless barred either by expression provision or by necessary implication of law. History of litigation between parties and actions taken by them do not determine the question of the maintainability of the suit.[4]

Time begins to run as soon as the right to sue first accrues unless it is a case of the recurring cause of action, e.g. monthly or yearly demand of rent and that the right to sue for a declaration of right title to land in possession of the plaintiff arises and time begins to run from the first act of the defendant prejudicial to the plaintiff's right or title.

The question as to when exactly the right to sue accrues depends upon the particular facts of the case. Mere casual denial of the plaintiff is title may be ignored by him so long as his rights are not affected, for instance, a mere entry in the Revenue Register favourable to the defendant.

The second essential element of civil litigation is the cause of action must be disclosed in the plaint.

Cause of action is a set of facts or circumstances that a plaintiff is required to prove all essential facts constituting the right.

A mere continuation of a prior cause of action does not give rise to a fresh right.

The expression "the cause of action", in a comprehensive sense, includes "the right to sue" within the meaning of Article 120 of the Limitation Act and that it comprises the entire set of facts that gives rise to an enforceable claim, that is, the right and its infringement.[5]

'Cause of action' means every fact which, if traversed will be necessary for the plaintiff to prove in order to support his right to the judgment of the Court. The cause of action must be antecedent to the institution of the suit. When the plaintiff files his suit for any relief before he is entitled to it, his suit is bound to fail for want of a cause of action. **Order 7 Rule 11** in very clear terms, lays down that the plaint shall be rejected where it does not disclose a cause of action.[6]

'Cause of action' occurring in section 20(c) of the Civil Procedure Code means every fact which, if traversed, it would be necessary for the plaintiff to prove in order to support his right to the judgment of the Court. In other words, it is a bundle of facts which it is necessary for the plaintiff to prove before he can succeed in the suit.[7]

In ascertaining the meaning of the expression 'cause of action', regard must be had to the substance rather than the form of the claim made out in the plaint, although it has been, compendiously defined to mean every fact, which would be necessary for the plaintiff to prove if traversed in order to support his right to the judgment of the Court.[8]

In order to consider **Order 7, Rule 11**, the court has to scrutinize the averments/pleas in the plaint. At that stage, the pleas taken by the defendant in the written statement are wholly relevant, and the matter is to be decided only on the plaint averments. If the allegations are vexatious and meritless and not disclosing a clear right or material(s) to sue, it is the duty of the trial Judge to exercise his power under **Order 7, Rule 11**. If clever drafting has created the illusion of a cause of action, it should be nipped in the bud at the first hearing by examining the parties under Order 10 of the Code.[9]

The third essential element in the form of a suit must be correct. The form of the suit means the remedy must be consistent with the legal situations.

The question that the form of a suit is correct or not must be judged only on the basis of the pleadings and not on the evidence taken.[10]

Court has the power to pass orders regarding the maintainability of premature suit adjusting equities and satisfying ends of justice, as it may deem fit in its discretion. Conduct of parties, explanation given by plaintiff, advantages or prejudice to either party, award of costs, the utility of driving plaintiff to file a fresh suit, etc., are factors to be considered by court in the exercise of such discretion. Objection to premature suit to be promptly raised by the defendant and promptly disposed of by court, in which case prejudice to the plaintiff is least likely in case of dismissal of such suit. Such objection ought not to be permitted to be raised belatedly, for in such a case, irreparable prejudice to the plaintiff could be caused thereby. However, court to weigh equities between parties and decide whether such suit is to be dismissed even at a belated stage.[11]

This article focuses on the meaning of the suits and essential elements of civil litigation.

FOOTNOTE:

1. *Ramrameshwari Devi v. Nirmala Devi*, (2011) 8 SCC 249: (2011) 4 SCC (Civ)1
2. **Order 14 Rule 1**(2) of the Code of Civil Procedure
3. *Abdul Gafur v. State of Uttarakhand*, (2008) 10 SCC 97
4. *Jyoti Ltd v. Bharat J. Patel*, (2015) 14 SCC 566
5. *Daw Than May v. Ma Mya Ngwe and nd Three others*, 1962, BLR P-41
6. *U Po Thi and one v. Maung Kyaw Sint* 1952 BLR (HC) P-410
7. *U Saung v. U Khin Maung and one* 1959 BLR (HC) P314
8. *Shantilal Surajmal Mehta v. Mariam Bibi and six others*, 1960 BLR (HC) P359(360)
9. *Church of Christ Charitable Trust & Educational Charitable Society v. Panniamman Educational Trust*, (2012) 8 SCC 706: (2012) 4 SCC (Civ) 612
10. *Daw Htay Htay Yin and one v. U Kyaw Zaw and two* 1987 BLR P27
11. *Vithalbhai(P)Ltd. v. Union of India*, (2005) 4 SCC 315

Pandemic shakes up rankings of world's most liveable cities

The pandemic has shaken up the rankings of the world's most liveable cities, a study released on Wednesday showed, with metropolises in Australia, Japan and New Zealand leaping ahead of those in Europe.

AUCKLAND tops The Economist's annual survey of the world's most liveable cities in 2021 followed by Osaka and Tokyo in Japan, Adelaide in Australia and Wellington in New Zealand, all of which had a swift response to the Covid pandemic.

"Auckland rose to the top of the ranking owing to its successful approach in containing the Covid-19 pandemic, which allowed its society to remain open and the city to score strongly," the Economist Intelligence Unit said.

In contrast, "European cities fared particularly poorly in this year's edition."

The livability index ranks cities based on more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories: stability, health care, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

Osaka was traditionally considered Japan's economic hub. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"Vienna, previously the world's most liveable city between 2018-20, fell to 12th. Eight of the top ten biggest falls in the rankings are European cities," according to the study.

The top 10 most livable cities in the world, and their scores according to The Global Liveability Index 2021, are:

Auckland, New Zealand (96.0)
Osaka, Japan (94.2)
Adelaide, Australia (94.0)
Wellington, New Zealand (93.7)
Tokyo, Japan (93.7)
Perth, Australia (93.3)
Zurich, Switzerland (92.8)
Geneva, Switzerland (92.5)
Melbourne, Australia (92.5)
Brisbane, Australia (92.4)

The biggest fall overall among the European cities was the port city of Hamburg in northern Germany, which fell 34 places to 47th.

The trend was motivated by a "stress on hospital resources" which the study said increased for most German and French cities and resulted in a "deteriorated healthcare score".

Pressure on European health systems also had a knock-on effect on culture and overall liveability because of restrictions on movement, the Economist said.

The most notable rise was recorded by Honolulu, Hawaii, in the United States, which came 14th in the ranking and moved up 46 places because of its containment of the pandemic and fast vaccination programme.

Damascus remains the city where life is most difficult because of Syria's ongoing civil war.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Confirmation of Head of Organization

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Aung Thura as Director-General of the Co-Operative Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation after the one-year probationary period.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 11 June, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Odisha and West Bengal Coasts (India) still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 12 June, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9-13) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 June, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 June, 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Widespread rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Region and fairly widespread in Mandalay Region.

Advertise With Us
The Global New Light of Myanmar
PLEASE CALL
09 974 424 848

Moderna seeks US authorization for Covid vaccine in teens

AMERICAN biotech company Moderna said Thursday it was asking the US Food and Drug Administration for an emergency use authorization for its Covid-19 vaccine to be given to adolescents.

The move was widely expected after the company announced in May early results from a trial of 3,700 12-to-17-year-olds that found the two-dose regimen was safe and highly effective.

On Monday, Moderna made similar requests to the European and Canadian regulators.

"We are encouraged that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was highly effective at preventing COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 infection in adolescents," said the company's CEO Stephane Bancel.

The United States began inoculating teens -- like 13-year-old Charles Muro in Connecticut -- with Pfizer-BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine in May 2021, and Moderna is now the second firm to seek a US green light to administer its shot to adolescents. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Vaccine efficacy was shown to be 100 per cent after two doses when using the same definition of symptomatic disease that was applied to the adult trial.

It fell to 93 per cent after one dose when using a more stringent definition used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that requires just one symptom in addition to a positive test.

No significant safety concerns were noted. The most common side effects outside the injection site after the second dose were headache, fatigue, body aches and chills.

The FDA authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 years old in May.

Although adolescents are much less susceptible to severe Covid than adults, experts believe they are important to reach in order to help achieve population immunity against the disease.

The Moderna Covid-19 vaccine was developed in collaboration with the US National Institutes of Health using messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) technology. It uses genetic material to deliver instructions to human cells to create the spike protein of the coronavirus, thereby training an immune response without exposing the host to a real infection.

The US has reached almost 52 per cent of its population of 332 million with at least one dose, but its vaccination campaign is slowing in the face of hesitancy. — AFP ■

US approves shelf-life extension for J&J Covid vaccine: company

JOHNSON & Johnson said Thursday the US Food and Drug Administration had authorized an extension for the shelf life of its Covid-19 vaccine from three months to four-and-a-half months.

The news comes as millions of doses of the single-shot vaccine, which is stored at refrigerator temperatures, were in danger of expiring and being tossed.

"The decision is based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies," the company said in a statement about the FDA approval. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 21 million doses of the vaccine have been distributed across the United States, while only 11 million have been administered.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine warned this week that 200,000 doses in his state would expire by June 23.

The FDA granted emergency use authorization to the vaccine in February. While not as effective at preventing symptomatic Covid as the mRNA vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna, the J&J vaccine, based on adenovirus vector technology, was still found in a major trial to be 85 per cent effective at preventing severe forms of the disease.

That figure rose to 100 per cent 28 days after the dose. The fact that the vaccine required only one shot was a key selling point for targeting hard-to-reach populations.

But uptake slowed dramatically after US authorities paused the vaccine for 10 days in April over safety fears. Authorities believe the J&J vaccine carries an increased risk for a type of rare but serious blood clotting found most often in women aged 18-49. — AFP ■

Kevin Hensley receives the J&J Covid vaccine at the baseball field in Chicago that is home to the White Sox team. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Singapore to ease curbs as virus cases fall

Children walk home with their guardians after school in Singapore on May 17, 2021, as the country prepares to shut all schools and switch to home-based learning until the end of the term due to a rise in the number of coronavirus cases. **PHOTO: AFP /ROSLAN RAHMAN**

SINGAPORE will begin slowly easing a month-long partial lockdown from next week after the curbs succeeded in stemming a coronavirus outbreak, authorities said Thursday.

The city-state has weathered the pandemic largely unscathed but saw an uptick in local transmissions in recent weeks as new variants spread.

Fresh restrictions were introduced in mid-May, including a cap on the size of social gatherings at two, the closure of schools and a ban on dining-in at restaurants. With cases falling steadily, maximum sizes for gatherings will be lifted to five from Monday, and bigger groups will be allowed at events such as live performances.

If the situation remains under control, more restrictions will be lifted from June 21 -- including a resumption of restaurant dine-ins, while people will be allowed to work out at gyms without masks.

However, employees who can work from home must continue to do so. Trade Minister Gan Kim Yong, a member of a government task force dealing with the virus, said the city-state's outbreak was now "under control". — AFP ■

Abu Dhabi to impose tougher Covid rules for unvaccinated

ABU Dhabi is to bring in new Covid rules from next Tuesday that will require less frequent testing to access public places for those who have been fully vaccinated.

All residents of the largest of the seven emirates that make up the UAE have been provided with a colour-coded app detailing their testing and vaccination history.

From next week, only those with "green" status will be allowed entry to shopping malls and large supermarkets, gyms, hotels, parks, beaches and swimming pools, entertainment venues, cinemas, museums, and restaurants and cafes, the Abu Dhabi Media Office said.

People who have been fully inoculated will maintain their "green" status for 30 days after their last negative PCR test, while those who have not been vaccinated will maintain it for just three days.

The United Arab Emirates, which has mounted an intensive Covid vaccination campaign, warned in April that those who remained unvaccinated would face restrictions on their movement.— AFP ■

The Zhurong rover, named after a mythical Chinese fire god, has been studying the topography of a vast Martian lava plain known as the Utopia Planitia. **PHOTO: CHINA NATIONAL SPACE ADMINISTRATION (CNSA)/AFP**

Rover leaves 'China's imprint' on Mars

SOLAR panel "wings" spread out and two camera "eyes" pointing ahead, China's Mars rover Zhurong struck a birdlike pose as it explored the red planet in photos released by the country's space agency Friday.

Zhurong's touchdown in May was the first ever successful probe landing by any country on its first Mars mission -- a milestone in China's ascent to space superpower status.

The rover, named after a mythical Chinese fire god, has since been studying the topography of a vast Martian lava plain known as the Utopia Planitia.

Photos published by the China National Space Administration showed tracks in the red soil left by Zhurong, which the agency described as "China's imprint", after it drove onto the planet's surface form a landing platform adorned with a large Chinese flag.

The six-wheeled, solar-powered, 240-kilogramme (530-pound) Zhurong is expected to spend three months taking photos, harvesting geographical data, and collecting rock samples.

The space agency said on Friday that the Mars mission's "engineering tasks were carried out smoothly as planned," and that the equipment were currently "in good condition."

China has now sent astronauts into space, powered probes to the Moon and landed a rover on Mars — one of the most prestigious of all prizes in the competition for dominion of space. — AFP ■

Tackle climate change and biodiversity loss together: UN panel

THE world must tackle the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss together, two UN expert groups meeting together said Thursday, warning against measures to combat global warming that harm nature.

In the first ever collaboration between the United Nations' intergovernmental panels on climate and nature loss, the scientists said that while the twin threats were mutually reinforcing, they had historically been treated as if they were independent of each other.

A peer-reviewed workshop report, based on virtual discussions between experts from the IPBES biodiversity and IPCC climate panels, warned that a number of planned interventions against global heating would adversely impact nature.

These include planting bioenergy crops over large land areas, which are detrimental to ecosystems.

They also cautioned against planting trees to suck up carbon pollution in ecosystems that have not historically been forested, which often damages biodiversity and food production.

A woman looks at a crack in the walkway that leads to the mosque in Bargny, Senegal, on September 18, 2020. Fishing villages like Bargny have been fighting the rising seas for decades. **PHOTO: AFP**

The panel called for an end to the loss and degradation of carbon- and species-rich ecosystems on land and oceans.

Subsidies supporting activities harmful to nature -- such as deforestation, over-fertilisation and over-fishing -- must halt, the experts concluded.

At the same time, they underlined the need for changes in individual consumption habits.

Restoring ecosystems was among the cheapest and quickest climate interventions available, and could also offer much-needed additional habitat for plants and animals, the researchers said.

Improved management of cropland and grazing systems alone could save three-six billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions a year.

"Climate change and biodiversity loss combine to threaten society -- often magnifying and accelerating each other," said Hoesung Lee, chair of the IPCC. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Global internet outage caused by a customer change of setting

A worldwide internet outage affecting major websites was caused by a "customer configuration change" which triggered a "bug" in a key delivery network, the technology firm at the centre of the mishap said Wednesday.

Nick Rockwell of US-based tech firm Fastly said in a blog post that the outage was "broad and severe" after the glitch resulting from "a valid customer configuration change."

The outage lasting about an hour took down media and government websites, including the White House, Britain's government site, the New York Times, Reddit and Amazon.

The outage highlighted the dependence of much of the global internet on a handful of "content delivery networks" which help speed up websites. — AFP ■

Partial eclipse sweeps over northern hemisphere

PEOPLE across Earth's northern hemisphere viewed an annular solar eclipse Thursday with parts of Canada and Siberia privy to the best view of the celestial event.

The eclipse was partly visible to observers in North America, parts of Europe including France and the UK, and some of northern Asia.

In London, where the moon covered 20 per cent of the sun as the eclipse reached totality, sky-gazers glimpsed the event through cloud cover. Observers on the east coast of the United States were treated to a rare eclipsed sunrise.

In northern Canada, northern Russia, northwest Greenland and the North Pole, the sun was 88 per cent obscured by the moon. — AFP ■

Global plastics Production falls for first time since 2008

GLOBAL plastics production declined in 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, only the third time since World War II that output has fallen, an industry body said Thursday.

Output has fallen only twice previously, as a result of the oil crisis in 1973 and during the financial crisis in 2008.

Worldwide output slipped to 367 million tonnes last year from 368 million in 2019, a 0.3 per cent decline, according to the industry federation PlasticsEurope.

The drop was due to "the impact of Covid-19 on the global economy", PlasticsEurope said in a statement.

But output in China — which currently accounts for a third of global plastics production -- continued to grow by 1.0 per cent.

In Europe, production of new plastics was down 5.1 per cent at 55 million tonnes last year, PlasticsEurope said.

The automobile sector, one of the biggest customers for the industry, saw its plastics consumption plunge by 18 per cent in Europe in 2020, the federation calculated.

The 27-nation EU now accounts for just 15 percent of worldwide plastics production, down from 21 percent in 2010.

The United States produces around 19 per cent of the world's plastics, compared with 20 per cent 10 years ago. — AFP ■

Minister admits coercing Olympics app developer into cutting costs

Digitalization minister Takuya Hirai holds a press conference in Tokyo on June 11, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

DIGITALIZATION minister Takuya Hirai admitted Friday he instructed officials to coerce the developer of a smartphone app for monitoring the health of foreign visitors during the Tokyo Games into cutting costs by threatening to withhold future government contracts.

Hirai was reported to have told senior officials of the Cabinet Secretariat in charge of the app project in April that they "would be better off threatening" the joint venture developing the app in order to achieve cost reductions. The venture partners include major Japanese information technology firm NEC Corp.

"I have a strong determination to eliminate wasteful spending as a person entrusted with taxpayers' money. But my comments were inappropriate, and I would like to be careful from now on," Hirai said at a press conference.

Earlier this month, Hirai said the cost of developing and operating the app had been halved to 3.8 billion yen ($34.7 million) from the originally estimated 7.32 billion yen by paring down functions following a decision to bar spectators from abroad.

The huge initial cost of the project had attracted criticism in parliament.

Some media released Friday an audio recording of Hirai saying at a meeting he would "never place an order with NEC" or would sideline NEC if it complained about the app development costs.

NEC said, "It is a fact that a joint venture including our company agreed to alter a contract in view of the government's stance," but declined to elaborate on the issue.

The app will enable foreign athletes as well as others permitted entry for the games such as Olympic officials and media to report about their health, but will not be equipped with some earlier planned functions such as recognizing visitors' faces and tracing their locations using a global positioning system. — Kyodo News ■

G7 countries move closer to tax plan for US tech giants

G7 countries that make up lucrative markets for US tech giants have moved closer to a plan to squeeze more tax money from the coffers of Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google.

The group, including Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, has visions of a global tax rate of at least 15 per cent on the multinational behemoths. The move comes as US President Joe Biden is pressing to raise the corporate tax rate, taking particular aim at companies reaping fortunes.

"Pressure has been building over the years," said Georgetown University law professor Lilian Faulhaber. "I think some of it, honestly, is just political." The pandemic's hit to economies has made it harder to balance government budgets, the professor noted. At the same time, voters see stories of internet firms raking in profits while avoiding taxes and, perhaps, taking advantage of market dominance.

"More and more voters have gotten upset about this," Faulhaber said. Silicon Valley giants are increasingly under fire in Europe and the United States due to concerns about wielding monopoly-like power.

"Maybe the resentment bleeds from one side into the other in terms of tax avoidance and the influence these companies have over the way we live," said Alan Auerbach, a taxation specialist in the University of California, Berkeley, economics department.

Outdated tax code

Nations out to optimize tax revenue from tech firms face powerful companies adept at using data, analytics and ingenuity to build markets and profits. — AFP ■

Italy's industrial production back to pre-COVID levels

The Italian multinational company MTA, specialised in electromechanical components for the car industry, in Codogno, southeast of Milan. **PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA / AFP**

ITALY'S industrial production index returned to pre-COVID levels in April, official data showed on Thursday, in another sign of optimism for the eurozone's third-largest economy.

The seasonally adjusted index rose by 1.8 per cent month-on-month to 104.5 points in April, the fifth consecutive monthly increase, national statistics agency Istat said in a statement.

In February 2020, when Italy became the first European country to be hit by the coronavirus pandemic, the index stood at 103.3 points, crashing to 74.3 and 58.5 in the two following months.

Italy is emerging from its worst recession since World War II.

Last year, gross domestic product contracted by 8.9 per cent, one of the severest slumps in Europe.

However, things have recently started to look up, with falling COVID death tolls, progress with vaccinations and gradual reopening of the economy.

Last week, Istat said it expected GDP growth of 4.7 per cent this year and of 4.4 per cent in 2022, largely fuelled by domestic demand. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden reverses Trump orders seeking to ban China's TikTok, WeChat

U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday reversed executive orders issued by his predecessor Donald Trump seeking to ban services of major China-based mobile apps TikTok and WeChat on national security grounds, the White House said.

Washington also said it will "make recommendations for additional executive and legislative actions to further address the risk associated with foreign adversary connected software applications," including those of China.

China welcomed the announcement on Thursday, with Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng saying at a regular press briefing, "This is a positive step in the right direction."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin, meanwhile, told reporters that China has consistently urged the United States not to "unreasonably suppress Chinese technology companies," warning against a possible security policy review by the Biden administration. — AFP ■

Yellen says 'concerned' debt relief could aid Chinese lenders

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Tuesday she was concerned that Chinese lenders could benefit from an international debt relief initiative aimed at poor countries.

In April, G20 countries including the United States agreed to extend until December a moratorium on debt interest payments for the poorest nations, amid fears they will lag behind in the global recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Chinese financial institutions are among the top lenders to lower-income countries, and Yellen told a House Appropriations subcommittee that she aims to ensure the relief -- meant to help poor countries spend to revitalize their economies after the pandemic -- doesn't end up in China's hands.

"We have spoken with China about their participation. They have promised to participate as equal partners in these debt frameworks," she told lawmakers. — AFP ■

US music publishers sue Roblox for $200 mn over copyright

US music publishers representing artists such as Ariana Grande, Imagine Dragons and the Rolling Stones said Thursday they are suing hit video game Roblox for allegedly using songs without permission.

National Music Publishers' Association (NMPA) chief David Israelite announced the copyright suit at an annual meeting at which he stressed that the trade group has the video game industry in its sights.

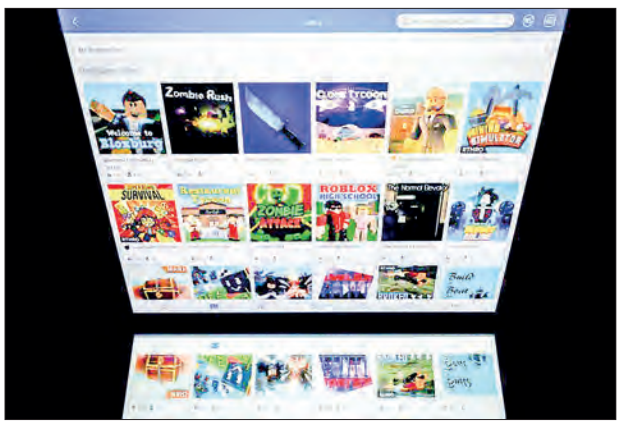
He contended that Silicon Valley-based Roblox is "taking advantage of young people's lack of understanding about copyright" while doing almost nothing to prevent copyright infringement or warn users of its risks.

"They've made hundreds of millions of dollars by requiring users to pay every time they upload music onto the platform," Israelite said in a release.

The suit asks for at least $200 million in damage for "Roblox's unabashed exploitation" of unlicensed music and calls for musicians to be paid when their works are used on the game platform. NMPA did not say which court it filed the suit in.

Roblox countered in a release that it does not tolerate copyright infringement and takes action against those who violate its rules.

"We are surprised and disappointed by this lawsuit which represents a fundamental misunderstanding of how the Roblox platform operates, and will defend Roblox vigorously as we work to achieve a fair resolution," the company said. — AFP ■



Online gaming service Roblox displayed on a tablet screen on February 1, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP /FILE**

Video game maker EA says hackers stole source code

ELECTRONIC Arts said Thursday hackers managed to steal source code and other software tools from the video game giant, but that the attack was unlikely to have an impact on gamers or business operations.

EA, the maker of popular titles such as "Battlefield", acknowledged the breach after a report by Vice Media that attackers had made off with the code used for games including FIFA 21 and the Frostbite engine, which powers some EA games.

"We are investigating a recent incident of intrusion into our network where a limited amount of game source code and related tools were stolen," an EA spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

"No player data was accessed, and we have no reason to believe there is any risk to player privacy. Following the incident, we've already made security improvements and do not expect an impact on our games or our business."

EA said it was "actively working with law enforcement officials and other experts as part of this ongoing criminal investigation." — AFP ■

Cruise lines, eager to go, clash with Florida on vaccines

US-BASED cruise lines are chafing to resume voyages from Florida ports in July as the pandemic wanes -- but for vaccinated passengers only -- yet the state and its governor won't let them demand proof of inoculation.

So far, neither side has blinked, even as two guests on one of the first cruise ships to sail from North America since the Covid pandemic tested positive on Thursday.

Florida "is the cruise capital of the world," with billions of dollars of revenue and thousands of jobs at stake, said Doug Parker, editor of the Cruise Radio website.

"It would be a big blow if they couldn't come to terms."

If neither side gives in, Parker said, cruise ships "would have to start sailing out of other ports that would accept them... because these ships are trying to do the right thing."

The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention currently requires that more than 95 per cent of passengers and crew be vaccinated in order for cruise lines to bypass a requirement for trial voyages.

The two guests who tested positive on Thursday were sailing on the Celebrity Millennium, which had departed from the Caribbean island of St. Maarten on Saturday with everyone on board fully vaccinated.

The pair, who were sharing a stateroom and are asymptomatic, were placed in isolation, Royal Caribbean said in a statement. — AFP ■

Dock workers tie the Royal Caribbean's Odyssey of the Seas to its berthing spot on June 10, 2021 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC NINGBO VOY.NO. (122N/123S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC NINGBO VOY.NO. (122N/123S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-6-2021** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (452W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DANU BHUM VOY.NO. (452W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-6-2021** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2108E/W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2108E/W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BILLESBORG

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BILLESBORG** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301191/2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

US concerned by Iranian ships heading for Venezuela

"I am absolutely concerned about the proliferation of weapons, any type of weapons, in our neighbourhood," Austin said in response to a US senator during a congressional hearing.

"And so, I share your concern."

Asked by Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal whether the administration "knows exactly what is on those Iranian vessels," Austin was circumspect.

"I would like to take that conversation, either, either as a question for the record, or I can take that conversation in another forum," the Pentagon chief said.

Blumenthal said the ships, the Makran and the Sahand, are "thought to be carrying weapons that would fulfill a deal that Iran and Venezuela made a year ago."

"We don't know the types of weapons, at least as far as I know," he said. "There are reports that Venezuela was considering purchasing missiles from Iran, including long range ones.

"Commercial satellite imagery of one of the ships shows fast attack boats loaded on the deck," the senator said.

"But it's still unclear whether those boats were aboard when the ships began their journey."

Blumenthal said the "precedent" of allowing Iran to provide arms to the region causes him "great concern" and Austin said he shared that concern.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro meets with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran in 2016. **PHOTO: SUPREME LEADER PRESS OFFICE/AFP/FILE**

US State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters "we're prepared to leverage our applicable authorities, including sanctions, against any actor that enables Iran's ongoing provision of weapons to violent partners and to proxies. — AFP ■

In Draghi's Italy, far-right gains ground with Meloni

ALMOST all of Italy's political parties rallied behind Mario Draghi when he became prime minister — but the public seems to be falling for his biggest critic, the far-right leader Georgia Meloni.

A straight-talking conservative who has embraced the fascist-era slogan of "God, Homeland and Family", Meloni and her Brothers of Italy (FDI) are close to overtaking Matteo Salvini's anti-immigration League as the most popular party in opinion polls.

Her success — recent surveys put her party at around 20 per cent — raises the prospect that the next elections will produce the most right-wing government in Italy's postwar history, with FDI in the driving seat.

Meloni, 44, is mostly picking up votes from the League, whose leader Matteo Salvini can no longer ride on anti-establishment sentiment since his party gained a place in the cabinet, according to a political analyst. **PHOTO AFP/FILE**

The next general election is not due until 2023, and technocrat Draghi is still the country's most popular politician, but Meloni has made no secret of her ambitions.

"I am not afraid, in the sense of being ready to do what the Italians are asking me to do," she told RAI television last month. — AFP ■

US slaps Yemen Huthis with sanctions over offensive

THE United States on Thursday imposed sanctions targeting Yemen's Huthi rebels as it voiced exasperation that the Iranian-banked insurgents have kept up a military campaign.

President Joe Biden's administration -- which has used sanctions more sparingly than Donald Trump's previous team -- also removed sanctions on several former Iranian officials, saying it was acknowledging changes in behavior.

The Treasury Department said it was imposing sanctions on several individuals including Said al-Jamal, a Huthi supporter who allegedly has run a smuggling network out of Iran to sell oil illicitly to benefit the insurgents.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said it was hoping to exert pressure on the Huthi rebels to end their offensive launched in February to seize Marib, the last significant pocket of government-held territory in the north.

"It is time for the Huthis to accept a ceasefire and for all parties to resume political talks," Blinken said in a statement.

"The United States will continue to apply pressure to the Huthis, including through targeted sanctions, to advance those goals," he said. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

After Pablo Iglesias' departure, Spain's Podemos names new head

THE radical left-wing Podemos, junior partner in Spain's ruling coalition, is expected to name Ione Belarra as its leader Sunday after the departure of Pablo Iglesias, who founded the faction in 2014.

Currently minister for social affairs, Belarra, 33, is the overwhelming favourite to take the helm of a party which emerged from the anti-austerity "Indignados" protest movement that occupied squares across Spain in 2011.

Since Sunday, party activists have been voting for their new secretary-general after Iglesias stepped down on May 4 following a stinging defeat at the hands of the right in Madrid's regional elections. Voting closes on Saturday with the results to be announced at a party assembly on Sunday.

Although there are three candidates, Belarra is running against two unknowns and is certain to win the vote.

One of Iglesias' inner circle, she took over from him as social rights minister when he stood down to run as a candidate in the Madrid regional elections. — AFP ■

Croatia moves to sanction 'revenge porn'

THE Croatian government proposed amendments on Thursday to the country's criminal code to make "revenge pornography" a criminal act, a move hailed by the women's rights group which initiated the move.

Sharing online sexually explicit images made with consent and for private use, by a former partner without their ex's approval will be punishable with up to three years in jail, according to the amendments that need to be adopted by lawmakers.

So-called deepfake porn, in which technology is used to fake or manipulate images, will be included in the same category, the government decided at a session.

The move was hailed by the B.a.B.e. women's rights group which initiated it and launched an online petition 'Stop revenge pornography' signed by nearly 10,000 people in just over a month.

The association in April opened an advisory centre for women facing online attacks and has so far received 12 reports on revenge porn, its coordinator Dean Sarcevic said.

"This is only a tip of an iceberg," he told AFP, adding that the group had also received dozens of anonymous reports of revenge porn. — AFP ■

G7 leaders at UK summit target plan for 1bn jabs

G7 leaders on Friday open a three-day summit aimed at helping to end the Covid-19 pandemic and forge a climate-centric economic recovery, after pledging to donate one billion vaccine doses for the world's poorest countries.

US President Joe Biden and his colleagues from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan will sit down for their first face-to-face gathering in nearly two years, after the pandemic wiped out last year's summit. Meeting under the protection of a smothering security operation in the Cornish resort of Carbis Bay, southwest England, the leaders are also expected to address warnings to Russia and China.

Most of the G7 heads of state and government will reconvene on Monday in Brussels for a NATO meeting, before Biden heads on to his first summit with President Vladimir Putin in Geneva, vowing to deliver a blunt appraisal of Russian behaviour.

President Biden (l) will attend the G7 summit, on his first foreign trip, along with host Boris Johnson, seen here in Cornwall on Thursday. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

After arriving in Britain Wednesday on his first foreign tour as president, Biden told US service personnel that "the United States is back and democracies of the world are standing together", following the tumult of his predecessor Donald Trump's go-it-alone administration. The G7's host, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, said the coronavirus outbreak originating in China had also "badly shaken" the international order. — AFP ■

ICRC chief urges EU to respect refugee law

THE EU needs to respect refugee law as it copes with migration flows, many of which are triggered by wars, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross said on Thursday.

Peter Maurer underscored that point in an interview with AFP touching on many of the conflicts in which the Swiss-based ICRC is working.

Generally the last decade has seen a multiplication of conflicts, where "each year we think we may have one less conflict -- and then we add two more", he said.

"One of the consequences of violence in many places is migration, is displacement, is irregular displacements: When we look at the 25 largest operations of ICRC, they come from regions which at the end of the day are at the origin of more than 80 per cent of irregular displacements in the world."

Speaking in Brussels, where he was detailing ICRC's humanitarian operations to EU officials in charge of funding many of his organization's activities, Maurer emphasised that the European Union should uphold its much vaunted commitment to international humanitarian law.

While offering no explicit criticisms — in keeping with the ICRC's mantra of discretion that helps guarantee its access to all sides in war-torn areas — he noted that irregular migration into Europe was "a very controversial and very delicate issue".

The most dramatic scenes happened six years ago, when many asylum-seekers streamed out of Syria, but have since reduced under a border-guarding deal done with Turkey and, since last year, the Covid pandemic. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US will do 'what is necessary' to protect Afghan translators: general

THE United States said Thursday it will do whatever is necessary to protect Afghans who worked as translators for US forces and now fear for their lives once foreign troops leave Afghanistan.

"I can commit to you that it's my belief that the United States government will do what is necessary in order to ensure the safety and protection of those that have been working with us for two decades," General Mark Milley, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a congressional panel. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin voiced a similar message to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"This is very important to us," Austin said. "We're pushing as hard as we can on our end to move as fast as we can."

President Joe Biden has ordered a withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan by September 11, the 20th anniversary of the Al-Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington, and the Pentagon said this week that the pullout is more than 50 percent complete. — AFP ■

Peru presidential vote result days away, as candidate faces detention

FINAL results from Peru's presidential election — in which leftist Pedro Castillo considers himself the winner — are still days away, officials said Thursday, as a prosecutor sought preventive custody for corruption-accused candidate Keiko Fujimori.

Right-wing populist Fujimori, daughter of a scandal-tainted former Peruvian president, is disputing thousands of votes cast four days earlier as she trails in the nail-biting final count.

Fujimori's corruption trial would be delayed if she wins her presidential race against Castillo, who is clinging to a narrow lead.

Prosecutors have said they would seek a jail term on charges of taking money from scandal-tainted Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht to fund failed presidential bids in 2011 and 2016.

The 46-year-old denies the allegations, but has already spent 16 months in pre-trial detention. — AFP ■

Iran nuclear talks will survive presidential vote: analysts

IRAN'S presidential vote next week will likely replace a moderate with an ultraconservative, but this shouldn't derail ongoing nuclear talks because there is a broad political consensus in Tehran that they should succeed, analysts say. All major players in Tehran, whatever their ideological leanings, are pragmatic enough to know that only by saving the tattered 2015 nuclear deal can the Islamic republic free itself from crippling US sanctions, they argue.

The decision to try to revive the agreement, struck under moderate President Hassan Rouhani, now "transcends factional struggles," said Clement Therme, a researcher at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. "It is a trade-off, between the survival of the regime through improving the deteriorated economic situation, and the desire to preserve the status quo on the political level," he told AFP.

Analyst Henry Rome of the New York-based Eurasia Group said Tehran appears determined to revive the deal torpedoed by former US president Donald Trump because "for Iran, sanctions relief is a strategic necessity".

Ultimate political power in Iran rests with the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who gave the green light to both the original agreement with a group of world powers, and to efforts since April to revive it. — AFP ■

When Iranians vote for a new president they will do so in the depths of an economic crisis brought on by crippling sanctions. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Kyrgyzstan crash Myanmar 8-1 in World Cup Qualifiers in Japan

MYANMAR national football team faced a 1-8 shocking loss to Kyrgyzstan yesterday in the World Cup Qualifier match at Yanmar Stadium in Osaka, Japan.

Team Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Sann Sat Naing, Soe Moe Kyaw, Zaw Ye Tun, Thein Than Win, Hlaing Bo Bo, Than Htet Aung, Captain Maung Maung Lwin, Ye Min Thu, Yan Naing Oo, Lar Din Maw Yar and Htet Phyoe Wai.

On the contrary, Kyrgyzstan's regular goalkeeper tested positive for the coronavirus, and defender Aizar Akmatov filled in for Kyrgyzstan's goalie position during the match.

Myanmar defender Thein Than Win (red) poises to deliver the ball during the world cup qualifier match against Kyrgyzstan at Yanmar Stadium in Osaka on 11 June. **PHOTO: MFF**

The Myanmar team struggled with just ten players even at 24 minute-mark as Midfielder Yan Naing Oo was sent off to injure another player.

Rustamov scored the winning goals for Kyrgyzstan at 22 minutes, Alkulov at 29 minutes, Musabekov at 34 minutes, Shukurov at 45 minutes, Mirlan Murzaev at 45 minutes, 61 minutes and 78 minutes and Abay at 63 minutes, respectively.

Midfielder Hlaing Bo Bo scored a single goal for Myanmar at 69 minutes.

Wearing black armbands, footballers observed a minute of silence before the match in order to mark the mourning of the sudden death of Myanmar National Team Kit Manager U Pyae Sone Naing in Japan on 8 June.

According to the group stage, the Myanmar team is currently in the fifth position and having very few chances to advance to the next stage.

Myanmar will next play against Tajikistan on 15 June at the same stadium. — GNLM

Italy and Turkey get ball rolling as Euro 2020 begins under Covid cloud

AN in-form Italy face Turkey in Rome on Friday as Euro 2020 finally gets underway a year behind schedule and with the coronavirus continuing to cast a shadow over the tournament.

Postponed 12 months ago because of the pandemic, the European Championship -- with Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal the holders -- is being played for the first time all across the continent, with 11 cities from as far apart as Seville to Baku hosting matches.

The idea was first mooted by Michel Platini almost a decade ago when he was president of UEFA and has survived the Covid-19 crisis, but matches are being played in front of limited crowds and with onerous health restrictions in place.

In Rome, the Stadio Olimpico will be filled to about 25 percent of capacity, meaning 16,000 supporters will be present to watch Roberto Mancini's Italy face Turkey in the first game in Group A.

"The opener is always difficult, and there will be plenty of emotions but you can't get too carried away," said Mancini, who has guided the Azzurri back to a major tournament after their ignominious failure to reach the 2018 World Cup. Mancini has rebuilt Italy, the 1968 European champions, on a 27-match unbeaten run. — AFP ■

Copa America limps to start line despite pandemic

BRAZIL kicks-off the Copa America that almost never was on Sunday, on home soil for the second time in three years with minnows Venezuela as their opponents in a tournament already dominated by issues off the pitch.

After an often absurd odyssey, the 2020 Copa America kicks off a year late, in a different country and with fewer teams -- and, most perplexingly, in the midst of a Covid-19 pandemic raging even more fiercly than it was 12 months ago when the health situation was deemed too dangerous to play.

Co-hosts Argentina and Colombia were stripped of their rights at the 11th hour, due mostly to the deteriorating pandemic situations in those countries but also deadly social unrest in the latter.

In 2019, Brazil won the Copa America on home soil in a carnaval atmosphere - but the 2021 edition promises to be more sombre. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

In stepped Brazil, supported by the country's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who has made a name for himself downplaying the seriousness of the novel coronavirus.

Two years after the Selecao won a ninth title, also on home soil, Brazil are hosting the tournament even though the country has the world's second highest Covid-19 death toll after the United States, with 480,000 fatalities.

Even the reigning champions' players don't want to play.

"We are against organizing the Copa America, but we will never say no to the Brazilian national team," the players said in a joint statement on social media earlier this week.

They also hit out at South American football's governing body CONMEBOL, saying they were "dissatisfied" with its handling of the tournament, adding a damning verdict that the organization would be "inadequate".

Other players such as Argentina's Sergio Aguero and Luis Suarez of Uruguay have criticized the decision to go ahead with the tournament in Brazil. — AFP ■

Amateur turned European champion: Robertson back to where he began at Hampden

ANDY Robertson will be in familiar surroundings as he leads Scotland into battle for the first time in a major international tournament in 23 years against the Czech Republic on Monday.

The Liverpool left-back, now a European and English champion with his club and captain of his country, was playing as an amateur for Queen's Park at Hampden Park eight years ago and working in the ticket office at Scotland's national stadium to get by off the field. A tweet in 2012 from an 18-year-old Robertson that read: "Life at this age is rubbish with no money #needajob" has long since gone viral. Released by his boyhood club Celtic at 15 due to his small

Andy Robertson will lead Scotland into their first major international tournament for 23 years. **PHOTO: ANDY BUCHANAN /AFP/FILE**

stature, Robertson positively channelled that rejection into a hunger to make it the hard way. A football obsessive, he thought his future might lie as a PE teacher or working in sports science, but his parents agreed to support him through one more season at Scotland's oldest club in 2012/13 before focusing on further education.

Despite Queen's Park being in Scotland's fourth tier at the time, Rangers' fall to the same level that season due to the Glasgow giants' financial problems provided an unusual level of media attention on League Two and Robertson quickly caught the eye. First came a move to Scottish Premiership side Dundee United under former Celtic right-back Jackie McNamara, who was part of the last Scotland side to reach a major finals at the 1998 World Cup.— AFP ■