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 buildings and the usurpation 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 Government 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.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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

Press Statement from Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

NATIONAL

MoHAA Union Minister meets members of local security force in Magway

NATIONAL

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

NATIONAL

Union Minister for Information inspects MRTV retransmission station in Laukkai

NATIONAL

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Corn export tops $331.49 mln in first half of 2020-21 FY
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
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.
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 and Bago Region Administration Council member U Aung Min explained the purpose of providing cash assistance.

Then, the Union Minister and party handed over K558.87 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 (Wetthikan) and met the trainees and officials of 2/2021 drug addict treatment and rehabilitation course.

She then inspected the rehabilitation 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
Armed insurgents set fire to school textbooks for Chin State Education Department

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

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 Taungpu 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

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

YCDC planning to build 50 mln euro worth Waste ...
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 K32,000 per three-basket bag. Both the foreign demand and domestic demand prompted the sellers to 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 from Mandalay depot 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 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 to corn import through Mae Sot, Mandalay depot stated.

The volume of sesame export was registered at over 96,000 metric tonnes, worth $130 million, in the financial year 2015-2016; 120,000 tonnes, worth $147 million, in the FY 2016-2017; 1.2 million tonnes of corn worth over $290 million in the 2017-2018 FY, 1.2 million tonnes of corn worth $350 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

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$350 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 $296.218 million of FDI has 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. Meanwhile, 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 export 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 2016-2017; 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 $340 million in the previous FY 2019-2020, the trade data of Central Statistical Organization indicated. —KK/GNLM
Press released on directive of NLD to purchase arms and ammunition, commit explosive destruction, send persons to military training courses

According to the order given by National League for Democracy (NLD), Nyine 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.

Nyine Chan attended the military and explosive course together with Shoon Seint Seint in the area of KNU Brigade (5) in Bilin Township due to the connection created by Tun Aung 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 Nyine 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. Thein Naing arranges terror acts and sabotage acts in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, according to Nay Myo (a) Charlie. Moreover, Thein Naing had contacted Nyine 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 Khan (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 Khan 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 Ye’U 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 Khan, Khin Hmwe Lwin (former No (1) Constituency of Region Hluttaw 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 Tanzang Township, Tanu’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 arrangement to isolate those who had close contact with positive cases and those came from border areas.

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 Tanu towns.

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
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 Payagun Myoma Police Station in Ottarathiri Township under Section 505-A of the Penal Code. She was arrested on the roadside of Nawade in Yawminyar 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 the terrorist NUG, which was declared an unlawful association by the military government.

She added that fugitive Zaw Wai Soe’s control, was appointed as the group leader of the Public Health Team. Twelve abducted 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 Mo Kyaw Thu (member)
   Former Head of Township Public Health Department, Bilin
4. Thuzar Chit Tin (member)
   Former Head of State Medical Services Department, Taunggyi, Shan State (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)
13. Dr Mo Kyaw Thu (Former Health Officer in Bilin Township)
14. Dr Soe Aung Kyaw (member)
   Former Head of Township Public Health Department, Bilin
15. Dr Naing Naing Tun (member)
   Former Deputy Head of State Health Administration Team (SHAT), which is under Public Health Team, along with ten members as follows:
   1. Dr Mo Kyaw Thu (Group Leader)
   2. Dr San Thanda (Group Leader)
   3. Dr Naing Naing Tun (member)
   4. Dr Soe Aung Kyaw (member)
   5. Dr Htoo Myint Swe (member)
   6. Dr Cho Cho San (member)
   7. Dr Su Su Linn (member)
   8. Dr Lwin Mar Hlaing (member)
   9. Dr Mo Kyaw Thu (former Health Officer in Bilin Township)
   10. Dr Soe Aung Kyaw (member)
   11. Dr Cho Cho San (member)
   12. Dr Su Su Linn (member)
   13. Dr Lwin Mar Hlaing (member)
   14. Dr Mo Kyaw Thu (former Health Officer in Bilin Township)

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)
2. Dr Mo Kyaw Thu (member)
3. Dr Naing Naing Tun (member)
4. Dr Soe Aung Kyaw (member)
5. Dr Htoo Myint Swe (member)

In charge of extended immunization/infection (resigned), Lashio
6. Dr Hnin El Phyu (member)
   Team leader, (extended immunization/infection), Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw
7. Dr Chit Kho 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), Sagaing

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 ransom on 31 May, and some of abducted 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 bodies 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 inquests at the respective police stations. The Tatmadaw columns are searching 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 Mahaungmye Township of Mandalay Region on 13 June 2021.

A group of 25 persons are being searched by the Tatmadaw, 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 Mahaungmye 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 2,144 after three died. —MNA

KNDO abducts innocent 47 workers, brutally kills 25 persons

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
NAYON: The month of Nayon is the third month in the lunar calendar and lasts from 14 June to 14 July. It is a month of peace and tranquility, and is often associated with the month of June in the Gregorian calendar. It is the month of Makha Bucha, which is a significant date in the Buddhist calendar.

According to Buddhist tradition, the Lord Buddha gave his first teaching in the month of Makha Bucha. This was the first time he gave his Dharma teaching to a group of five monks in the forest of Sarnath near Varanasi, India. The teaching was called the “First Sermon” and it marked the beginning of the Buddhist tradition.

During this month, Buddhist communities hold special ceremonies and activities to celebrate the Buddha’s first teaching. These include recitation of the Buddha’s teachings, offerings to the Buddha images, and merit-making activities.

In Myanmar, Nayon is also a month of festivities and cultural activities. Many festivals are held during this month, including the Shwesandaw Festival in Yangon and the annual sports festival in Mandalay.

The month of Nayon is also significant for the local agriculture, as it marks the time when crops are being harvested and distributed. It is a time of celebration and joy, with family and friends coming together to share in the bounty of the harvest.

As such, it is necessary to encourage literary works that shape the selection committees of both contexts with the aim of giving significant messages to the readers. This is in regard to their messages, their messages may be raising public awareness about political, economic, social, etc.

The authors with critical thinking initiate the improvement that encourages 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 straightforward the lives on the wrong ways.

Whatever it may be, everybody should clearly accept a concept that only when the child is aware of the surroundings, he/she can achieve success. Pavilions and flower pots. The surroundings of Nayon are set throughout Myanmar history.

Although Myanmar fell under British rule for 117 years, he/she could receive a chance to be an arm of promotion to Wunyi (Minister). His salary was increased by Kyat 1000, and Brahmas of all universes. To this function by offering food and water to the Buddha and 1800 acolytes were selected "First" and the one who scored the highest mark was selected "Second" and the rest were classified under the lists, 1st and 2nd according to their merits.

Nayon: The Month of the Festival of Months

By Dr. Khin Myaung Nyunt (Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhamma Sithu)

OPINION

NAYON: The manuscript contest of the Sarpay Beikman started its first step in 1959 and the National Literature Award in 1972 to select the best writer is fiction and non-fiction. The boards of both contexts chose the best works reflecting images of the people’s daily lifestyle.

Literary works that shape children’s future and persuade them into a better world through the arts of writing. Masterpieces of literature can shape youths’ lives to straightforward the lives on the wrong ways.

The works are selected for the collection of Buddhist Monastic examinations. The manuscripts reach nuon time. The flower of Nayon is important in Myanmar culture on three counts.

The word “Nayon” had been recorded yearly, there is no doubt. According to the observations at 18:30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Northwest Coasts(India) still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

NAYON is the third month in the lunar calendar and lasts from 14 June to 14 July. It is the month of Makha Bucha, which is a significant date in the Buddhist calendar. In Myanmar, it is a month of peace and tranquility, and is often associated with the month of June in the Gregorian calendar. It is the month of Makha Bucha, which is a significant date in the Buddhist calendar.

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The works are selected for the collection of Buddhist Monastic examinations. The manuscripts reach nuon time. The flower of Nayon is important in Myanmar culture on three counts.

The word “Nayon” had been recorded yearly, there is no doubt. According to the observations at 18:30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Northwest Coasts(India) still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

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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

**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 region’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 minesfields in the conflict zone.

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

On Sunday, “Azerbaijan handed over to Armenia 15 detained 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

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 shop 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 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

RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY/AFP

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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— Kyodo News
Marching climate activists urge G7 to step up

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 state’s second largest reservoir, 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

Nobel-winning Japanese chemist dies at 85

JAPANESE chemist Ei-ichi Negishi, who was instrumental in creating complex chemicals. PHOTO: SCANPIX SWEDEN/AFP/FIFE

Sri Lanka seeks $40 million in damages over ship fire

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

Nobeling-winning 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/FIFE

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 bio-diversity 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.

Olivier 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 needed 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

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

WHY would China be so focused on rare earth minerals? The United States and Europe are key markets for these minerals. The United States imported 80 percent of its rare earth metals 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

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 G7 leaders also discussed Beijing’s alleged abuses of the Uighur 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

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

Iraq arrests two generals on suspicion of bribery at key port

IRAQ announced Saturday it has arrested two generals on suspicion of taking bribes to waive customs duties, a practice estimated 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 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 cargo,” 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 sidelines dominated by computer geeks, crypto-currencies 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 government. 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

UAE, which is aiming to remain attractive whether 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 Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the havens include the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Jersey, the UAE and many others.

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 2021, 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: 2201185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

agent for:

M’S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

2021
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**

**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 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 spacecraft 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**

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

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, were 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 Aegean 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 court room 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**

**SOCIETY**

**14 JUNE 2021**

**THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**
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

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 put 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

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 residence 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 Robiniski.

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

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 be adopted. 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

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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
English 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 coach confirmed Christian Eriksen had suffered a cardiac arrest and was “gone” before being resuscitated.

Kaiem 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 medicals administered CPR and the crowd looked aghast.

The game was temporarily suspended after 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 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 international 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.

Son sends support to Eriksen in South Korea win

SOUTH KOREA skipper Son Heung-min scored the decisive goal in South Korea’s 2-1 victory over Lebanon in a World Cup qualifier Saturday 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 title-holders opening their Group F campaign against Hungary in Budapest on Tuesday.

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 on Wednesday, because they face Germany in Munich four days later with world champions France waiting for them back in Budapest on June 23.

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

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

Son’s goal also makes him the first Korean to score a goal in a European Championship finals. — 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

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