

# Press Statement from Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MYANMAR categorically rejects the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Michelle Bachelet pertaining to the situation in Myanmar issued on 11 June 2021. It is learnt that the facts mentioned in the statement are lack of accuracy and impartiality.

The report mentioned the attacks on schools and religious bulidings and the uses of public housing by the Tatmadaw which leads to misunderstanding to the public. However, the report neither mentioned nor condemned the acts of sabotage and terrorism committed by the unlawful associations and terrorist groups as well as the sufferings and deaths of the security forces.

In connection with the attacks on schools, those

who support unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as the so-called National Unity Govern- ment and the People’s Defence Forces do not want teachers and civil servants to perform their assigned duties and has committed arson and bomb attacks against schools which caused killings of innocent civilians including administrative and educational personnel.

In carrying out public safety duties, the Tatmadaw has been paying special attention to ensure the safety of innocent people, the law enforcement and the rule of law within the existing legal framework. When the use of force is necessary, the security forces are exercising the minimum use of force for self-defence purpose and maximum restraint to address the violence.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Hu- man Rights has been mandated to promote and pro- tect all human rights for all in an impartial manner in line with the United Nations General Assembly’s Resolution A/RES/48/141 dated 7 January 1994. Thus, in accordance with her mandate, she needs to be fair and impartial while performing her duties, particularly addressing the situation of the country.

Myanmar wishes her to conduct her works in an impartial, objective and constructive manner while upholding the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Nay Pyi Taw.  
Date 13-6-2021

# YCDC planning to build 50 mln euro worth Waste to Energy plant in Htainpin dump site

MYANMAR’S Waste to energy and waste to biogas plant, backed by Poland’s government technology and financial support, will be built in Htainpin dump site in Hlinethaya Township, with the lowest possible environmental impact, according to the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

“YCDC has projected to build the waste to energy and waste to biogas plant in Htainpin dump site, in cooperation with Poland government. Htainpin dump site has been polluted. This biofuel plant will produce the compressed natural gas CNG and other biofuels which can substitute firewood and reduce water and air pollution,” said Dr Aung Myint Maw, director of YCDC (Environmental Conservation and Cleaning Department) explained.

This plant will be constructed with the low-interest loan 50 million euro of Poland government.

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Photo shows picture on Yangon Waste to Energy Plant in Shwepyitha Township.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
Nine Objectives

- 1. Political affairs**

  - (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
  - (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
  - (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.
- 2. Economic affairs**

  - (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
  - (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.
- 3. Social affairs**

  - (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
  - (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
  - (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

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

12<sup>th</sup> 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

# Gentlemen agreements were sought from ethnic armed organizations

SINCE the country started walking on the path to the multiparty democracy in 2011, it has not yet restored the cent per cent peace in its democratization process amid armed conflicts. Hence, the invitation was extended to hold dialogues on peace in 2011, and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA was signed in 2015. Before signing the NCA, gentlemen agreements were sought from ethnic armed organizations.

*(Excerpt from the speech to the State Administration Council meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 25 May 2021)*

## MoHA Union Minister meets members of local security force in Magway

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, member of the State Administration Council, met the security force members and their families in Magway Region.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the occurrence of riots from peaceful protest starting 1 February to date, deaths and injuries of some security members in terror acts, attacks to undermine the peace and stability of the State and current work plans of the ministry.

He also highlighted the dos and don'ts for the security members and the needs to serve the duties to be loyal to the State, efforts not to defame the respective regiments and units, fair control over subordinates, taking care of instigation regarding the external destructive elements and welfare tasks for families.

The Union Minister then provided basic food aids to the

security members and their families.

The Union Minister also met the departmental officials and ward/village-tract administrators at the City Hall of Magway Township.

The Union Minister discussed the emergence of the State Administration Council, five-point road map and nine objectives of SAC, the performance of current Union Election Commission, strong opposition against the government, attacks of terrorists across the nation and duties of ward/village-tract administrators to cooperate with the relevant security members to ensure the safety of their areas with esprit de corps.

At the local military hospital, the Union Minister provided food to the locals, monks, servicemen and police members under the medical treatment at the hospital.



Of them, the Union Minister separately provided cash assistance to the female health worker, who escaped from an attack with five dead occurred in setting fire to the vehicle by armed terrorist group in Gangaw Township of Magway Region on 31 May.—MNA

## MoSWRR provides cash assistance to charity organizations, senior citizens in Bago Region



THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided cash assistance to charity organizations and senior citizens over the age of 85 in Pyay and Thayawady districts of Bago Region on 12 June.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine made a remark and Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khine and Bago Region Administration

Council member U Aung Min explained the purpose of providing cash assistance.

Then, the Union Minister and party handed over K 558.87 million—K87.45 million for 11 charity organizations and K471.42 million for senior citizens—to region administration council members and officials.

Afterwards, region and district authorities presented the social pension for the aged care homes and charity houses to the relevant representatives.

The Union Minister then met the ministry's staff in Pyay and Thayawady districts at Pyay township.

She also visited the drug rehabilitation centre (Weththikan) and met the trainees and officials of 2/2021 drug addict treatment and rehabilitation course.

She then inspected the rehab centre and construction site of new two-storey staff housing operated by Star Vigour Company Limited with 2020-2021 budget. The staff housing will be 144 feet long, 40 feet wide and 24 feet high two-storey RCC building.—MNA

# Union Minister for Information inspects MRTV retransmission station in Laukkai

UNION Minister for Information U Chitt Naing yesterday morning inspected Myanma Radio and Television retransmission station in Laukkai of Kokang Self-Administered Zone and instructed officials to disseminate information to the people.

Along his tour of inspection, the Union Minister met with staff from MRTV retransmission stations in Lashio, Hopang and Laukkai in Shan State (North) and those from Information and Public Relations Department and instructed them to take care of health condition, culture good morale, serve the duty honestly, and try hard to be capable in the work process with moral, discipline and goodwill. He also presented cash assistance and foodstuff to them.—State IPRD/GNLM

Union Minister for Information U Chitt Naing meets staff from Laukkai retransmission station and Information and Public Information Department.



## Armed insurgents set fire to school textbooks for Chin State Education Department



Photo shows a pile of burnt school textbooks.

TWO cargo trucks carrying 127,797 copies of school textbooks from KG to Grade 4 sent by Upper Myanmar Government Printing Factory (Mandalay) to Haka District Education Department in the first week of June 2021 were stopped by armed insurgents between mile posts 35 and 40 on Gangaw-Haka road near Ywavan Village. Those insurgents ordered truck workers to unload the school textbooks from the vehicles and return the trucks.

On arrival at the scene, security forces found destruction by fire at the site of school textbooks.

While the government is striving for teaching children in Chin State during the schooling period, extremist armed insurgents brutally committed the destruction of school textbooks, causing loss to the children from Chin State.—MNA

## Burnt missionary Sayadaw's body found

IT has already announced that Sayadaw Ashin Pannajota from Twideng Village in Chin State, who left for Mindat by Nissan Note on 4 June to sit for Phahtamapyan written test to be held in Haka on 7 June, was missing.

According to the investigation, the Sayadaw was burnt by the terrorists on Mindat-Matupi road. Therefore, his lay attendant U Lain Lay of Taungpulu monastery and local residents went to the incident place on 11 June and found the burnt body of the Sayadaw and vehicle in the bush about 500 feet from 27 miles and seven furlongs long road.

Mindat Myoma police station investigated the case to arrest the suspects who killed the innocent missionary monk.

The security measures have been heightened to reveal the case as the armed groups brutally killed the innocent civilians including members of the Sangha. —MNA



27 mile and seven furlongs post.

# YCDC planning to build 50 mln euro worth Waste ...

**FROM PAGE-1**

The Environmental Conservation and Cleaning Department is daily handling more than 2,500 tonnes of garbage, and 1,500 tonnes of garbage is disposed at Htainpin dump site. This biofuel plant will generate CNG from 1,000 tonnes of garbage.

Additionally, the Environmental Conservation and Cleaning Department under the YCDC cooperated with the JFE Engineering, which is commissioned by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, to build the first ever Yangon Waste to Energy Plant. The plant is located on 15 acres

of land near Hlawkar Road in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon, and the project cost US\$16 million. The plant burns 60 tonnes of garbage from Mingaladon dump site to generate 760 KW electricity per day. About 400 KW of electricity is used to operate the plant and other 300 KW are fed into Yangon Electricity

Supply Corporation (YESC)'s national power grid. Therefore, it can supply about 180 MWh per month.

"About 2,500 tonnes of solid waste are daily generated in Yangon. At present, Yangon Waste to Energy plant can incinerate only 60 tonnes of waste to generate electricity. As a result

of this, the YCDC stepped up to implement the waste to energy and waste to biogas project. Poland government is mulling over it to sign an agreement amid the surging coronavirus cases. We will make concerted efforts to start this project," said Dr Aung Myint Maw. — Pwint Thit Sa/GNLM

# Corn export tops \$331.49 mln in first half of 2020-21 FY

MYANMAR'S corn exports to foreign countries generated revenue of more than US\$331.49 million in the first half (Oct-Mar) of the current financial year 2020-2021, Myanmar Customs Department's statistics showed.

The prices of Myanmar's corn are climbing up in Mandalay market on the back of strong demand by Thailand, coupled with the growing demand in domestic market, traders from Mandalay depot said.

Prior to Thingyan Festival in April, the corn fetched K28,000 per three-basket bag. Both the foreign demand and domestic demand prompted the sellers raise the prices starting from the first week of May. Following a gradual upward trend, the corn was priced above K 32,900 per bag in early June, Soe Win Myint depot from Mandalay stated.

Myanmar has been delivering corns to the neighbouring countries such as Thailand and China via land border. The shipment to Singapore, Malaysia and Viet Nam abruptly stopped



Corn plants thriving in plantation.

owing to zero demand, he added.

"The lack of demand by sea is attributed to the political changes and disruption in logistic sector," said U Min Khaing.

At the present time, Myanmar transports corns to Thailand through land border, with a tonne of corn fetching up about 8,000 baht.

Thailand gives green light to corn import through Mae Sot under zero tariff (with Form-D),

between 1 February and 31 August.

Thailand has granted tax exemption on corn import between February and August. However, Thailand imposed the maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corns are imported during the corn season of Thailand, in accordance with the notification of World Trade Organization re-

garding corn import of Thailand, said a corn exporter.

With growing the local corn consumption, Myanmar's corn export to foreign markets is expected to reach 1.6 million tonnes this year, the association stated.

Myanmar is the second largest exporter of corn among regional countries. At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states

and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons—cold season, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5 to 3 million tonnes of corns.

The corn crop is mostly demanded by feedstuff processing business. This being so, it is potential business for both domestic and external markets, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

During last FY 2019-2020 which ended on 30 September, the country exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to external market, with an estimated value of \$360 million, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

As per data from the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar exported 1.5 million tonnes valued at \$270 million in the 2018-2019 FY, 1.4 million tonnes of corn worth over \$290 million in the 2017-2018 FY, 1.2 million tonnes of corn worth \$250 million in the 2016-2017 FY, and, 1.1 million tonnes of corn worth \$300 million in the 2015-2016 FY.—HH/GNLM

# Livestock, fisheries attract five foreign investment projects in seven months



A local fisherman capturing fish in the river.

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries sector has attracted five foreign investment projects as of April-end in the current financial year 2020-2021 since October, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those businesses brought in over US\$20 million, including the expansion of investments by the existing joint ventures.

They are executing poultry farm, pig farming and sales of pigs, production and farming of broiler and shrimp, as per data of the DICA.

Since 1988-1989 FY, about

\$926.218 million of FDI have flowed into the livestock and fisheries sector.

Next, 16 countries have put investment in the livestock and fisheries sector so far.

Among them, Thailand has topped the list of investments, with over \$380 million, followed by Singapore with about \$130 million.

Myanmar's livestock and fisheries sector are crucial to the livelihoods of many vulnerable households and contribute to improving nutritional outcomes in the country. — KK/GNLM

# Sesame seeds export tops \$284.47 mln in H1

MYANMAR'S sesame seeds export has earned US\$284.47 million in H1 (Oct-Mar) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to data released by Myanmar Customs Department.

The export price of sesame seeds is rising a bit for now owing to Kyat weakening against dollar in forex market.

At present, the black sesame seeds (Samone variety) fetched K130,000-K148,000 per bag, Mandalay depot stated.

Normally, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the main buyer of Myanmar sesame, which is also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries.

The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Japan prefers Myanmar's black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are also exported to South Korea and Japan. Mean-

while, China purchases various coloured sesame seeds from the country. This year, Japan has not purchased Myanmar's sesame yet.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region is the main producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the sown acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantations.

The volume of sesame exports was registered at over 96,000 metric tonnes, worth \$130 million, in the financial year 2015-2016; \$100,000 tonnes, worth \$145 million, in the FY 2016-2017FY; 120,000 tonnes, worth \$147 million, in the FY 2017-2018; 33,900 tonnes valued \$43.8 million in the 2018 mini-budget period, 125,800 tonnes, worth \$212.5 million in the FY 2018-2019 and over 150,000 tonnes of sesame, worth \$240 million in the previous FY 2019-2020, the trade data of Central Statistical Organization indicated.—KK/GNLM



Photo shows thriving sesame plants.

# Press released on directive of NLD to purchase arms and ammunition, commit explosive destruction, send persons to military training courses

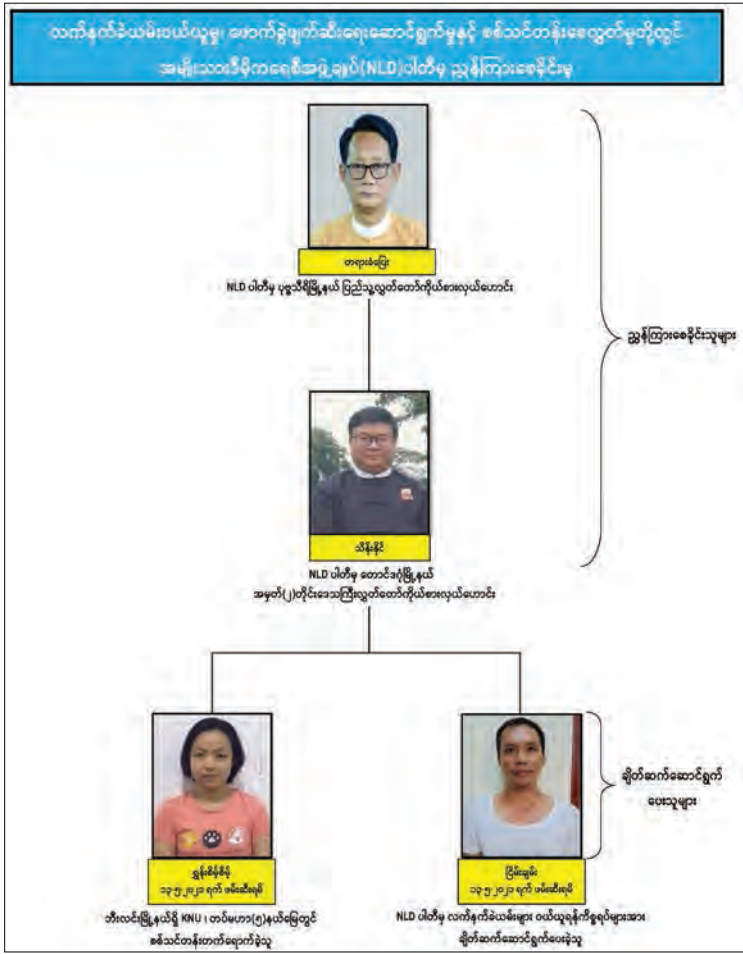


Diagram on those who arrange purchase of arms and ammunition under directives of NLD.

ACCORDING to the order given by National League for Democracy (NLD), Nyein Chan (a) Khaing Ko Mon and Shoon Seint Seint who attended the military and explosive course in the area of KNU Brigade (5) in Bilin Township and performed purchase of arms and ammunition were arrested in Mayangon Township yesterday.



Related equipment in arresting Nyein Chan (a) Khaing Ko Mon and Shoon Seint Seint seen in documentary photo.

Kyaw of All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) in March 2021. Moreover, he sent eight persons wishing to attend the military training course to the area of KNU Brigade (5) in Bilin Township.

In the third week of April 2021, Thein Naing (former MP of Region Hluttaw Constituency-2 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township) contacted Nyein Chan via Nay Myo (a) Charlie for purchase of arms and ammunition. The two suspects arranged a link between a man (under scrutiny) and Thein Naing for purchase

of arms and ammunition. Their Naing arranges terror acts and sabotage acts in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, according to Nay Myo (a) Charlie. Moreover, Thein Naing had contacted Nyein Chan to send some youths from Dagon Myothit (South) Township to the military training course and open the explosive course in the same township. It was scrutinized that current explosive destruction events were committed under the directive of fugitive Yi Mon (a) Tin Thit (former NLD's Pobbathiri Township MP of Pyithu Hluttaw) from unlawful association and terrorist groups CRPH and NUG.

It was scrutinized that fugitive Yi Mon (a) Tin Thit from NLD and Thein Naing (former MP of Region Hluttaw Constituency-2 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township of NLD) are main manipulators to purchase arms and ammunition, commit explosive destruction acts and arrange the youths to attend military training courses.—MNA

## NLD members play crucial role in sending trainees to KIA's Laiza HQ

THE officials arrested Aung Khant (owner of Shwe Thiha rice mill in Shwebo) for sending trainees to KIA's Laiza headquarters and participating in creating explosives on 21 May.

The suspect Aung Khant attended the meeting held by NUG, which was terrorist organization declared by the government on 16-5-2021, with some 40 participants including fugitive Zaw Wai Soe. Present at the meeting were Myint Htwe (former No (2) Constituency of Region Hluttaw MP of YeU Township), Aye Myat Mon (former No (2) Constituency of Region Hluttaw MP of Myaung Township), Khin Hmwe Lwin (former No (1) Constituency of Region Hluttaw MP of Minkin Township) and Naing Aung (former No (2) Constituency of Region Hluttaw MP of Wetlet Township), and the meeting discussed measures of People's Defence Force (PDF) and medical services for the injured in the clashes.

Moreover, on 18 May 2021, including Aung Khant, Khin Hmwe Lwin (former No (1) Constituency of Region Hluttaw

taw MP of Minkin Township), Aye Chan (follower of former Sagaing Region Minister Moe Kyaw Thu for Ministry of Immigration, Sagaing Region), a monk, Kyaw Thu Han Tun (former No (2) Constituency of Region Hluttaw Region MP of Kanbalu in 2015), Nay Zin Latt (former No (2) Constituency of Region Hluttaw MP of Kanbalu) and other three people held a zoom meeting under the topic of Sagaing People Defence Force (SPDF). During the meeting, Khin Hmwe Lwin made a decision to bring the weapons from KIA's Laiza headquarters and Aye Zin Latt (former Pyithu Hluttaw MP of Shwebo) made arrangements to send the youths to military training.

Therefore, the NLD's former MPs Khin Hmwe Lwin, Nay Zin Latt, Aye Zin Latt, Kyaw Thu Han Tun, Naing Aung, Myint Htwe and Aye Myat Mon play key role in giving instructions to organize Sagaing People's Defence Force (SPDF) and ask for training and weapons from KIA's Laiza headquarters.—MNA

## Sagaing Region, Chin State beef up COVID-19 preventive measures

THE Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Health and Sports cooperate to tighten the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities as the number of confirmed cases has risen in Sagaing Region and Chin State.

The military officers provide the necessary assistance to Cikha station hospital in Tonzang Township, Tamu's district general hospital, Kalay hospital, Kalewa hospital and Mawlaik district hospital.

The health workers, Tatmadaw medics and volunteers perform early detection of COVID-19 cases and lab tests and arrange to isolate those who had close contact with positive cases and those came from border areas.



Oxygen cylinders kept in a room before distribution.

Moreover, the COVID-19 Antigen Test (RDT), oxygen cylinders, oxygen, PPEs, Pulse oximeter and other medicines were sent to Kalay Township by Tatmadaw convoy.

The military officers repaired the Oxygen Plant in Kalay hospital and distributed the oxygen cylinders to Kalay and Tamu townships.

Similarly, the Ministry of Health and Sports arranges to provide human resources, generator and fuel including other necessary things.

The military medics conduct COVID-19 tests with RT PCR with mobile lab in Kalay Township.

Sagaing Region health officials accelerate the COVID-19 preventive measures together with local organizations and public health workers.—MNA



A patient undergone medical treatment.

## Dr Htar Htar Lin, Dr Maung Maung Nyein Tun, Dr Swe Zin Oo under arrest for involving in CDM, assisting terrorist organization NUG

DR Htar Htar Lin, Director of the Expanded Immunization Programme of the Ministry of Health and Sports, disconnected herself from the ministry and involved in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) without clearing the K161.198 million balance of the expanded vaccination programme. A case was filed on 20 February 2021 against her at Payagon Myoma Police Station in Ottarathiri Township under Section 505-A of the Penal Code. She was arrested on the roadside of Nawade in Yawmingyi ward, Dagon Township, on 10 June 2021.

According to her confession, she not only joined the CDM and formed the CDM Core Group together with other CDM doctors and staff but also colluded with terrorist NUG, which was declared an unlawful association and terrorist group.

She added that fugitive Zaw Wai Soe, appointed as Health Minister by NUG, contacted her through Signal Application to help him as much as possible. She was frequently communicated by fugitive Zaw Wai Soe via zoom meeting and he asked her to help write an encouraging speech for CDM staff. In addition to writing encouraging speeches, she had to write programmes for NUG's healthcare activities and prepare charts and information for the Zoom Meeting.

Fugitive Zaw Wai Soe assigned Dr Htar Htar Lin to compile a list of medicines used in NUG's healthcare activities and calculate the demographic, necessary drugs, and expenses. In addition, she was reportedly instructed to calculate US\$8 million for six months' medical expenses related to terror acts nationwide. They planned to receive US\$8 million healthcare aid by a Grant Proposal from international donors.

Dr Htar Htar Lin, under fugitive Zaw Wai Soe's control, was appointed as the group leader of the Public Health Team. Twelve absconded doctors, who were also involved in CDM, acted as members.

Dr Htar Htar Lin, under fugitive Zaw Wai Soe's control, was appointed as the group leader of the Public Health Team. Twelve absconded doctors, who were also involved in CDM, acted as members.

1. Dr Htar Htar Lin (Group Leader)  
Former director, Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw
2. Dr Khin Nyein Chan (member)  
Former Lecturer, University of Medicine (Magway)
3. Dr Moe Kyaw Thu (member)  
Former Head of Township Public Health Department, Bilin
4. Dr Thuzar Chit Tin (member)  
Former Head of State Medical Services Department, Taunggyi, ShanState (South)
5. Dr Myo Myo Mon (member)  
Former Deputy Director, Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw
6. Dr Aung Soe Htet (member)  
Former Deputy Director, Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw
7. Dr Htoo Myint Swe (member)  
Former Assistant Director, Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw

8. Dr Cho Cho San (member)  
Former Deputy Director, Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw
9. Dr Su Su Linn (member)  
Former Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw
10. Dr Lwin Mar Hlaing (member)  
Former Deputy Director, Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw
11. Dr Nyein Nyein Chit (member)  
Former Assistant Director, Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw
12. Dr San Thanda (member)  
Former Lecturer, University of Medicine (Mandalay)  
Dr Moe Kyaw Thu (Former Health Officer in Bilin Township) was reportedly appointed as group leader of State Health Admin Team (SHAT), which is under Public Health Team, along with ten members as follows:

1. Dr Moe Kyaw Thu (Group Leader)  
Former Head of Township Public Health Department, Bilin
2. Dr Naing Naing Tun (member)  
Former Deputy Head of State Department, Hpa-an
3. Dr Sharon Pur (member)  
Former Assistant Director, Haka
4. Dr Aung Kyi (member)  
Post-graduate student (Anesthetics), University of Medicine-2
5. Dr Deni Lin (member)

- In-charge of extended immunization/infection (resigned), Lashio
6. Dr Hnin Ei Phyu (member)  
Team leader, (extended immunization/infection), Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw
7. Dr Chit Ko Han (member)  
Former Deputy Head of Region Department, Yangon Region
8. Dr Su Su Hlaing (member)  
Former Head of District Public Health Department, Yangon South District
9. Dr Z Lwan Khong (member)  
Team Leader (extended immunization/infection), Myit-kyina
10. Dr Kyaw Thu Swe (member)  
Team Leader, (extended immunization/infection), Sagaing

It is also learned that plans are underway to form Township Health Admin Teams (THAT) and, to link between SHAT and THAT online, the Clinicians Team was formed with five doctors, including Dr San Thanda, as follows:

1. Dr San Thanda (Group Leader)  
Former Lecturer, University of Medicine (Mandalay)
2. Dr Maung Maung Nyein Tun (member)  
Former Lecturer, University of Medicine (Mandalay)
3. Dr Swe Zin Oo (member)  
Former specialist, Mandalay General Hospital
4. Dr Ye Zin Aung (member)  
Former specialist, Myingyan Hospital
5. Dr Zay Min Tun (member)

Former Staff Officer, Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw

Therefore, 12 doctors, including Dr Htar Htar Lin from Public Health Team, ten doctors from SHAT and five doctors from the Clinicians Team, will be charged and prosecuted under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for acting as per the instructions of fugitive Zaw Wai Soe and terrorist organization NUG, and under Section 17 (1) for colluding with the illegal organization and Section 124 for High Treason.

Therefore, the officials searched the suspects who have contact with the fugitive Zaw Wai Soe and suspect Dr Htar Htar Lin. According to the report received from the public, Dr Maung Maung Nyein Tun (former lecturer for Surgery, University of Medicine, Mandalay) and his wife Dr Swe Zin Oo (ex-specialist of Mandalay General Hospital) were arrested by the security members at a guest house in South Yemon Ward of Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay Region on 13 June 2021.

Of 25 suspects, Dr Htar Htar Lin, Dr Maung Maung Nyein Tun and Dr Swe Zin Oo were arrested and so the officials keep investigating to detain the remaining 22 suspects.

It is announced for the public to inform the nearest local battalions and police stations if the suspects are found, and those who hide them will be taken effective actions under the law.—MNA

373 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 June, total figure rises to 145,603

Myanmar's COVID-19 positive cases rose to 145,603 after 373 new cases were reported on 13 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,928 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,244 after three died. —MNA

## KNDO abducts innocent 47 workers, brutally kills 25 persons

A total of 47 civilian innocent workers from construction of Uhu Creek Bridge on Kanelay-Mawkhi road near Kanelay Village in Wawle in Myawady District being built by local military unit were abducted by a group led by Saw Par Wah at the rank of captain at KNDO for reasonless on 31 May, and some of abductees were brutally killed.

Some 30 members led by Saw Par Wah from KNDO abducted 31 men, six women and 10 children, totalling 47 from the construction site by dumper.

Security forces were in a hot pursuit of the abductees for their escape. On 1 and 9 June, six

men, six women and 10 children, totalling 22 escaped from KNDO and six of them were injured and provided medical treatment by Tatmadaw medical corps members.

On 11 June, one burnt body was found at the site, 1,300 metres northeast of Uhu creek bridge and six more spoiled bodies with hands tied behind their back in the ground. On 12 June, 18 more spoiled bodes were also found.

Officials from the bridge construction site checked the dead bodies with their identities to inform parents and relatives about the deaths and opened the



Construction workers brutally killed by KNDO.

filing the inquests at the respective police stations.

The Tatmadaw columns are

taking security measures to export and combat the terrorist group.—MNA

# Need to encourage literary arena and literati to create better works

PRIZE-WINNING works in the national literature award and Sarpay Beikman manuscripts award shape the nature and lifestyle of Myanmar people by giving deep thoughts on how to build the lives and how to overcome life challenges.

The manuscript contest of the Sarpay Beikman started its first step in 1955 and the National Literature Award in 1972 to select the best works in fiction and non-fiction genres. Selection boards of both contests chose the best works reflecting images of the people's daily lifestyle.

Literati create the works of literature whether they submit the manuscripts to the selection committees of both contests with the aim of giving significant messages to the readers. In this regard, their messages may be raising public awareness about political, economic, social, etc.

The authors with critical thinking initiate the improvement of public lifestyle. Their literary works shape children's future and persuade them into a better world through the arts of writing. Masterpieces of literature can shape youths' lives to straighten the lives on wrong ways onto the right ones.

Whatever it may be, everybody should clearly accept a concept that only when the literary works actually serve the interests of the State and the people should these works be considered for award. It is the primary policy for prioritizing the State and the people. First, second and third winners are selected in various genres of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Ward and the National Literary Award.

In fact, both literature award contests are platforms for writers to present their opinion, creation, presentation and motivation. Hence, readers can enjoy various tastes of literature on the lifestyle of rural and urban people, natural beauties and ideological presentation.

Literature can help people's dreams come true. It features various kinds of knowledge across the world to readers from all parts of the country as well as the world. So, it can be identified as a media linking between the writers and the readers.

As such, it is necessary to encourage writers to produce quality literature suitable for all ages of the people and provide assistance to doyen literati so as to create better literature works day by day.

■ ■ ■

# Nayon: The Month of the Festival of Religious Examinations

By Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt (Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu)

NAYON is the third month in the lunar calendar of Myanmar People. It approximates to June, and it is the last month of summer. The peak of summer is Kason or May when the sun mercilessly burns up everything on earth reducing the country to a parched land. In Nayon the solar heat begins to decline as the monsoon arrives from the south-west direction bringing rain-bearing clouds, releasing showers everywhere. Skeletons of trees which have stripped off all their year-worn yellow foliage begin to put on new emerald green garments.

**Green carpet**

The hard parched land has now become soft and fresh with rain water and in no time it turns into a green carpet of grass. There is a Myanmar saying “နယုန်ခိုးသေး ခြင်္သေးခွေး” “Little showers of Nayon nurture tender grass”.

The word “Nayon” had been spelt differently in different periods of Myanmar history. In the Bagan Period it was spelt as “Nan Yon” or “Na Yon” where as in the Innwa Period it was spelt to sound “Nan Yon”.

Astrological name of Nayon is May Htone (မေထွန်း) or Mithuna (Gemini). May Htone is derived from the Pali word “မေထုန” (mi htu na) and woman. The astrological symbol of Nayon is a couple of man and woman holding a long rood and a harp. Sometimes a pair of Keinnara and Keinnari (Male and female mythical birds with human head) is presented to symbolize this month. In Nayon the Moon and Jehta star together and the Sun and Migathi star together reach noon time. The flower of the month is jasmine, star-like pure white bloom with pleasant fragrance.

**Three counts**

Nayon is important in Myanmar culture on three counts. Firstly, it is the month during which Myanmar farmers begin ploughing their fields. It is the first month of wet cultivation. In the time of Myanmar Kings, Le Htun Mingala (လယ်ထွန်းမင်္ဂလာ) or royal ploughing ceremony was held in this month so that there would be good rain and good harvest. Secondly, it was on the full moon day of Nayon that the Lord Buddha delivered the famous Maha Thamaya Day which Myanmar Buddhists celebrate by reciting the said Sutta and doing good works.

Thirdly it is in the month of Nayon that religious examinations are held for the Buddhist monks.

**Three Sasanas**

There are three Sasanas (Teachings of the Buddha) in Buddhism, namely Pariyatti Sasana which means acquisition of sound knowledge of the Dhamma the Law, and all religious literatures and scriptures through intensive and extensive learning, Patipatti Sasana which means the being accomplished in knowledge and Priveda Sasana which means the acting according to knowledge communicated and acquired. Pariyatti or learning of the Dhamma is primarily important.

**Diligent study**

Monks are encouraged to devote themselves to the diligent study of all religious literatures, Thpitakas. Tipitakas literally means three baskets – (1) Vinaya (2) Sutta and (3) Abhidhamma. All Buddhist monks including novices must learn them and pass the examinations held annually in the month of Nayon.

**Laity's support**

Buddhist laity of all walks of life-form royalty to the commoners see to the needs of the examiner and examinee monks. Cash donation and other contributions in kind are collected to support the holding of the religious examinations. Nayon is the month in which the learning period of the whole year comes to an end. So Examinations are held to test the academic progress of monk scholars. A festal atmosphere is imported to this function by offering food and priestly utensils to the monks at the Examination centres.

**Time of Examinations**

Although festival of religious examinations in Nayon was not recorded yearly, there is no doubt that they were held regularly throughout Myanmar history. Examinations took place in the Thudhamma zayats built by the King. Preparations were made in advance such as gilding the zayats, renovating and decorating the surroundings. Pavilions were constructed in which the monks were fed daily and were presented with offertories. A special “min lan” (မင်းလမ်း) or royal road was made lined on either side with yazamat fences (ရာဇမတ်ကွပ်) (Diamond shaped design of lattice fences) and flower pots. The surface of the royal road was covered with fine whit sand. At the end of the road was built a richly decorated Pavilion for Their Majesties and the court from homage to the monks. Naturally festivities took place where royalty appeared in



The Lord Buddha delivered the famous Maha Thamaya Sutta to the Devas and Brahmas of all universes.

paragraph was Kason, not Nayon.

In the Lawka Byu Har (လောကဗျူဟာ) or commonly known as Inyone Sardan (အင်္ဂုစာတမ်း) which is a treatise on “Court Ceremonies and Festivals of 29 Kings of Innwa and Nyaung Yan dynasties” compiled by Thiri Uzana the Inyone Minister, we find references to holding of religious examinations in the month of Nayon under royal patronage of Innwa kings who far proceeded King Thalun. Holding of religious examinations in Nayon and ordination of successful candidates in the subsequent month Waso are in natural sequence. The academic terms of religious education come to an end in Nayon and new academic year commences in the first month of Buddhist Lent that is Waso. So it is appropriate to hold religious examination in Nayon and to start again teaching in Waso. Other historical and literary evidences indicate Nayon as the month of the Festival of religious examinations.

On page 376 of the Glass Palace Chronicle, Volume three it is mentioned that:

his Majesty took occupancy of the Palace “Kyaw Aung San Nan” (ကျော်အောင်စံနန်း) and then at Innwa he built a monastery which was dedicated to the Most Venerable Baddanta Nyana Wara who stood first in the religious examinations. This learned monk received the title “Pahtama Kyaw” (ပထမကျော်) and later he came to be known as “Kyaw Aung San Hta Sayadaw” (ကျော်အောင်စံထားဆရာတော်).

**Four grades**

There were four grades of examination viz. (i) Pahtama Nge (ပထမငယ်) or Lower Grade (ii) Pahtama Lat (ပထမလတ်) or Middle Grade (iii) Pahtamagyi (ပထမကြီး) or Higher Grade and (iv) Pahtama Kyaw (ပထမကျော်) or Highest Grade.

His son and successor King Thibaw was a successful candidate in the first three grades. When he became King he passed Religious Examination Law, which was the first of its kind in Myanmar history. It was published in book form by the Hluttaw Press in 1883. By this law there were only three grades, Lower grade, Higher grade and Highest grade.

**Peak of progress and perfection**

During the reign of King Mindon (A.D. 1853-1878) religious examinations reached the peak of progress and perfection. He was a devout Buddhist King who promoted Buddhism by supporting Sanghas (Assembly of monks) as best he could. He convened the 5th Buddhist Council in 1871 which revised and edited the Tipitakas or the Buddhist Canon. The authorized version of Tipitakas was then inscribed on 729 white alabaster slabs, Vinaya on 111 slabs, Suttas on 410 slabs, and Abhidhamma on 208 slabs. These slabs on housed in cave- like brick buildings set up in the precincts of Maha Loka

and the rest were classified under the lists, list I and List II according to their merits.

**Lavish reward**

Successful candidates were lavishly rewarded by the King. A big Pujas (ပူဇော်) or honouring ceremony was held in the courtyard where richly decorated pavalio were set up. The Pahtama Kyaw candidate was carried on a gilt palanquin borne by 40 men with gold umbrellas shading him. The other candidates wearing rich attire with gold salwe on their breasts followed either riding horses or being carried on the sedan chair according to their positions in the examination results. Royal musical Ensemble called “Sain Waing Tawgyi” played music of welcome and honour. Their Majesties and the Court appeared in state on the podium of the Hluttaw (Council of Ministers in the time of Myanmar Kings) and poured lustral water from the gold libation ever as the successful candidates in line approached him to receive the rewards from him. Kyats 1000 in pure silver for the higher grade and Kyats 2500 in pure silver for the Highest grade were presented. In addition, the privilege of tax immunities was granted to their parents and nearest relatives.

**Privileges**

The Pahtama Kyaw was adopted by the King and should he choose a career he would be appointed clerk with the prospect of promotion to Wungyi (Minister) one day. If not, he could remain monk, well supported by the King who would build a monastery for him and might raise him to be “raja guru” or King's Teacher.

**Well Preserved**

Although Myanmar fell under the British rule for 117 years this tradition of holding religious examinations was well preserved. Even during the second World War when Myanmar was under the Japanese occupation, attempt to revive this tradition was made in 1943 by the then Adipadi Government. It was called Vinaya (Code then Adipadi Government. It was called Vinaya (Code of conduct) Examination of Burma. There were four grades and only treatises on Vinaya were prescribed for examination.

Today this tradition of holding religious examination is kept alive by the Government and the public in co-operation.

■ ■ ■



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 13 June 2021)

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

**SPECIAL FEATURE:** According to the observations at 18:30 MST today, the land depression over the Viet Nam has unimportant.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14 June 2021:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Bago Region and Rakhine Kayin, Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions. 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)mph. Wave height will be about (9-13) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuations of increase of rain in Coastal areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 June 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 June 2021:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 June 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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# EU urges UK to uphold Brexit deal but Johnson defiant

EUROPEAN leaders on Saturday delivered an ultimatum to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to keep his word on Brexit to resolve a row over new trade arrangements in Northern Ireland.

But Johnson defiantly restated his calls for Brussels to compromise, urging a more pragmatic approach after talks between the two sides broke down earlier this week.

The UK and the European Union signed a last-gasp trade deal in December last year, just weeks before the former's departure from the European single market and customs union.

A separate agreement -- the Northern Ireland protocol -- was also signed to govern trade in the UK province, which shares the country's only land border with the bloc.

But London has so far failed to implement full checks on goods heading into Northern Ireland from mainland Britain -- England, Scotland and Wales.

And it has indicated that it will extend a grace period on the delivery of British chilled meat products at the end of this month, prompting EU threats of retaliatory measures.

The row -- and the spectre of what the UK press has dubbed a "sausage war" -- has dogged the showpiece G7 summit in southwest England.

Johnson on Saturday morning held talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the heads of the European Commission and the European Council.

All told him directly to abide by the terms of the divorce deal he signed to take the UK out of the European Union after nearly 50 years of membership. — AFP ■



The protocol led to supply delays and empty shelves in Northern Ireland. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Anti-terror "academy" set up in Ivory Coast

IVORY Coast and France on Thursday inaugurated a counter-terrorism academy designed to ramp up the Sahel area's means to counter a widespread jihadist risk. Ivorian Prime Minister Patrick Achi and his defence minister, Tene Birahima Ouattara, had been joined by French International Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian for the opening of the Worldwide Academy for the Combat Towards Terrorism (AILCT) based mostly simply exterior Abidjan, the nation's enterprise capital.

The three-building website will put these attending the academy by way of three phases of particular forces anti-terrorism coaching. — AFP ■

### French army kills Mali jihadist linked to journalist murders

FRENCH soldiers have killed a Malian jihadist suspected of being responsible for the kidnapping and deaths of two French journalists in 2013, Defence Minister Florence Parly said Friday.

Parly said French forces in the Sahel region killed "four terrorists" during an operation in northern Mali on June 5, including Bayes Ag Bakabo, the prime suspect in the deaths of RFI radio reporters Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon.

"His neutralisation means the end of a long wait," Parly said, adding that Bakabo was in the village of Aguelhok and was preparing an attack against UN peacekeeping forces when he was killed. — AFP ■

## Azerbaijan releases 15 Armenian POWs

AZERBAIJAN on Saturday released to Armenia 15 prisoners of war captured last year during hostilities over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, the foreign ministry in Baku said.

The ministry also said that under the deal mediated by Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili, Yerevan reciprocated by providing Baku with maps of minefields in the conflict zone.

Fighting broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenia in September 2020 over Nagorno-Karabakh, claiming around 6,000 lives over six weeks.

The war ended in November with a Russian-brokered ceasefire under which Yerevan ceded swathes of territory it had controlled for decades.

On Saturday, "Azerbaijan handed over to Armenia 15 de-

tained Armenians in exchange for the map of 97,000 anti-tank and anti-personnel mines in the Agdam district," one of the territories Armenia has ceded to Baku, Azerbaijan's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry also thanked US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, top US diplomat for Europe Philip Reeker, European Council President Charles Michel, and the OSCE Swedish chairmanship for their roles in the negotiations.

"Our brothers returned to their families thanks to the efforts of Georgia's Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili, our Georgian brothers as well as our partners from the US and EU," Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan told journalists.

He said he had earlier "provided Azerbaijan with a certain number of minefield maps through Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov." — AFP ■



Russian peacekeepers clear mines in Nagorno-Karabakh. **PHOTO: RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY/AFP**



A 2.5-meter-high balloon representing Kumamon, the official black bear mascot of Japan's Kumamoto Prefecture, is on display on June 7, 2021, at a temporary shop dedicated to goods related to the mascot, which recently opened at a shopping complex in the suburbs of Shanghai. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Kumamon shop opens in Shanghai with pop-up to travel across China

A Kumamon-themed store has opened in Shanghai, with a similar pop-up store scheduled to introduce the black bear-like mascot of southwestern Japan's Kumamoto Prefecture to many other parts of China.

Known as "Xiong Ben Xiong" in China, a 2.5-meter-tall inflatable Kumamon welcomes visitors at the entrance of the store set up in a large commercial facility in the suburbs of Shanghai.

Some 60 items such as bags and cushions are available to buy.

The store is operated by a local animation firm with goods and exhibits approved by the Kumamoto prefectural government.

Included is a panel with illustrations of Kumamoto Castle and a hot spring to be used as a spot to snap pictures.

"To prepare for the future after the coronavirus pandemic,

we'd like to promote the prefecture's attractions by teaming up with a private firm," said Nobuhiro Fujimoto, head of Kumamoto Prefecture's office in Shanghai.

Many of the goods are available only at the shop, which will operate through June 30.

The outlet will then feature in various regions including Beijing, according to the prefectural government. —Kyodo News ■

Marching climate activists urge G7 to step up



The harbour town in southwest England is being used to host a media centre for reporters from around the world. PHOTO: AFP

THOUSANDS of environmental campaigners rallied noisily and colourfully Saturday in Cornwall to urge G7 leaders to do far more against climate change and biodiversity loss.

Beating drums and holding placards, up to 2,000 activists from the Extinction Rebellion (XR) pressure group staged a

procession through Falmouth – an hour’s drive from the Carbis Bay summit site.

The harbour town in southwest England is being used to host a media centre for reporters from around the world covering the first in-person gathering of the elite group since 2019.

Heightened security stretching around the seaside resort at Carbis Bay, including extensive police checkpoints and Royal Navy vessels offshore, has kept protesters largely out of the world leaders’ view.

“I have a grandchild who’s one, and I want some life for him when he grows up not affected by climate change and pollution,” retiree David Oliver, 62, told AFP

as he joined the Falmouth protesters.

Oliver had travelled from northwest England, linking up with family members from other parts of the country to descend on Falmouth.

He said G7 leaders appeared unwilling to make the “radical” sacrifices need to avert catastrophic climate change.

Dozens of demonstrators dressed entirely in red — representing the accelerating rate of species’ extinctions — led the procession through Falmouth behind a banner reading: “G is for greenwashing.”

Others held placards bearing various slogans, including “deeds not words”. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oil spill drifts away from Corsica coast

FEARS two oil slicks would pollute eastern Corsica’s holiday beaches eased Saturday after French officials prepared for the worst and naval boats armed with clean-up equipment arrived off the Mediterranean island. “We are more reassured now because the pollution is drifting away from the coast,” maritime prefecture spokesperson Christine Ribbe told AFP.

“The pollution is breaking up and now about 10 kilometres (six miles) or so offshore. But we have to remain very careful because the situation can change with the currents.” The authorities had voiced concern the oil would pollute the coast from Aleria to Ventiseri on Saturday and closed beaches along the 40-kilometre stretch and banned fishing. Two naval ships, equipped with “anti-pollution material and specialised staff” were already picking up oil from the surface of the sea. — AFP ■

Across US West, drought arriving dangerously early

LAKES at historically low levels, unusually early forest fires, restrictions on water use and now a potentially record heat wave: even before summer’s start the US West is suffering the effects of chronic drought made worse by climate change.

Eighty-eight percent of the West was in a state of drought this week, including the entire states of California, Oregon, Utah and Nevada, according to official data.

In a particularly stark symptom of this trend, which is affecting more than 143 million Americans, Lake Mead — the country’s largest reservoir, lying at the border of Nevada and Arizona — now stands at its lowest level since its creation in the 1930s.

The lake, formed when the massive Hoover Dam was built across the Colorado River not

far from Las Vegas, stands at just 36 percent of capacity, below even a record set in 2016.

Authorities expected something like this — but not until August.

The situation in northern California, which normally receives ample precipitation in the winter and spring, is no better. Lake Oroville, the state’s second largest reservoir and a key part of a network providing potable water to 27 million Californians, is 165 feet (50 meters) lower than in 2019.

Widespread water-use restrictions appear inevitable over the coming months, with potentially serious ramifications for Western states, in particular for irrigation-dependent farmers — who provide much of the country’s fruits and vegetables. — AFP ■



With the water level reaching historic lows, boats had to be taken out of Lake Oroville in Northern California; this photo is from May 24, 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Nobel-winning Japanese chemist dies at 85



Japanese chemist Ei-ichi Negishi (R, with his family) won the Nobel Prize for his work developing a method to create complex chemicals. PHOTO: SCANPIX SWEDEN/AFP/FILE

JAPANESE chemist Ei-ichi Negishi who won the Nobel prize for developing a method for creating complex chemicals necessary for manufacturing drugs and electronics has died aged 85, his US university said.

Negishi died on Sunday in Indianapolis, Purdue University said in a statement on Friday, adding his family would lay him to rest in Japan sometime next year.

The Manchuria-born scientist graduated from the prestigious University of Tokyo and worked at Japanese chemical giant Teijin before going to the United States on a Fulbright scholarship in 1960 to study chemistry. He joined the Pur-

due faculty in 1979.

In 2010, he won the Nobel Prize for chemistry along with Richard Heck of the University of Delaware and Akira Suzuki of Hokkaido University.

Through the trio’s work, organic chemistry has developed into “an art form, where scientists produce marvellous chemical creations in their test tubes,” the award citation said.

Heck laid the groundwork for bonding carbon atoms by using a catalyzer to promote the process in the 1960s.

Negishi fine-tuned it in 1977 and it was taken a step further by Suzuki, who found a practical way to carry out the process. — AFP ■

Sri Lanka seeks \$40 million in damages over ship fire

SRI LANKA is seeking \$40 million in damages from the operator of a ship that left massive pollution when it caught fire off the country’s west coast, officials said Saturday.

Ports and shipping minister Rohitha Abeygunawardena said an interim claim had been lodged with X-Press Feeders, which controls the Singapore-registered MV X-Press Pearl.

The vessel has been submerged in seas off Colombo since June 2 after burning for almost two weeks and releasing tonnes of plastic raw materials that swamped local beaches. Sri Lankan environmentalists have called it the “worst marine disaster” in the country’s history.

“In addition to this (claim), we will also seek reimbursement of the cost of putting out the fire,” Abeygunawardena said, adding that the full damage to the environment was still being assessed. — AFP ■

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## Rare earth metals at the heart of China's rivalry with US, Europe

WHAT if China were to cut off the United States and Europe from access to rare minerals that are essential to electric vehicles, wind turbines and drones? At a time of frequent geopolitical friction among those three powers, Washington and Brussels want to avoid this scenario by investing in the market for 17 minerals with unique properties that today are largely extracted and refined in China.

"The expected exponential growth in demand for minerals that are linked to clean energy is putting more pressure on US and Europe to take a closer look at where the vulnerabilities are and the concrete steps these governments can take," said Jane Nakano, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. In 2019, the United States imported 80 percent of its

rare earth minerals from China, the US Geological Survey says. The European Union gets 98 percent of its supply from China, the European Commission said last year. Amid the transition to green energy in which rare earth minerals are sure to play a role, China's market dominance is enough to sound an alarm in western capitals.

### Cars and turbines

Rare earth minerals with names like neodymium, praseodymium and dysprosium are crucial to the manufacture of magnets used in industries of the future like wind turbines and electric cars. And they are already present in consumer goods such as smartphones, computer screens and telescopic lenses. Others have more traditional uses, like cerium for glass polishing and lanthanum for car catalysts or optical lenses. — AFP ■



Photo taken in 2012 shows a rare earth refinery near Baotou, China, the country dominating the global mining and refining of the minerals. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## US Fed expected to stand its ground despite rising inflation

EVEN in the face of rising inflation, the lackluster progress on restoring jobs lost during the pandemic means the US Federal Reserve is unlikely to budge on monetary policy when it meets next week.

Central bank chief Jerome Powell has made it clear the Fed will hold the line on its massive bond buying program and rock-bottom lending rates until data reflect lasting improvement in employment across all economic strata. But the recent surge in inflation in the world's largest economy is ramping up the pressure on policymakers to begin to pull back on stimulus programs.

Hints of whether central bankers will buckle may be seen next week when the Fed's policy-setting Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC) holds its two-day policy meeting. "No good deed goes unpunished and that is the case with the rapid reopening of the economy," economist Joel Naroff said in an analysis.

"The upside is that growth is soaring. The downside is that consumer inflation is surging, and labor problems are pressuring businesses." — AFP ■



(From L) Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, European Council President Charles Michel, U.S. President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, French President Emmanuel Macron, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and German Chancellor Angela Merkel pose for a photo in Cornwall, England, on June 11, 2021. They gathered for a summit of the Group of Seven major economies. **PHOTO: KYODO/POOL**

## G-7 to launch infrastructure plan to counter China's Belt and Road

LEADERS of the Group of Seven industrialized nations on Saturday sought to counter China's growing economic clout by agreeing to launch a new infrastructure project for the developing world as an alternative to Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

On the second day of the three-day summit in Cornwall, southwestern England, the G-7 leaders also discussed Beijing's alleged abuses of the Uyghur Muslim minority in the Xinjiang region, western China, with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga expressing "deep concerns" about human rights in China.

The agreement on the "Build Back Better World" infrastructure initiative can be

seen as a key deliverable of the summit, as the bloc of wealthy democracies -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, plus the European Union -- explores ways to better contribute to the world in the face of China's rise.

With the participation of the private sector, the initiative is intended to collectively catalyze hundreds of billions of dollars of infrastructure investment for low- and middle-income countries in the coming years, the White House said.

The project, which will be global in scope, ranging from Latin America to Africa and the Indo-Pacific, will not "just be an alternative to the BRI" but is expected to "beat the

BRI by offering a higher-quality choice," a U.S. official said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has advocated the BRI since 2013 to increase Beijing's influence abroad by financing and building infrastructure projects across Asia, Europe and Africa.

But it has been criticized for a lack of transparency, poor environmental and labor standards, and its record of saddling developing countries with debt.

The demand for high-quality physical, digital and health infrastructure is high, the White House said, citing a World Bank estimate showing a cumulative \$40 trillion worth of infrastructure needs in the developing world through 2035.

— Kyodo News ■

## Iraq arrests two generals on suspicion of bribery at key port



Both men worked at the Gulf port of Umm Qasr, a key entry point for imports of foodstuffs and medicines which is reputed to be the most corrupt in Iraq. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

IRAQ announced Saturday it has arrested two generals on suspicion of taking bribes to waive customs duties, a practice esti-

mated to cost the state \$6.3 billion a year in lost revenues. Both men worked at the Gulf port of Umm Qasr, a key entry point for imports

of foodstuffs and medicines which is reputed to be the most corrupt in Iraq. The sums allegedly found in their position were tiny given the scale of corruption in Iraq, which is estimated to have cost the country hundreds of billions of dollars since the US-led invasion of 2003.

"\$1,000 were found in the office of the general in charge of Umm Qasr North,, while the other general had hidden \$2,100 in a waste basket in his office," a source in the state anti-corruption body, the Commission for Integrity, told AFP.

"These were bribes intended to facilitate the smooth passage of cargos," the source said. — AFP ■

# More US finance giants tiptoe into cryptoassets

INVESTING in bitcoin and other digital currencies remains a risky game where the rules could change significantly, but the payoff could be big.

In response to this dilemma, several leading US financial heavyweights are staying on the sidelines, while an increasing number are proceeding cautiously into the growing world of cryptoassets. “My own personal advice to people: Stay away from it,” JPMorgan Chase Chief Executive Jamie Dimon said recently, before adding, “That does not mean the clients don’t want it.” JPMorgan, the biggest US bank by assets, is currently assessing how it can help clients transact in cryptocurrency, Dimon said last month at the bank’s annual meeting.

Formerly some-

thing of an investment sideshow dominated by computer geeks, cryptocurrencies are sparking greater interest among mainstream investors after a big jump in bitcoin prices in 2020 and early 2021. On Thursday, the venerable giant State Street announced the creation of a new digital finance division.

On Wednesday, the head of online trading firm Interactive Brokers vowed to establish online trading of cryptocurrencies on the platform by the end of the summer.

Like its rivals Charles Schwab and Fidelity, Interactive Brokers does not now offer bitcoin trading on its platform, although it does give clients the option to invest in some assets that include cryptocurrencies or bitcoin futures. — AFP

# ANA begins on-site vaccination, first among Japanese firms

ALL Nippon Airways Co. on Sunday began its COVID-19 inoculation program for employees at Tokyo’s Haneda airport, moving up the schedule set by the government by more than a week and becoming the first Japanese firm known to start offering workplace vaccinations.

The government unveiled a plan earlier this month to allow companies and universities to administer coronavirus vaccinations on site from June 21 as Japan looks to accelerate the pace of its daily COVID-19 shots and expand eligibility to younger people.

ANA Holdings Inc., the parent of the major airline, had initially sought to begin on-site vaccinations from that day but was able to bring forward the plan in cooperation with the govern-



A pilot receives a COVID-19 vaccine at Haneda airport on June 13, 2021, under All Nippon Airways Co.’s vaccination program for employees. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ment. Japan Airlines Co. plans to begin inoculations at the Tokyo airport on Monday.

Japan’s vaccination rollout was launched in February for health care workers and widened to people aged 65 or older in April, but with the start of the Tokyo Olympics only 40 days away, its vaccination rate remains low compared with other industrialized countries.

To begin with, ANA said it will focus on vaccinating about 10,000 employees, mainly pilots and flight attendants working on international routes. “Now I can board an international flight with peace of mind,” Takuya Ebata, a 51-year-old ANA pilot said.

“But I plan to continue taking preventive measures and not to relax my guard.” — Kyodo News

# Tax or no tax, UAE aims to remain magnet for investors



High-rise buildings at the Dubai Marina. PHOTO: AFP

TAX advantages paired with a life of luxury have long drawn foreigners and multinationals to the UAE, which is aiming to remain attractive wheth-

er or not it signs up to a global tax initiative.

The Group of Seven wealthy powers this month endorsed an “unprecedented” agreement on a global minimum corporate tax targeting major companies seen as not paying enough, especially tech giants.

The objective is a minimum tax of at least 15 percent.

While the agreement is the first step in a long process before it can become a reality, caught in the crosshairs are tax havens that attract firms such as Amazon, Apple, Google and Facebook.

The United Arab Emirates entered the world’s top 10 tax havens for the first time in March, according to the Tax Justice Network.

Modestly called “jurisdictions with no or insignificant taxes” by the Organisation for Eco-

UAE officials have yet to issue a statement on the G7 agreement and did not respond to an AFP request for comment. — AFP

Both the UAE capital Abu Dhabi and free-wheeling Dubai, the biggest draw for investors out of the UAE’s seven emirates, are home to thousands of companies that have set up regional offices there.

UAE officials have yet to issue a statement on the G7 agreement and did not respond to an AFP request for comment. — AFP

But this week Dubai announced plans to reduce in the coming months government procedures as “part of efforts to reduce the cost of doing business and further boost economic growth in the emirate”. — AFP

# Offshore duty free policy boosts economic vitality in S China’s Hainan

THE offshore duty free policy in south China’s Hainan province has not only brought tangible benefits to visitors, but also pushed forward the tropical island’s economic transformation, maximized consumption potential, and served as a crucial engine for economic development.

Over the past 10 years, Hainan has witnessed more than 100 billion yuan (\$15.66 billion) in sales of duty free goods to more than 25 million shoppers, with the total number of items sold exceeding 120 million.

Meanwhile, tourists have saved a total of 20 billion yuan in purchasing these products.

During this period, sales of duty free goods in

Hainan grew at an average annual rate of about 44 percent, while the number of shoppers increased at an average annual rate of about 30 percent, while the number of items sold grew at an average annual rate of about 40 percent.

Since April 2011, when the offshore duty free policy was first implemented, the policy itself has been adjusted eight times.

For instance, the rate of tax exemption continues to increase. In 2011, the duty free shopping quota for each tourist was only 5,000 yuan per year; which gradually went up and reached 100,000 yuan last year. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (121S/123N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (121S/123N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-6-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

## Biden declares 'hallowed' site of club mass shooting a national memorial



A makeshift memorial at the Pulse nightclub in 2016, which President Joe Biden enshrined as a national memorial on June 6, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Saturday marked the fifth anniversary of a mass shooting in a gay nightclub in Florida, taking the rare step of saying he would designate the club as a national memorial.

"In the coming days, I will sign a bill designating Pulse Nightclub as a national memorial, enshrining in law what has

been true since that terrible day five years ago: Pulse Nightclub is hallowed ground," the US president said in a statement released as he continued a European tour.

On June 12, 2016, a gunman opened fire inside the Orlando club, killing 49 people, many of them Latinos, and wounding more than 50 others in what

was then the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

The shooter, 29-year-old Omar Mateen, held police at bay for hours until they stormed the building and killed him.

In Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis called the shooting "one of the darkest days in our state's history" and declared June 12 Pulse Remembrance Day.

Biden's declaration came a day after two of his senior advisors held a virtual meeting with gay and lesbian leaders to mark the Pulse anniversary and promise action on gay rights and gun violence.

Advisors Susan Rice and Cedric Richmond "discussed the epidemic levels of violence faced by transgender people, especially transgender women of color, and the impact of firearms in the crisis of anti-transgender homicides," the White House said in a separate statement. — AFP ■

## Trip to space with Jeff Bezos sells for \$28 mn

A mystery bidder paid \$28 million at auction Saturday for a seat alongside Jeff Bezos on board the first crewed spaceflight of the billionaire's company Blue Origin next month.

The Amazon founder revealed this week that both he and his brother Mark would take seats on board the company's New Shepard launch vehicle on July 20, to fly to the edge of space and back.

The Bezos brothers will be joined by the winner of Saturday's charity auction, whose identity remains unknown, and by a fourth, as yet unnamed space tourist.

"The name of the auction winner will be released in the weeks following the auction's conclusion," tweeted Blue Origin following the sale.

"Then, the fourth and final crew member will be announced -- stay tuned."

Saturday's successful bidder beat out some 20 rivals in an auction launched on May 19 and wrapped up with a 10-minute, livecast frenzy.

Bidding had reached \$4.8 million by Thursday, but shot up spectacularly in the final live auction, rising by million dollar increments.

The proceeds — aside from a six percent auctioneer's commission — will go to Blue Origin's foundation, Club for the Future, which aims to inspire future generations to pursue careers in STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics. — AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Clashes after Tunisia demo against police violence

YOUTHS clashed with officers again Saturday evening, hours after a demonstration in the Tunisian capital, Tunis, to protest police violence following the latest death of a man arrested by police.

In the working class district of Sidi Hassine, several dozen young people threw projectiles, including fireworks, at police near the station, an AFP reporter witnessed. Police responded with tear gas.

The district has been rocked by angry protests since Tuesday, when the man died after being arrested by police on suspicion of dealing drugs, according to local media.

His family has accused the police of having beaten him to death and the authorities have opened an investigation, but the interior ministry denied Thursday that he had died from ill treatment following his arrest. — AFP ■

### Post and present trauma time bomb hangs over Gaza

HER eyes glued to a cellphone photo of her sister and four children killed in an Israeli strike on Gaza, Ola lets out the painful words: "I was hoping we'd find them alive."

The Gaza City resident in her thirties wipes away tears as she stands before a psychologist from a local organisation.

Ola is one of many Gazans who lost family members during 11 days of Israeli bombardment last month when the local health ministry says 66 Palestinian children and teenagers were killed.

From May 10 to May 21, the Israeli army pummelled the Gaza Strip in response to rocket fire by militants of the Islamist movement Hamas which rules the coastal enclave that is home to two million people. — AFP ■

## Four Afghans get 10-year jail terms for Greek migrant camp fire



Greece has deployed cameras, radar and a 40-kilometre (25-mile) steel fence more than five metres high along part of its border with Turkey. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A Greek court on Saturday sentenced four Afghan asylum seekers convicted of starting fires that burnt down Europe's largest migrant camp last year to 10 years in prison each.

The court in Chios found the defendants guilty of arson while their lawyers denounced a "lack of sense of fairness".

No one died in the fires.

The lawyers told AFP they had immediately filed for an

appeal after the sentence was handed down.

The young Afghans were taken to the court handcuffed and were expected to return to the Avlona jail outside Athens, where they were held before the trial.

In March, two other Afghan youths were detained in the same facility for five years in connection with the case.

The Moria camp on the Ae-

gean island of Lesbos housed more than 10,000 people before it was destroyed by two fires in September 2020. Media were not allowed inside the courtroom at the end of the trial owing to coronavirus precautions.

Around 20 people, mainly members of foreign solidarity groups, gathered outside the court meanwhile to call for the defendants to be freed. — AFP ■

# G7 to agree climate, conservation targets as summit ends

G7 leaders on Sunday will back new conservation and emission targets to curb climate change, and finalise collective action on several other fronts, as they wrap up a three-day summit aimed at showcasing revived Western unity.

The group of leading economies, holding their first in-person gathering in nearly two years due to the coronavirus pandemic, will agree to protect at least 30 percent of both land and ocean globally by the end of the decade.

The “Nature Compact” struck to try to halt and reverse biodiversity loss is also set to see them commit to nearly halve their carbon emissions by 2030, relative to 2010.

It includes mandating the



The gathering in Cornwall in southwestern England has been the first opportunity for G7 leaders to meet in person in two years. **PHOTO: /POOL/AFP**

use of only so-called clean coal for power “as soon as possible”, ending most government support for the fossil fuel sector overseas and phasing out petrol and diesel cars.

Hailing the pact, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson -- who is hosting the beachside

summit in Cornwall, southwest England -- said the G7 wanted to “drive a global Green Industrial Revolution to transform the way we live”.

“There is a direct relationship between reducing emissions, restoring nature, creating jobs and ensuring long-term economic growth,” he added, in remarks released ahead of the summit’s conclusion. Climate change was a key G7 priority for his government, as it tries to lay the groundwork for hosting the UN COP26 environment summit in Glasgow in November.

But before the pledges had even been formally adopted, environmental campaigners blasted them as lacking enforcement and the necessary scope. — AFP ■

# Israel parliament poised to vote on anti-Netanyahu govt

ISRAELI lawmakers are to vote Sunday on a “change” coalition government of bitter ideological rivals united by their determination to banish Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power.

The crunch Knesset vote will either terminate the hawkish premier’s uninterrupted 12-year tenure or return Israel to a

stalemate likely to trigger a fifth general election since 2019.

Netanyahu, who is battling a clutch of corruption charges in an ongoing trial he dismisses as a conspiracy, has pushed Israeli politics firmly to the right over the years.

On Saturday night, around 2,000 protesters rallied outside the 71-year-old’s official res-

idence to celebrate what they believe will be his departure from office. “For us, this is a big night and tomorrow will be even a bigger day. I am almost crying. We fought peacefully for this (Netanyahu’s departure) and the day has come,” said protester Ofir Robinski.

A fragile eight-party alliance, ranging from the right-wing Jewish nationalist Yamina party to Arab lawmakers, was early this month cobbled together by centrist politician Yair Lapid.

On Friday, all coalition agreements had been signed and submitted to the Knesset secretariat, Yamina announced, a moment party leader Naftali Bennett said brought “to an end two and a half years of political crisis”.

But the ever-combative Netanyahu has tried to peel off defectors that would deprive the nascent coalition of its wafer thin legislative majority. — AFP ■



A combination of pictures created on June 2 shows the heads of Israel’s newly-announced ‘change’ coalition who are united by their hostility to Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel’s longest-serving prime minister whose rule could end on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fujimori clings to fraud claim in Peru as vote tally nears end

RIGHT-WING candidate Keiko Fujimori insisted Saturday that Peru’s presidential election was marred by fraud, as final vote counting dragged on with her leftist rival slightly ahead.

“There was fraud in the voting process. There was manipulation in the voting process,” Fujimori said in a briefing with foreign reporters without providing evidence, as her chances of becoming president seemed to narrow, six days after people in politically turbulent Peru cast ballots. She alleged there was fraud in the counting of votes, too. “I am going to recognize the results but we have to wait until the end,” said Fujimori. — AFP ■

### Spain’s right rallies against plan to pardon Catalan separatists

RIGHT-WING protesters hit the streets of Madrid on Sunday to denounce controversial Spanish government plans to offer pardons to the jailed Catalan separatists behind the failed 2017 independence bid.

The mass protest, which is scheduled to start at midday (1000 GMT), will up pressure on Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez who has called for understanding over the planned gesture that has dominated political debate for weeks and reactivated the controversy over Catalan separatism. “I understand there may be people who could have objections over this decision that the government may take, given what happened in 2017,” he said on Wednesday during an official visit to Argentina. — AFP ■

# Tens of thousands march against far-right in France

TENS of thousands of people across France on Saturday marched against “attacks on freedoms” and what organisers said was a growing influence of far-right ideas ahead of next year’s presidential elections.

Members of more than 100 left-leaning organisations participated in the “Liberty March” in cities and towns across the country.

The protests were the first opportunity for a divided left to take to the streets after a year and a half of Covid-19 restrictions.

Organisers reported 70,000 participants in Paris

and 150,000 around the nation, while the Paris police and interior ministry put the numbers at 9,000 in the capital and 37,000 nationwide. The interior ministry said 119 rallies had taken place.

In Nantes, western France, around 900 people rallied, according to the local prefecture, including scores of far-left militants who clashed with police.

In the Mediterranean port of Marseilles, more than a thousand demonstrators marched behind a CGT union banner that called for “unity to break down the capitalism that leads to fascism”. — AFP ■



More than 100 left-leaning organisations participated in the “Liberty March” in cities and towns across France. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Myanmar traditional boat crew heads into training camp for int'l competitions

MYANMAR traditional boat team is currently taking in the training camp ahead of the international boat races and tournaments across Asia, said officials from Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation.

Although the 2021 SEA Games, hosted by Vietnam,

do not include traditional boat races, the Myanmar Rowing Federation is training in preparation for next year's 2023 Cambodia SEA Games, including international competitions.

The Myanmar Traditional Boat Team has been retraining

for more than a year since the 2019 SEA Games and over 30 rowers are participating in the boat team.

The Myanmar Traditional Boat Team will compete in the Asian Beach Games next year. The Myanmar team will also take part in other internation-

al events, including the Asian Games, and World Dragon Boat Race in November this year.

The detail fixtures, venues and further confirmations of the international boat race and tourneys will be announced later based on the pandemic circumstances.

The Myanmar team is comprised with newcomers plus veteran rowers. The team Myanmar has won one gold medal, one silver medal and two bronze medals in the 2019 South-East Asian Games in the Philippines. —Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

## England win Euro 2020 opener as Denmark confirm Eriksen cardiac arrest

ENGLAND launched their bid for Euro 2020 glory with a 1-0 win over Croatia on Sunday as Denmark's team doctor confirmed Christian Eriksen had suffered a cardiac arrest and was "gone" before being resuscitated.

Raheem Sterling scored at a sun-baked Wembley as England won their opening game of a European Championship finals for the first time at the 10th attempt.

But the action on the pitch was overshadowed by the fallout from the shocking events in Copenhagen's Parken Stadium the previous day.

Inter Milan star Eriksen suddenly collapsed in the 43rd minute of Denmark's Group B game against Finland, lying motionless as medics administered CPR and the crowd looked on aghast.

The game was temporarily suspended awaiting updates on Eriksen's health, but resumed later in the evening after reports filtered through that the player was in a stable condition and awake. It ended in a 1-0 win for debutants Finland.

"He was gone, and we did



England's midfielder Mason Mount (L) plays the ball with Croatia's midfielder Luka Modric during the UEFA EURO 2020 Group D football match between England and Croatia at Wembley Stadium in London on 13 June 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

cardiac resuscitation, and it was cardiac arrest," team doctor Morten Boesen told a press conference on Sunday, adding that so far there was no explanation for what had happened.

"How close were we? I don't know. We got him back after one defib (defibrillation), so that's quite fast."

Players in the Danish team were given the option to continue the game or postpone the match but head coach Kasper

Hjulmand said he regretted the decision to carry on.

"I honestly don't think that we should have been on the pitch again," he said.

Denmark forward Martin Braithwaite called the incident "one of the scariest moments of my life".

"I'm grateful that he's stable and alive. Right now, that's all that matters. Hope to see you soon my friend," he tweeted. — AFP

## Son sends support to Eriksen in South Korea win

SON Heung-min scored the decisive goal in South Korea's 2-1 victory over Lebanon in a World Cup qualifier Sunday before sending a message of support to his former teammate Christian Eriksen.

After converting a penalty to help his side come from behind to take the lead at Goyang Stadium, the South Korea skipper held up his hands to show the number 23 – Eriksen's shirt number at

Tottenham Hotspur.

He then offered a few words in the direction of a nearby TV camera before kissing it.

Eriksen collapsed while playing in Denmark's Euro 2020 match against Finland on Saturday and required CPR before he was taken to hospital, where his condition has reportedly stabilised.

The pair were teammates

at the English Premier League club for four-and-a-half seasons before Eriksen joined Inter Milan in 2020.

Son played a key role Sunday in the South Korean comeback win which sealed their place at the top of Group H, sending them through to the third round of the Asian qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 Asian Cup finals in China. — AFP ■

## Portugal's Cancelo positive for Covid-19, out of Euro 2020

PORTUGAL'S Joao Cancelo has tested positive for Covid-19 and is out of Euro 2020, the defending champions' federation announced on Sunday.

Manchester United's Diogo Dalot, on loan to AC Milan, has replaced the Manchester City right-back in the Portuguese squad with the titleholders opening their Group F campaign against Hungary in Budapest on Tuesday.

Cancelo's exit represents a blow to coach Fernando Santos coming just 48 hours before Cristiano Ronaldo's 2016 Euro winners take on the Hungarians.

They the face Germany in Munich four days later with world champions France waiting for them back in Budapest on June 23. Cancelo is now self-isolating after Saturday's test result. — AFP ■

## Wales' Page hints at different 'personnel' for Turkey

WALES coach Robert Page said he could make alterations for his side's second Euro 2020 Group A match against Turkey in Baku.

Page's men, who reached the tournament's semi-finals five years ago, opened their campaign with a 1-1 draw against Switzerland on Saturday.

"I was pleased with the performance but it doesn't mean it will be the same personnel," he said.

"We'll have a look for Wednesday, because they (Turkey) pose a different type of threat and a different way of playing," he added.

Page's outfit have beaten the likes of the Czech Republic and Finland in the past year by playing Liverpool attacker Harry Wilson, who was on-loan at Cardiff last season, as a false nine.

In the Azerbaijan capital, Page started with Kieffer Moore, who scored the equaliser, up-front and a four-man defence.

"We also have the option



Coach Robert Page made 41 appearances for Wales as a player. **PHOTO: AFP**

if we want to change it and go to a three at the back," Page.

"We can play a Harry type of forward. We have the options and flexibility which is great," added the former Wales captain who is standing in for Ryan Giggs with the ex-Manchester United star absent following his arrest for assaulting two women last year.

Moore, who scored his sixth international goal at the Olympic Stadium, was playing for English fifth-tier Forest Green Rovers when Wales reached the tournament's last four in 2016. — AFP ■