THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 57, 6th Waxing of Nayon 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Tuesday, 15 June 2021

Final rites held for late Presiding Nayaka of Maha Withutarama Zaygon Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre in Pyinmana State Ovadacariya Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party are attending the final rites ceremony for late State Ovadacariya Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara in Pyinmana yesterday.

THE final rites of late Presiding Nayaka of Maha Withutarama Zaygon Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre of Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara (Sasanadhaja Siripavara Dhammacariya) took place at the centre in Pyinmana yesterday afternoon.

The final rites ceremony was attended by members of the Sangha led by Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa and Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Union Minister Dr Charlie Than receives Russian Ambassador
PAGE-4

NATIONAL
Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo inspects investment activities in Kachin State
PAGE-5

NATIONAL
Myanmar attends 39th ASEAN senior official meeting on energy and associated meetings
PAGE-5

LOCAL BUSINESS
Myanmar earns $278 mln from mango exports in H1
PAGE-6

LOCAL NEWS
MADB provides monsoon agricultural loans for 2021 in Lemyethna
PAGE-7

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

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

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

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

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

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

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

12th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME

8 May 2021

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

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

Chairman

Anti-Terrorism Central Committee

Final rites held for late Presiding Nayaka of Maha ...

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the congregation are taking the Five Precepts from Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Sayadaw yesterday.

FROM PAGE-1

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Vice-Chair of Shwegyin Nikaya Joint Shwegyin Sangharaja Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara, Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Vice-Chairman of the SAC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members, the secretary and the joint-secretary of the Council, Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, disciples and religious associations.

The Senior General and party took the Five Precepts from Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Sayadaw. The Senior General, the Vice-Senior General, the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and disciples covered the remains of the Sayadaw by diamond velvet.

Joint-Secretary of the SSMNC Nyaungthonbin Sayadaw of Mogok Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Dr Bhaddanta Tejosara Bhivamsa read the message of repentance sent by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Shwe Duwun Sayadaw Ashin Javana of Mogok Yeiktha in Mandalay, the notes of contrition sent by the Nay Pyi Taw Area Sangha Nayaka Committee and Pakokku Maha Withutarama Monastery, and the Union Minister for Religious Affairs on his message of repentance dedicating to the demise of the Sayadaw.

The Chairman of SAC, the Vice-Chairman and the congregation offered alms to members of the Sangha. Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara delivered a sermon on remorse, and the assembly shared merits gained.

The remains of the Sayadaw were conveyed onto the Karaweik decorated float and then to the ground of the Uppatasanti Pagoda, where the crematorium was built.

The Chairman of the SAC, the Vice-Chairman and the congregation paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw. Next, the remains of the Sayadaw were incinerated.

The late Sayadaw served the duty of State Ovadacariya. He established Maha Withutarama Zaygon Monastery in Pyinmana as Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre to give lectures on Pariyatti literature to some 300 student monks till his final days. The Sayadaw established Ubuddho Tawya Yeiktha, where he himself took meditation as well as gave ways of meditations to his disciples. The Sayadaw opened many branches of the monastery. The Sayadaw passed away at the age of 95 and 75 vasa.

A ceremony to set the ashes of the late Sayadaw adrift into the water will take place in Kyitaung Village near Paunglaung River on 15 June. —MNA

MoBA Union Minister inspects development programmes in southern Shan State

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, accompanied by Shan State Administration Council member Colonel Hla Oo visited the Shan State Development Supervisory Office in Taunggyi Township on 11 June. The officials provided uniforms for staff, school uniforms and stationeries for the students. They then inspected the staff housing and small-scale farming industry.

On 12 June, the Union Minister attended the ceremony to provide school uniforms and books for the students attending at basic education schools of Hopong Township held in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Administration Body's Office.

Then, the Union Minister and Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Administration Body Chairman U Khun Ye Htwe inspected the road constructions in Popong and Taunggyi townships and concrete bridges building on Pone Pyone-Namkut-Monhta-Hotagaung (Hotat) road.

On 13 June, the Union Minister checked the road paving procedures in Hsiseng Township. Then, he joined the ceremony to open 1 mile and 4 furlongs long tar road on Lwe Put-Lite Bay –Ban Naung Kar road section in Hsiseng Township.

The Union Minister also provided the school uniforms and books for students from B.E.M.S Branch (Pin Lon Kha).

During the inspection tour, the Union Minister and party visited the border youths development training centre and women's vocational training schools in Seikkhaung and met the staff and trainees. The officials provided the teaching materials and inspected the training school compounds. — MNA

Trials for former president U Win Myint, former state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi start at special court in Zabuthiri Township

THE trials for cases against former president U Win Myint and former state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were heard at the special court in Zabuthiri Township on 14 June. The special court started hearing the trials for the case prosecuted against U Win Myint under the Natural Disaster Management Law and the cases against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under the Communications Law, the Export and Import Law and the Natural Disaster Management Law. Before the trials, they were allowed to meet with their lawyers freely. — MNA

Five special criminal appeal cases passed judgment, six civil special appeal cases heard

THE special appeal court comprising Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Tun Tun Oo and Supreme Court Judges U Myo Maung, U Kyi Thein, U Khin Maung Gyi and U Tin Hong passed judgments on five exceptional criminal appeal cases at office No. 1 of Supreme Court of the Union yesterday. Moreover, they heard six special civil appeal cases. — MNA

Union Minister Dr Charlie Than receives Russian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than received Ambassador of Russia to Myanmar Dr Nikolay Listopadov yesterday.

The meeting discussed matters pertaining to the resumption of No (2) Steel Mill (Pang Pet), invitation of Russian experts to conduct the necessary inspection in projects, production of medicines collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Industry of Myanmar and ministry concerned of Russia and other cooperation works in rubber and textile production sectors of Myanmar. — MNA

223 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 June, total figure rises to 145,826

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **145,826 after 223 new cases** were reported on 14 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **132,969** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,248 after four died. —MNA

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

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

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

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

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo inspects investment activities in Kachin State

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo met with the Chairman and members of Kachin State Administration Council and Kachin State Investment Committee members at Malikha's meeting room of the office of Kachin State Administration Council on the morning of 14 June 2021.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the investment promotion and facilitation matters to promote the State economy in accordance with the Myanmar Investment Law, rules and regulations, and urged the State Committee to monitor and provide necessary assistance to the existing investment and to attract the new investment for job creation and income generation for local people. He also encouraged to facilitate the citizen investment in manufacturing and service sectors by creating investor friendly environment.

After that, Chairman of Kachin State Administration Council and Chairman of State Investment Committee, U Khet Htein Nan updated the current investment activities undertaken by the Committee and the future investment plan. Then, the State Committee members discussed the investment promotion and related issues, and the Union Minister coordinated the investment matters.

In his inspection tour, the Union Minister inspected the logistics services of KEP Logistics Co., Ltd at Waingmaw Township, Kachin State on 13 June 2021. U Yi Li Mee, Executive Director of Kachin Entrepreneurs' Public Co., Ltd and Daw Emma Ja Brim, Executive Director of KEP Logistics Co., Ltd presented the current investment activities and future plan of the company, and the Union Minister coordinated and facilitated the business for the smooth operation of the company's logistics services.

The Union Minister and Chairman of State Administrative Council U Khet Htein Nan also met with the Ethnic Entrepreneur Association on the morning of 14 June 2021, and coordinated the trade and investment promotion and facilitation matters.

In the evening, the Union Minister visited to Clean Power Energy Co.,Ltd at Thapyewa Village-Tract, Thazi Township, Mandalay Region and inspected the generation and distribution of 30 MW Solar Power Plant. — MNA

Myanmar attends 39th ASEAN senior official meeting on energy and associated meetings

THE first day of the 39th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) and Associated Meetings chaired by Brunei Darussalam was held yesterday through video conferencing.

Senior Official on Energy (SOE) leader of Myanmar, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy U Than Zaw and officials participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed matters pertaining to the energy sector development for the development of the ASEAN region, cooperation among the ASEAN member countries in using clean energy, reducing carbon emissions, saving energy, increasing renewable energy consumption and adapting energy consumption standards, implementation plans for the ASEAN Plan of Actions for Energy Cooperation-APAEC Phase II (2021-2025), and future action plans for ASEAN Energy Cooperation Sub-sectors.

The meeting was also attended by senior energy officials and delegation leaders from Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States of America.

The SOME and Associated Meetings will be held from 14 to 17 June. The future cooperation among the ASEAN member countries, ASEAN+3 countries and East Asian countries will be discussed and approved at the meeting. —MNA

Hlinethaya, Insein, Pathein townships prepared for quarantine centres

YANGON Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe and Commander of Yangon Region Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe inspected the preparations for COVID-19 patients at Hlinethaya Township Hospital and Civil Hospital in Shwelinban Village of Yangon Region yesterday.

The Medical Superintendent and officials of Hlinethaya Township Hospital clarified the preparations for 100 COVID-19 patients and oxygen for 50 patients, and other procedures for 50 patients at Civil Hospital.

Then, the officials visited GTI in Insein Township and inspected the preparations for 200 COVID-19 patients.

Similarly, Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Aung Aung inspected the preparations to construct a temporary treatment building for COVID-19 patients in Pathein Township of Ayeyawady Region. — MNA

Myanmar earns $278 mln from mango exports in H1

MYANMAR'S mango export has generated US$278 million in income in the first half (from October to March) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to the Myanmar Customs Department.

This year, mango export remarkably dropped due to the closure of the Man Wein border triggered by the COVID-19 negative impacts.

U Kyaw Soe Naing, general secretary of Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association, said Seintalone mango exports this year are about 50 per cent less than in the corresponding period last year.

Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers the Seintalone variety.

"The drop in mango export is attributed to China's restriction in some border areas amid the COVID-19 and delays related to the COVID-19 containment measure (COVID-19 test for food packaging).

"China shut many border posts. Only Kyinsankyawt post is available for cross-border trade, causing delays and long queue. It takes 4 to 5 days for a truck to enter the checkpoint. Heighten security measures on fruits and vegetables hinders the border trade," U Kyaw Soe Naing continued.

Seintalone mangoes from Sagaing and Katha cities are daily sent to China with the use of 10 to 15 trucks, the Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association stated.

Eight per cent of Myanmar's Seintalone goes to China. It fetches 100 Yuan per 16 kg box.

Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe and Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers the Seintalone variety.

Ayeyawady Region possesses the most extensive mango plantation acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second-largest producer with 43,000 acres, and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. According to the association, there are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region.

Beyond China, the leading trade partner, Myanmar's mangoes were shipped to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Japan in the previous years.

Mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification. The Agriculture Department has been striving for long-term organic farming. — GNLM

Mon state salt farming businesses see greater potentials during tough times

ACCORDING to National Enlightenment Institute (NEI), Mon state salt production businesses witness high potentials despite challenging situations in hard times.

Salt production is one of the primary businesses of Mon State. It is the second-largest salt producer among regions and states. The businesses will see more significant potential in future.

Additionally, the acreage where salt can be produced in Mon State is two times higher than the existing acres of salt businesses. The manufacturing sector is likely to grow in Mon State, and the investors eye on it. As a result of this, the salt production businesses have greater potentials.

Moreover, some institutions can provide financial as well as technical assistance to enhance the value-added production sector. According to National Enlightenment Institute (NEI), high-quality salt production is likely to happen in the future.

The raw salt fetched K55-70 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) at the depot in Mawlamyine, Mon State. On 11 June, the price increased to K120-150 per viss.

Mon State yearly produces 40,000 tonnes of sun-dried salt beyond magnesium salt (MgCl2), iodine (I2) and table salt (NaCl).

Salt-making businesses include pouring salt into large clay pots and clearing impurities, such as sand, weed, and small stones and refining steps.

Myanmar has coast and inland salt productions. Myanmar's salt production heavily relies on domestic consumption.

Salt from foreign countries also floods the market with lower price. — NN/GNLM

The raw salt fetched K55-70 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) at the depot in Mawlamyine, Mon State. On 11 June, the price increased to K120-150 per viss.

Myanmar border trade value hits $7.19 bln in 2020-2021FY

Myanmar has opened 18 border trade camps. The trade volume at Muse border trade on the China-Myanmar border exceeded $3.66 billion, down over $567 million compared to the same period of the last year.

THE total border trade value exceeded US$7.189 billion, down over $842 million in the first nine months of the current financial year compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 October to 4 June of 2020-2021FY, the total border trade amounted to $7.19 billion, a decrease of $842 million compared with the last year's figure of $8.03 billion.

The total border trade value included $4.69 billion in export and $2.49 billion in import.

Myanmar has opened 18 border trade camps. The trade volume at Muse border trade on the China-Myanmar border exceeded $3.66 billion, down over $567 million compared to the same period of the last year.

Myanmar's major export items are agro, animal, marine, forest, industrial finished products, and other products.

The country mainly imports capital goods, raw materials, personal goods and CMP products. — ACM/GNLM

MADB provides monsoon agricultural loans for 2021 in Lemyethna

MYANMAR Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) provided monsoon agricultural loans for 2021 to the farmers in Lemyethna township, Hinthada district, Ayeyawady Region.

MADB loans amounting to K27.9 million for 186 acres of paddy field to 32 farmers from Wah Taw Kwin village on 14 June 2021.

Monsoon agrarian loans were disbursed to farmers following the COVID-19 rules and regulations. The loans were provided to the farmers in order to purchase the agricultural inputs in a timely manner and carry out agricultural activities in time.

The MADB in Lemyethna township provided loans amounting to K1.981 million as monsoon agricultural loans to 184 farmers from 15 village- tracts for 1,321 acres of farmland beginning from 1 June 2021.

The bank grants K150,000 agrarian loans per acre of monsoon paddy. The loans for the rice growers increased from K100,000 to K150,000 in 2016. The farmers who have repaid payable loans will be entitled to receive the loans. The monsoon agricultural loans will be provided to the farmers from the remaining villages within the stipulated period, said an official from township MADB.

According to the Farmland Management and Statistics Department, Myanmar grows about 17.9 million acres of paddy yearly and produces about 25.6 million tonnes of paddy. — Kyaw Hein (IPRD)/GNLM

Inflation rate stands at 2.28 per cent in March

Earlier, the inflation rate was calculated based on a 2006 survey. The base year was later changed to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012.

THE annual rate of inflation in Myanmar, based on the Consumer Price Index, fell to 2.28 per cent in March 2021 amidst the depreciation in Kyat value and high fuel price, according to the inflation report released by the Central Statistical Organization, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The Kyat weakened in the local forex market in March. Consequently, the imported oil price also surged, causing the price index in the transportation group to rise, the inflation report showed.

The consumer price fell in other commodities, tobacco and beverages and clothing groups. At the same time, the CPI spiked in food, non-food, household goods and maintenance, rent, transportation, recreation and culture. The price index of education, health and telecommunication went stable amid the COVID-19, the report stated.

The annual rate of core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, was six per cent in March 2021. The year-on-year inflation rate stood at 2.64 per cent in March, the inflation data indicated.

During the one-year period from April 2020 to March 2021, the inflation rate stood at 6.61 per cent during the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020 owing to the weak demand of consumers and a sharp drop in fuel price. The coronavirus impacts triggered the decline in the consumer price index. It continued slipping to 5.21 per cent in October 2020, 4.6 per cent in November, 3.87 per cent in December, 3.18 per cent in January 2021, 2.61 per cent in February and 2.28 per cent in March, respectively.

In March 2021, Ayeyawady Region recorded the highest inflation rate at 5.99 per cent, followed by Kayin State at 4.37 per cent and Nay Pyi Taw at 4.29 per cent. The rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 5.57 per cent in the Bago Region and a minimum deflation rate of -0.59 per cent in the Mandalay Region.

Earlier, the inflation rate was calculated based on a 2006 survey. The base year was later changed to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012. The authorities concerned have been making efforts on the basis of policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control in order to reduce the inflation rate, in keeping with the second five-year National Development plan (2016-2017FY-2020-2021FY). — Htet Myat/GNLM

Two COVID-19 preventive health checkpoints opened in Wuntho

TWO health checkpoints to screen travellers were formally opened in Wuntho township, Sagaing region, on 14 June to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

One is located in Shwe Wun Thidar gate, Wuntho-Kyauktone town, while another one is in Sawbwagyi gate, Wuntho-Namkham town. The checkpoints are opened with an aim to carry out systematic control and treatment activities against COVID-19.

The Township Administration Body chairman, Township administrator U Myint Tun and his team inspected the checkpoints and donated some food items and necessary products for the gate.

These checkpoints will strictly screen those people travelling into and out of the town to help stop the spread of the virus.

At the health checkpoints, the respective departmental authorities, township police force, the fire service staff and health volunteers from the charity organizations will check the temperature of the travellers and make sure that travellers are wearing masks. They are also taking record of the personal information of the travellers such as address and phone numbers. — Township IPRD/GNLM

These checkpoints will strictly screen those people travelling into and out of the town to help stop the spread of the virus.

15 JUNE 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Reading, opening door to taste the flavour of knowledge in lifespan

FROM the pre-historic era to date, humans have been trying hard to share knowledge with others through languages and postures in a smooth manner.

In so doing, letters from respective languages, which had been created since time immemorial, still play a key role in breaking language barriers for knowledge. Nowadays, language barriers are the so-called hardships in communications with each other.

In this regard, anyone can receive information from others in various ways. On the one hand, they can search for knowledge from books and information sources through reading. Four skills, namely reading, speaking, hearing and writing, are basic needs for breaking the language barriers to collect information.

> That is why let's read every subject! Let's shape our nation through the strength of the educated people to keep abreast of global countries!

As part of implementing the self-study process, the reading is crucial for everybody to have chance of tasting the delicious flavour of knowledge along with their lifespans. Those who accumulate knowledge on various subjects in their mind can stand tall as sages among other people in society.

The reading can contribute much to the readers to choose options for analyzing the knowledge and give hints on thoroughly studying subjects such as the supernatural, religious, scientific, and art affairs. So, you have the knowledge of where the books are available and where the books can be bought or borrowed.

Thanks to the experienced reading skill, readers can know things how to discover the confined topics. They can broaden their horizons with utmost efforts to change their lifestyle and mindsets. The reading benefits them with the improvement of livelihoods through the direct or indirect way. Based on experiences obtained from the reading, readers have better farsightedness and approach than others in solving the problems in daily life. They can overcome challenges easily based on knowledge and experiences.

You all need to enlarge your scope of knowledge by reading. It is because the reading can smoothly change the country's history to be improved from the lower level to the superior one. As such, the posterity of Myanmar based on the benefit of the reading can turn out higher human resources to shape the future of the country.

That is why let's read every subject! Let's shape our nation through the strength of the educated people to keep abreast of global countries!

■

Export restrictions do not help fight COVID-19

By Ralf Peters and Divya Prabhakar, UNCTAD

Brazil, India, Laos, Nepal, Peru, Thailand: new and even more catastrophic waves of COVID-19 have hit the developing world. On top of this, the world is also witnessing another phenomenon – vaccine nationalism.

COME summer, wealthy nations are beginning to return to normal, while the rest of the world continues the struggle to vaccinate its population. Many are eyeing the G7 countries, who are set to meet in June, to lead the way to vaccine equity. But two questions persist: why are vaccines not reaching everyone? And what can we do about it?

As the pharmaceutical powerhouse of the world and a key supplier of the COVAX initiative, India was poised to help a great number of developing and least developed countries by supplying COVID vaccines. However, facing a catastrophic second wave itself, it has not only stopped exporting vaccines, but is now beginning to import them.

The implications of this could be severe, particularly for poorer countries that were depending on India. The ripple effects would hit the most vulnerable countries the hardest, leaving them behind in the respective vaccination drives.

60% of vaccines for 20% of the population

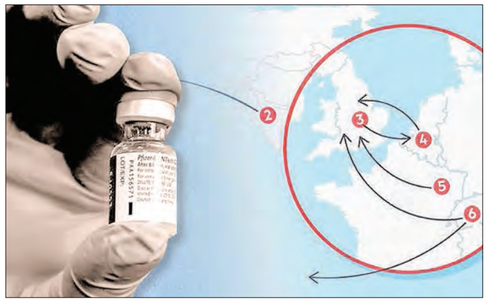
The WHO has already warned of a new wave in Africa, where vaccine imports have slowed down since India stopped exporting. But it is not just India.

Other vaccine producing countries like the US and the European Union have imposed restrictions on exports of vaccines and critical raw materials needed for its production. This is despite having already hoarded over 60% of the world's vaccines before they were even approved for use. These developed countries comprise no more than 20% of world's population.

The production of vaccines is highly concentrated, mainly in a small number of higher and middle-income countries. The necessary raw materials, too, are imported from only a handful of countries.

The two top exporters of key ingredients, for instance, are the US and the EU – which account for half of total exports – followed by the UK, Japan and China, with significantly smaller shares. This implies that restrictions on exports of vaccines or other critical raw material and equipment by even one or two countries can easily send shockwaves through the rest of the world, derailing the entire vaccine production and distribution effort, as we see at present.

Export restrictions are not exclusive to vaccines. Over 80 countries had resorted to banning exports of medical and personal protective goods in the early phases of the pandemic. This too had severe supply chain implications. Nearly 60% of these curbs are still in place.



Export restrictions are not exclusive to vaccines. Over 80 countries had resorted to banning exports of medical and personal protective goods in the early phases of the pandemic. This too had severe supply chain implications. Nearly 60% of these curbs are still in place. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ultimately, these export restrictions may come back to bite the countries who imposed them. As the virus continues to mutate, it may render vaccines ineffective and the already vaccinated less immune. The global economy, too, will not revive until everyone is vaccinated, since lockdowns and social distancing norms in key manufacturing locations continue to curtail global trade. Besides, this is a huge moral failure on the part of the global community.

A turning point?

The subject of export restrictions should be tackled at the WTO. The pandemic should serve as both a reference and a turning point. Reviving the debate around emergency export bans should form a key part of the WTO reform agenda.

The current rules allow for temporary export restrictions or prohibitions to prevent or relieve critical shortages of essential products, provided all measures are communicated, have phase out timelines and are proportionate to the scale of the problem at hand. But who decides what constitutes proportionate, and what timeline is reasonable?

Export restrictions are sometimes seen as a necessary instrument to ensure popular acceptance of multilateral trade agreements. The latter is important. However, open markets do not fit with sudden export restrictions during a pandemic.

SOURCE: UNCTAD

Airline industry sees long-term rebound for sector

After flying into the financial turbulence of the Covid pandemic, the airline sector expects passenger traffic to take off despite concerns about the industry's impact on climate change.

IN its latest look at trends for the sector, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said it doesn't expect world air traffic to resume to its pre-pandemic level before 2023.

But over 20 years, air traffic should almost double, from 4.5 billion passengers in 2019 to 8.5 billion in 2039.

That is, however, a drop of one billion passengers from IATA's pre-crisis forecast.

Nevertheless that will be good news for aircraft manufacturers, who slowed down production during the crisis as airlines cancelled orders to stay financially afloat.

Airbus has already announced it plans to step up the manufacturing cadence of its best-selling A320 single-aisle aircraft and should reach a record level already in 2023.

Boeing, for its part, forecasts that airlines will need 43,110 new aircraft through 2039, which will result in a near doubling of the global fleet. Asia alone will account for 40 per cent of that demand.

As with the September 11 attacks or the global financial crisis of 2007-2009, "the industry will prove resilient again," Darren Hulst, vice president of marketing at Boeing, said last year.

Airbus has already announced it plans to step up the manufacturing cadence of its best-selling A320 single-aisle aircraft and should reach a record level already in 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Marc Ivaldi, research director at the Paris-based School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, noted that only one percent of the population currently uses air travel.

"With the simple demographic rise and the fact that people become richer there will be rising demand for air travel and thus for aircraft," he told AFP.

If the biggest aircraft fleets are currently in the United States and Europe, the biggest increases are expected in Asia and the Middle East, the consulting firm Oliver Wyman said in a recent study.

'Flight shaming'

Airbus delivered 19 per cent of its planes to China, more than the United States, and this trend is not expected to change.

In many emerging countries where the middle class is expanding air travel is becoming possible for more and more people.

"Among Asia's emerging nations, one of the greatest aspirational goals is simply the ability to fly internationally," said the Centre for Aviation (CAPA).

"It is a sign of social and economic maturity and permits experiences which were unthinkable for their parents."

It noted that these people were unlikely to share the growing sentiment among some people in the West towards reducing air travel to reduce one's carbon footprint.

"For these new would-be flyers, the whole concept of 'flight shaming' at a grass roots level is grossly alien," said CAPA.

"Consequently, in Asia flight shaming is unlikely to gain much traction," it added.

The "flight shaming" or "flygskam" movement took off in Sweden in 2018 to challenge the growing popularity of air travel, which had boomed in Europe thanks to budget airlines that made weekend getaways across the continent affordable to a wider public.

In 2019, air traffic declined by four percent in Sweden – but it hit a record across Europe, according to the air traffic control body Eurocontrol.

EHESS's Ivaldi believes flight shaming will have little long-term impact.

"Someone who makes one flight per year in a plane, do you really believe that they will say that it is too polluting and give it up?" he said.

But countries like Sweden have begun to reintroduce night trains to give travellers greener options to travel.

France, which is boosting its night trains, is also cutting domestic flights when it is possible to make the journey by train in under two and a half hours.

Ivaldi believes that to be a largely empty gesture as fast trains have already taken most of the market on such routes.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

	Name	Appointment
1.	U Nyunt Win Pro- Rector (Academics) National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture	Director-General Fine Arts Department Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
2.	Dr Than Tun Pro-Rector Pathein University Higher Education Department Ministry of Education	Rector Pathein University Higher Education Department Ministry of Education

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 14 June, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15 June, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Northern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 June, 2021: One or Tworain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 June, 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Mine planters arrested

တရားခံ ဟိန်းမင်းထွန်း ပါ ၈ ဦး

IT was reported on 27 May and 9 June that No (2) Mandalay-Yangon Up-train was derailed due to the explosions of landmine planted by terrorists between 125/14 and 15 mileposts near Kyunthayar village on 26 May and between 122/2 and 3 mileposts of Taung Gone village in Pyu Township of Bago Region on 8 June.

According to the investigation, Hein Min Tun from Ka Nyut Kwin Township, who participated in planting mine near Taung Gone village, was arrested at Station KTV beside Yangon-Mandalay Highway on 10 June.

According to the confession of Hein Min Tun, police arrested another seven suspects, including Kaung Pyae Zaw, at their respective houses.

The suspect, Hein Min Tun, also said San Shay (aka) Nay Lin Tun (under scrutiny) gave him a bag, and he kept it in the shed of U Kyi Lwin village road of No (2) Ward. The security members went there and found a bag containing a mine, Chinese-made grenades and other explosives.

Therefore, the officials investigate eight suspects, including Hein Min Tun, and take effective actions against them. — MNA

Police arrest terrorists operating explosive courses in Ayeyawady Region

THE terrorist groups of NUG and CRPH intentionally committed attacks and murders to affect State stability, threaten the people, and open military and explosive courses. Therefore, the security members investigate to stop their terror acts.

Security forces received information that the terrorists gathered people to conduct explosive training in Mhin War Taung forest reserve near Thayet Chaung village in Myan Aung Township on 11 June. Therefore, the combined team raided that place and arrested Aung Bo Bo, Nay Zaw Phyo, Aye Min Oo, Chit Nyi Nyi Nyunt, Soe Tint and Thein Zaw together with the pistols, knives, spear and seven motorcycles near Ma Mya Dam.

According to the words of detainees, police searched in the forest near Ma Mya Dam and found handmade bombs and other materials.

The security members conducted a land clearance operation in these areas on 13 June. They found handmade bombs, gas guns and explosives.

Similarly, according to the tip-off, an explosive course was conducted near a hill about 1 mile from Kyauk Paset village in Kyankhin Township; the security members went there on 13 June. They found an unoccupied monastery and an open field about 300 metres from the monastery, including a 2-storey hut, another building for dining and other explosives in that building.

The security forces keep investigating to arrest and take action against the terrorists and leaders who operate explosive courses. — MNA

Two 12-year-old students reportedly die of food poisoning in Thanatpin

TWO 12-year-old students named Ma Su Mei San and Ma Thazin Khine reportedly died of food poisoning when they were taken to hospital yesterday morning. They were seventh-grade students at the basic education middle school branch(Kyu Chaung) in Kyu Chaung village, Thanatpin Township, Bago Region.

The girls were found with foaming at their mouths, one was lying on the floor, and one was leaning to the wall. They reportedly fell while they were cleaning the classroom. The headmistress and midwife Daw San San Aye took them to the township public hospital and died when they arrived there.

An autopsy by the hospital's forensic pathologist revealed that they had died of food poisoning, and further details have been investigated. — MNA

Violent shootings by armed insurgents, terrorists kill innocent civilians in states and regions

(ဝဲမှဃာ) သေဆုံးသူ မသန်းသန်းဆင့်၊ မလှစန္ဒာ

Ma Than Than Sint (left) and Ma Hla Sanda were killed by terrorists in Dabayin Township.

ARMED insurgents and terrorists have killed innocent people for no reasons in some townships of the states and regions.

The incidents happened on 13 and 14 June in Taungtha town in Mandalay Region, Dabayin township in Sagaing Region, and Kyaikto township in Mon State.

At around 1:35 pm on 13 June, two armed terrorists came to "Yoon Yoon" electronics located in ward 4 of Taungtha town in Mandalay Region. They shot the shop owner, Daw Hnin Hnin Wai, and ran away by their bike. The victim was taken to the township hospital. And a 9mm Luger bullet was confiscated from the road in front of the shop.

Similarly, on the same day, at around 3 pm, two women were killed of stab wounds near Kyiywa village in Dabayin township, Sagaing Region. The victims were daughters of the village administrator. According to the investigation, they were brutally killed by Tin Maung Myo from the same village and primary teacher Soe Zeya, 25, who has participated in the CDM from the Basic Education High School in Kyi village.

On 14 June, about 40 villagers were attacked with firearms by four insurgents while taking baths in the Katat creek in Kinmonchaung village, Kyaikto Township, Mon State, at around 1 pm. Due to the armed attack, four people were wounded, and one died on the way to the township hospital.

It is reported that security forces have been investigating to identify the terrorists and insurgents who brutally killed innocent civilians to take effective action under the law. — MNA

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett (Front L), alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid (front R), as well as Ministers of Justice Gideon Saar, Finance Avigdor Lieberman, Transportation Merav Michaeli, and Defence Benny Gantz take part in a photo with the new coalition government at the President's residence in Jerusalem, on 14 June 2021. **PHOTO : AFP**

A 'new day' in Israel after Netanyahu unseated

ISRAEL awoke Monday with Jewish nationalist Naftali Bennett at the head of a precarious coalition government that faces stark challenges, after 12 years under right-wing Benjamin Netanyahu.

The watershed moment in Israeli politics saw an ideologically disparate eight-party bloc, ranging from right to left to Arab Islamic conservatives, band together to unseat the bombastic veteran known as Bibi by a wafer-thin margin of 60 votes to 59 in parliament on Sunday.

Within hours Bennett, a tech millionaire and former special forces commander, was stepping into his new role as prime minister, speaking with US President Joe Biden and receiving a briefing from national security adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat. And later Monday, the 49-year-old's first full day as Israel's leader, he was set to talk with his one-time ally Netanyahu. New ministers began meeting with their staff and commemorating the beginning of Israel's 36th government at Israel's presidential residence.

In a statement following Bennett's swearing in, Biden said: "I look forward to working with Prime Minister Bennett to strengthen all aspects of the close and enduring relationship between our two nations. Israel has no better friend than the United States." In response, Bennett tweeted: "I look forward to working with you to strengthen the ties between our two nations."

But the potential for strain appeared on the horizon: Biden has encouraged the negotiation of a new nuclear deal with Iran, which Bennett promised in his speech to parliament he would staunchly oppose.

That vow was among the plans Bennett laid out that could be heard over rancorous jeers and shouts of "liar" and "criminal" from the Knesset, where many right-wing legislative members are furious he joined forces with coalition architect Yair Lapid, a centrist. — AFP ■

German health minister floats lifting of mask rules

GERMANY could soon begin easing rules on mask-wearing as the country enjoys a sharp drop in Covid-19 infections, Health Minister Jens Spahn said Monday.

"With falling incidence rates, we could proceed in stages. The first stage would be to lift the mask requirement outdoors," Spahn said in an interview with the Funke media group.

"In regions with very low numbers and a high vaccination rate, the requirement could gradually be dropped indoors," he added.

Wearing a mask is compulsory in Germany in public indoor spaces, as well as on public transport, in shops, in schools and on certain busy streets.

But like many of its European neighbours, the country has seen a sharp drop in coronavirus infections in recent weeks, allowing it to lift many restrictions and reopen public life.

Its vaccination campaign has also picked up pace after a slow start. Almost half of adults have now received one dose (48.1 per cent), with 25.7 per cent fully vaccinated.

The country began easing restrictions in May, reopening restaurants, bars and non-essential shops after months of closures.

Justice Minister Christine Lambrecht also called on German regions at the weekend to examine whether mask requirements were still "appropriate" to their local situation.

Germany's neighbour Denmark on Monday lifted its rules on mask-wearing, except on public transport. — AFP ■

People enjoy sunny weather in front of Berlin Cathedral within sight of a poster that advertises vaccination against the coronavirus at Lustgarten on the Museum Island in Berlin, on 12 June 2021, amid the ongoing coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO : AFP**

Huthi drone falls on Saudi school: state media

A bomb-laden drone launched by Yemen's Huthi rebels crashed into a Saudi school on Sunday, state media said, despite growing diplomatic efforts for a ceasefire between the warring parties.

No injuries were reported in the strike in southern Asir province, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, citing civil defence authorities. Photos released by SPA showed the damaged roof of a building as well as what appeared to be broken parts of the drone.

The reported attack comes three days after the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Iran-linked rebels said it had stopped carrying out attacks in Yemen in order to pave the way for a peaceful settlement. The de-escalation is aimed at "preparing the political ground for a peace process in Yemen", coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki told Saudi state television on Thursday.

But shortly after his comments, Yemeni state media reported that at least eight civilians had been killed and 27 others wounded in strikes in the northern city of Marib.

The Huthis have led a months-long offensive to seize Marib and its surrounding oil fields — the last significant pocket of government-held territory in the north. — AFP ■

French nuclear firm seeks to resolve 'performance issue' at China plant

A French nuclear firm said Monday it was working to resolve a "performance issue" at a plant it part-owns in China's southern Guangdong province following a US media report of a potential leak there. CNN reported earlier that the US government is assessing a report of a leak at the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant after the French company, Framatome, warned of an "imminent radiological threat".

Framatome said in a statement to AFP that it is "supporting resolution of a performance issue" at the plant. "According to the data available, the plant is operating within the safety parameters," the company said. "Our team is working with relevant experts to assess the situation and propose solutions to address any potential issue."

Citing a letter from Framatome to the US energy department, CNN said the warning included an accusation that the Chinese safety authority was raising the acceptable limits for radiation outside the facility in order to avoid having to shut it down. The operator of the power station, state-owned China General Nuclear Power Group, said in a statement on Sunday evening that "the environmental indicators of Taishan Nuclear Power Plant and its surroundings are normal". It did not reference any leak or incident at the power station, which it said meets "the requirements of nuclear safety regulations and power plant technical specifications."

AFP did not get any immediate responses to requests for comment from the Chinese foreign ministry or the Chinese nuclear power group. — AFP ■

Coronavirus: Latest global developments

HERE are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

G7 pledges one billion vaccines for poorer nations

G7 leaders on the final day of their meeting in southwestern England vow to deliver one billion doses of Covid vaccines to poorer nations between now and the end of 2022.

But the pledge falls far short of the 11 billion doses that campaigners say are needed to end a pandemic that has claimed nearly four million lives and wrecked economies around the globe.

The G7 also urges China to cooperate with the World Health Organization on a "transparent" second-phase probe into how the global coronavirus pandemic began.

Peru Covid cases top two million

Peru, hard hit by the pandemic, passes two million cases with 2,001,059 people now having contracted the virus and 188,443 deaths, according to the health ministry.

People stand in a street near Les Invalides in Paris past the 11pm Covid-19 curfew, early on 12 June 2021, after people gathered nearby for an unauthorized outdoor party. **PHOTO : AFP**

Lebanon vaccinates 40,000 people in a weekend

Lebanon administers more than 40,000 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in a single weekend via nearly 50 centres giving jabs on a walk-in basis to anyone over the age of 55 who has not yet received a single dose.

EMA official suggests abandoning AZ vaccine if alternatives available

A top official in the European Medicines Agency says in an interview it might be worth abandoning AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine for all age groups where alternatives are available.

Marco Cavaleri, the EMA's head of vaccine strategy, also tells Italy's La Stampa newspaper that the Johnson & Johnson jab should be preferentially used for the over 60s.

Portuguese president rules out return to Covid curbs

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa pledges no return to Covid restrictions despite a growing number of infections over the past month, especially in the capital Lisbon.

Partying youths defy Paris police third night running

Paris police detain three people after officers used tear gas to disperse hundreds of youths gathered for a street party in defiance of Covid social distancing limits and an 11:00 pm (2100 GMT) curfew.

The so-called Project X gathering on Saturday, a reference to an American film from 2012, on the vast lawns in front of the Invalides war museum was the third party at the site since Thursday.

More than 3.79 million Covid deaths

The pandemic has claimed 3,797,342 lives worldwide since the virus first emerged in December 2019, according to an AFP compilation of official data at 1000 GMT on Sunday.

The US is the worst-affected country with 599,672 deaths, followed by Brazil with 486,272, India 370,384, Mexico 230,095 and Peru with 188,443. — AFP ■

Pacific islanders likely found Antarctica first: study

POLYNESIAN seafarers likely reached Antarctica hundreds of years before the Western explorers usually credited with discovering the frozen continent, a new study has concluded.

New Zealand researchers scoured so-called "grey literature" — including oral records, historic indigenous artworks and non-academic sources — looking for links between Maori people and Antarctica.

"When you put it together, it's really clear, there's a very long history of connection to Antarctica," said project leader Priscilla Wehi from New Zealand's government research institute Manaaki Whenua.

"We found connection to Antarctica and its waters (has) been occurring since the earliest traditional voyaging, and later through participation in European-led voyaging and exploration, contemporary scientific research, fishing, and more, for centuries."

Polynesian seafarers are widely regarded as some of history's greatest sailors, navigating vast distances between Pacific islands with pin-point precision on their double-hulled waka, or canoes.

The research, published last week in the Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand, found they reached Antarctica long before the first Westerners in the 1820s.

The researchers believe the first voyage to Antarctica waters even pre-dates Maori arrival in New Zealand in the 14th century.

"We find Polynesian narratives of voyaging between the islands include voyaging into Antarctic waters by Hui Te Rangiora and his crew on the vessel Te Ivi O Atea, likely in the early seventh century," Wehi said.

"These navigational accomplishments are widely acknowledged."

Oral histories of the voyage include reference to "a foggy, misty and dark place not seen by the sun" and iceberg-like summits "piercing the sky with no vegetation".

The study said that Maori carving and weaving also supported accounts of early Antarctic exploration. Wehi said collating traditional Maori accounts helped give a broader view of Antarctic history, beyond the accounts of European male explorers that usually predominate. — AFP ■

Tesla to accept bitcoin again when greener

ELON Musk, CEO of electric vehicle maker Tesla, said on Sunday that the US company will accept bitcoin payments again when the virtual currency is greener.

The American manufacturer caused a sensation in February when it announced that customers could pay in cryptocurrency, an option that became possible at the end of March.

But then Musk changed his mind, indicating that bitcoin were no longer accepted — in the interest of protecting the environment.

"When there's confirmation of reasonable (~50%) clean energy usage by miners with positive future trend, Tesla will resume allowing Bitcoin transactions," the billionaire wrote on Twitter Sunday.

Bitcoin are produced by powerful computers that have to solve equations and consume huge amounts of electricity in the process. — AFP ■

Two rare Javan rhino calves spotted in Indonesia

TWO Javan rhinoceros calves have been spotted at an Indonesian national park, offering a rare sighting of one of the world's most endangered mammals. The pair — ranging in age from three months to one year — were caught on footage snapped by camera traps in March at Ujung Kulon national park, the environment ministry said.

This handout image taken on 27 March 2021 and released by Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry on 13 June 2021 shows one of two rare Javan rhino calves that were caught on video in the Ujung Kulon National Park, raising hopes for the longer-term survival of the endangered species. **PHOTO: AFP**

On the westernmost tip of Java island, Ujung Kulon is the last remaining wild habitat for Javan rhinos.

After years of population decline, there are believed to be just 73 of the rare mammals at the sanctuary, which comprises some 5,100 hectares (12,600 acres) of lush rainforest and freshwater streams.

Javan rhinos have folds of loose skin giving them the appearance of wearing armour plating. They once numbered in the thousands across Southeast Asia, but have been hard hit by rampant poaching and human encroachment on their habitats. — AFP ■

Japanese DIY chain operator Komeri to open 1st outlet in Thailand

JAPANESE do-it-yourself chain store operator Komeri Co will open its first outlet in Thailand later this month in the eastern province of Chachoengsao.

Komeri Thailand Co, its local unit, will operate the new Komeri Hard & Green Phanom Sarakham store, with a floor space of some 1,320 square metres and located about 90-minute drive from Bangkok, the Japanese company said Thursday.

The shop, opening from 8 am to 8 pm, will sell workwear, building materials, gardening goods and other DIY articles — similar lineups provided by Hard & Green chain stores in Japan, with the focus on hardware and agricultural materials, according to the company based in Niigata Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast.

Many of the products will be procured from Thai makers, while some of Komeri's private brand items and those from Japanese brands will be imported for sale at the new store, the company said.

Komeri plans to open approximately five shops over the next couple of years in and around Chachoengsao Province.

The company chose Thailand for its latest overseas expansion as it is an agricultural nation and its people's living standard is expected to improve further, a Komeri official told NNA.

It launched its first overseas shop in Dalian, China, in 1998 and opened another before withdrawing from the country in 2005.— Kyodo News ■

Photo shows Komeri Hard & Green Phanom Sarakham, Japanese do-it-yourself chain store operator Komeri Co's first outlet in Thailand to be opened later in June 2021 in the eastern province of Chachoengsao. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Microsoft bolsters video game line-up as Xbox turns 20

MICROSOFT unveiled Sunday a batch of new titles for Xbox at the world's premier video game trade show, including award-winning sensation "Hades" and long-time hit "Halo".

The Xbox maker showed off 30 new games coming to its console, which in November will celebrate two decades on the market.

"Our team strives to make Xbox a place where you'll find the greatest games, the most dedicated developers, and the most passionate community," unit chief Phil Spencer said during a streamed event on the second day of a virtual Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3).

Microsoft's Xbox Series X (L, in black) and series S (R, in white) gaming consoles are seen on display during its worldwide release at an electronics store in Tokyo on 10 November 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Microsoft revealed a coming take of beloved "Halo", along with new creations such as science-fiction action title "Starfield" and a vampire-battling adventure called "Redfall" from Bethesda Softworks. Microsoft recently-acquired Bethesda Softworks, the maker of hits including "Fallout" and "Elder Scrolls". — AFP ■

Markets mostly up in holiday-thinned Asia trade, eyes on Fed

ASIAN markets mostly rose Monday during holiday-hit trade, with investors looking forward to the Federal Reserve's next meeting this week hoping for fresh clues about monetary policy in light of the US economy's blistering recovery.

Another record close for the S&P 500 on Wall Street on Friday provided a healthy lead for the region, though with holidays in Hong Kong, China and Australia, business was light.

Confidence among investors remains high as vaccine rollouts, the easing of containment measures, central bank largesse and government stimulus provide support, with observers forecasting a rally that began in April 2020 will continue into next year.

US data showing inflation far higher than expected last month was taken in stride as markets appear to have accepted Fed insistence that the spike will be temporary and their ultra-loose monetary policies — including record low interest rates — will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

There had been a worry that soaring prices would force the bank to taper its bond-buying scheme earlier than first thought.

Still, this week's meeting will be closely followed for an idea about its plans.

Mansoor Mohi-uddin, chief economist at the Bank of Singapore, said it is not expected to announce any change at the end of the gathering Wednesday, but it is "likely to start discussing when it will begin slowing its quantitative easing, given the US economy's strong rebound from the pandemic".

"But its taper talk will last many months with the Fed stressing that it needs to see 'substantial further progress' towards meeting its goals of maximum employment and stable inflation before it will slow its asset purchases. — AFP ■

Dubai's yachts offer socially-distanced luxury

DUBAI earned a reputation for delivering luxury for those with cash to splash years ago, but amid the Covid-19 pandemic, a new mode of travel has become popular — yachts.

"It's more private, you're with only family and friends, and it's the ideal outing during a pandemic," said Nada Naeem, a 36-year-old Saudi citizen living in Dubai.

Dozens of white yachts are seen every day zipping through the emirate's bays, canals and islands, while others are docked along the coast in Gulf waters overlooking the skyline of high-rise towers.

"You feel like you can breathe," Naeem said, adding that she had not left Dubai since the pandemic began last year. "It's like you've travelled."

Unlike so many parts of the world, Dubai opened its doors wide open to tourists just a few months after the coronavirus pandemic took hold last year.

Life in the Gulf emirate — one of the first destinations to welcome visitors again last July — returned to largely normal, with restaurants and hotels up and running and beaches open to the public.

The UAE, made up of seven emirates including Dubai, launched an energetic vaccination drive with some of the highest inoculation rates worldwide, and continues to enforce strict rules on wearing masks and social distancing.

But some are fearful of overseas travel, and wary of crowded places where the risk of catching Covid-19 is higher.

For those who can afford the price tag, yachts are seen as a safer bet.

"When they eased the lockdown... people preferred something secure and safe with regulations," said Mohammed al-Sayyed, manager of Royal Star Yachts charter company. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (212N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (212N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

For Putin, Biden summit is all about respect

(COMBO) This combination of pictures created on 7 June, 2021 shows Russia's President Vladimir Putin speaking with US NBC news network anchor Megyn Kelly at the Kremlin on 1 March 2018 in Moscow and US President Joe Biden delivering remarks on his plan to administer Covid-19 vaccines at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Delaware on 15 January 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

WHEN Vladimir Putin meets Joe Biden for their first summit on Wednesday the Russian leader will not be looking for progress on arms control, the lifting of sanctions or even an apology for the US president saying he is a "killer".

Putin already got what he wanted: the summit itself.

After a week of meeting allies from the G7, European Union and NATO, Biden will end his first major foreign trip with Putin in Geneva.

Tensions between Moscow and Washington are at their highest in years over a long list of disputes — from cyber-attacks and election meddling to the jailing of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny and designation of his organizations as "extremist" groups.

Expectations for the talks are low, with officials on both sides repeatedly saying the two leaders are unlikely to find much common ground.

But for Putin, experts say, Biden's invitation to hold the summit was enough, a sign of the respect for Russia that he has always craved in more than two decades in power.

"One of the absolutely crucial drivers of (Putin's) foreign policy is a sense of having to restore Russia to its rightful place in the world, and these kinds of events absolutely play into that," said Mark Galeotti, a professor of Russian studies at University College London.

"Just the meeting itself is already a win."

Biden proposed the summit in April, after Russia sparked Western alarm by massing tens of thousands of troops on its border with Ukraine.

Officials and state media in Moscow hailed the invitation as a victory for Putin, framing the talks as the latest in a series of historic summits dating back to the Cold War.

"The summit shows Russia is a player in the big leagues," said Alexander Shumilin of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

"That is how they see it in the Kremlin, and in the West too." — AFP ■

China slams G7 'manipulation' after Xinjiang, Hong Kong criticism

CHINA on Monday accused the G7 of "political manipulation" after it criticised Beijing over its human rights record in Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

In a communique after a three-day summit in England, G7 leaders slammed China over abuses against minorities in the Xinjiang region and pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong, while US President Joe Biden called for Beijing to "start acting more responsibly in terms of international norms on human rights". The Chinese embassy in the United Kingdom responded angrily on Monday, and accused the G7 of "interfering".

"The Group of Seven (G-7) takes advantage of Xinjiang-related issues to engage in political manipulation and interfere in China's internal affairs, which we firmly oppose," an embassy spokesman said in a statement. The statement accused the G7 of "lies, rumours and baseless accusations". Human rights groups say China has rounded up an estimated one million Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang into internment camps, which Beijing says is to eradicate Islamic extremism.

"We will promote our values, including by calling on China to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms" the G7 communique read.

At their first physical summit in nearly two years, leaders of the seven nations announced a number of pledges on Covid-19 vaccinations, climate change, rights and trade.

They also called for a new investigation in China into the origins of Covid-19 — prompting a response from the Chinese embassy that the work needs to be done in a "scientific, objective and fair manner", without agreeing to a new probe.

"The current epidemic is still raging around the world, and the traceability work should be carried out by global scientists and should not be politicized," the embassy said. The coronavirus first emerged in central China in late 2019, and the World Health Organization sent a team of international experts in January to probe its origins.

But their long-delayed report published in March drew no firm conclusions, and the investigation has since faced criticism for lacking transparency and access.

The G7 also announced a new infrastructure fund which President Biden said would be "much more equitable" than China's massive Belt and Road Initiative.

The Chinese embassy statement complained in response that the "accusations against China on economic and trade issues in the communique are inconsistent with the facts and are unreasonable." — AFP ■

Biden to rebuild 'sacred' NATO bond shaken by Trump

US President Joe Biden will seek to restore bonds of trust at NATO's first post-Trump summit on Monday, as leaders push to revitalize the alliance despite differences over dangers ahead.

The allies will agree a statement stressing common ground on securing their withdrawal from Afghanistan, joint responses to cyber attacks and relations with a rising China.

Biden's predecessor Donald Trump undermined faith in the West's security architecture by questioning Washington's commitment to defend European partners. And he clashed publicly with counterparts the last time leaders met in 2019, before abruptly heading home early.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg speaks to the press prior to a NATO summit at the NATO headquarters in Brussels on 14 June 2021. The allies meet to agree a statement stressing common ground on securing their withdrawal from Afghanistan, joint responses to cyber attacks and relations with a rising China. **PHOTO : POOL / AFP**

In contrast, Biden has firmly reasserted American backing for the 72-year-old military alliance — and his administration has been making a show of consulting more with partners.

But there remain divisions among the allies on some key issues — including how to deal with China's rise and how to increase common funding. — AFP ■

Nuclear arms decline stalls as nations modernize arsenals

AS nuclear nations commit to renewing and sometimes expanding their arsenals, a decline seen since the early 1990s seems to have stalled, with some signs of a numerical increase, researchers said Monday

"The reduction of nuclear arsenals that we have gotten used to since the end of the Cold War appears to be levelling out," Hans Kristensen, associate senior fellow at SIPRI's Nuclear Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Programme, told AFP.

The amount of nukes among the nine nuclear-armed states — the US, Russia, the UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea — totalled 13,080 at the start of 2021, a slight decrease from 13,400 a year earlier, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimated. However, this includes retired warheads waiting to be dismantled, and without them the combined military stockpile of nuclear arms rose from 9,380 to 9,620. Meanwhile, the number of nuclear weapons deployed with operational forces increased from 3,720 to 3,825, the report said.

Of these, some 2,000 were kept in a "kept in a state of high operational alert," meaning for launch in a matter of minutes. — AFP ■

New Zealand to apologize for 'racist' historic police raids

PRIME Minister Jacinda Ardern announced Monday she will offer a formal apology to New Zealand's Pacific community over "demeaning" police raids that targeted them in the 1970s.

Ardern said the notorious "dawn raids" were carried out by police and immigration officials seeking to identify and deport visa overstayers.

In addition, she said Pacific islanders were racially profiled, with officials subjecting them to random stop and search without justification.

"They were routinely severe with demeaning verbal and physical treatment," Ardern told reporters.

"The raids and what they represented created deep wounds, while we cannot change our history, we can acknowledge it and seek to right a wrong."

Ardern said the apology would take place on 26 June at Auckland Town Hall.

New Zealand encouraged migration from Pacific islands such as Samoa, Tonga and Fiji after World War II to fill worker shortages as the economy expanded.

But they faced a backlash when there was a downturn in the 1970s, with claims they were taking jobs from New Zealanders.

Minister for Pacific Peoples William Sio, who has a Samoan background, said the raids were "racist and discriminatory".

Sio fought back tears as he described his own family's experiences.

"The memories are etched in of my father being helpless... someone knocking at your door in the early hours of the morning with a flashlight in your face, disrespecting the owner of our home," he said.

"An Alsatian dog frothing at the mouth, wanting to come in without any respect for the people who live there. It was quite traumatizing." — AFP ■

Geneva summit stirs memories of 1985 Reagan-Gorbachev meet

This photograph taken on 10 June 2021 in Versoix near Geneva shows the "Villa Fleur d'Eau" that hosted the first meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. June 16 talks between US President Joe Biden and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin evoke vivid memories of the 1985 Geneva summit, when Cold War rivals Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev met for the first time. **PHOTO: AFP**

WEDNESDAY'S talks between US President Joe Biden and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin evoke vivid memories of the 1985 Geneva summit, when Cold War rivals Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev met for the first time.

Despite the chilly November weather in the Swiss city, relations began to thaw between Washington and Moscow as the US president and the Soviet leader came face to face on neutral territory.

Now some 36 years on, Biden and Putin are set for decidedly less hopeful talks on the placid shores of Lake Geneva, with the echo of history surrounding them.

Back in 1985, "the atmosphere was relaxed... They had both lined something up to seduce the other camp," said former AFP correspondent Didier Lapeyronie, who covered the Reagan-Gorbachev talks. "At the same time, we were all aware that it was a historic moment." Things got off to a bad start. Just before US president Reagan arrived at one of the summit locations, a Swiss soldier waiting in the ceremonial honour guard fainted, overcome by the bitter cold.

Six years before the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union, the 1985 Geneva summit focused on de-escalating the nuclear arms race between the two superpowers, and came with hopes of fostering better East-West relations.

The three-day summit was covered by 3,500 journalists.

Nicolas Burgy, who was at Geneva Airport for AFP to report on the Reagans' arrival, recalls the sense of "joy" in the air. "There was a casual sort of feeling," he said.

One of the most enduring pictures from the summit is one of the two most powerful men on the planet sitting beside a fireplace, smiling at each other from their armchairs -- an image that conjures up the impression of a cosy fireside chat between two old friends. — AFP ■

After fire and floods, Aussie farmers suffer devastating mouse plague

AFTER surviving years of crippling drought, farmers in eastern Australia are locked in a months-long battle with hordes of mice that are pouring through fields and devouring hard-earned crops. Farmer Col Tink uses a broom to skittle hundreds of roving mice toward a makeshift industrial trap — essentially a large tub of water where they drown.

This picture taken on 1 June 2021 shows stacks of hay damaged by mice on Col Tink's farmland in the New South Wales' agricultural hub of Dubbo. **PHOTO: AFP**

It is a brutally simple attempt to slow the plague that has engulfed his farm — near the rural town of Dubbo — and thousands of other farms like it across eastern Australia.

But Tink's efforts have barely made a dent. Mice continue to chew through grain and hay stocks while anything remotely edible remains under constant attack.

Skin-crawling videos of writhing rodent masses have been shared around the world along with reports of bitten hospital patients, destroyed machinery and swarms running across roads en masse.

The plague is the latest in a string of disasters to strike farmers in Australia. A years-long drought was followed by months of deavastating bushfires from late 2019, before welcome rains became damaging floods in several regions. — AFP ■

Toshiba board chair admits governance issues over gov't collusion

JAPANESE industrial conglomerate Toshiba Corp's attempts to fend off foreign activist investors in cooperation with the government ahead of a general shareholders' meeting last year were problematic in terms of compliance and governance, the head of the board said Monday. Osamu Nagayama, chairman of Toshiba's board of directors, apologized to people concerned, including shareholders, after a probe by lawyers revealed last week that Toshiba sought government help in blocking proposals by foreign activist investors.

Nagayama said former CEO Nobuaki Kurumatani is responsible for having caused confusion with his "confrontational approach" to investors.

The ex-CEO chaired the shareholders' meeting. "I apologize for causing confusion and worry among all stakeholders," Nagayama said in an online briefing.

"We have to say those people (who were engaged in exchanges with the government) lacked awareness about governance and compliance," Nagayama said, referring to the findings of an independent probe by lawyers.

Ahead of the June 25 shareholders' meeting, Toshiba has been pressed against time to ease tensions with foreign activist shareholders, who have a big say following their investments to help the conglomerate cope with financial struggles. — Kyodo News ■

Myanmar to play crucial World Cup Qualifier against Tajikistan today

Myanmar striker Maung Maung Lwin (No 7) poised to kick the ball during a previous World Cup Qualifier match against Tajikistan at Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 14 November 2019. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR men's national football team will play a decisive World Cup Qualifier Group F match against the Tajikistan team today at Yanmar Stadium in Nagai, Osaka, Japan.

The match will start at 4:55 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

In the previous meet in the same group, Myanmar beat the team Tajikistan 4-3. The match was played at Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 14 November 2019.

With a fifth place in the standings on the line, Myanmar hopes for fourth place to finish as one of the top five runners-up.

Tajikistan is currently standing in the third position but with the same points and goal differences as the second-place sitter Kyrgyzstan.

If Tajikistan wins Myanmar, they will finish second in the standings and give themselves a chance of advancing to the final round of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Qualifiers.

Myanmar head coach Antoine Hey is likely to use his favourite players -- Suan Lam Mang and Maung Maung Lwin -- in the striker position. Both of them had scored crucial goals in the last meet against Tajikistan Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 14 November 2019. — GNLM

'Everything is possible': Djokovic eyes Golden Grand Slam

NOVAK Djokovic has set his sights on the Golden Grand Slam of all four majors and the Olympic title, insisting: "Everything is possible".

The world number one captured a second French Open and 19th Slam with a 6-7 (6/8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win over Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas on Sunday.

It allowed him to become the first man in the Open era, and only third in history, to claim all four Grand Slam titles on multiple occasions.

Now he has targeted being the third man to complete a calendar Grand Slam after Don Budge in 1937 and Rod Laver in 1962 and 1969.

On top of that, he also wants the Olympic gold medal to complete the Golden Grand Slam.

"Everything is possible. Definitely in my case I can say that what I've been through in my career, in my life, this journey has been terrific so far," said Djokovic.

"I've achieved some things that a lot of people thought it would be not possible for me to achieve.

"So everything is possible, and I did put myself in a good position to go for the Golden Slam."

The Golden Slam has never been achieved by a man while, in the women's game, only Steffi Graf in 1988 has swept all four majors and Olympic gold in the same year. In Graf's case, Olympic gold came in Seoul. For Djokovic, the opportunity will come in Tokyo later this summer.

"Obviously his goal and our goal is to win the Olympics and then win the Grand Slam. That would be the absolutely top of this year," said Djokovic's longtime coach Marian Vajda.

"But it's still far away from us. We have to still focus on the next one. But overall he's set up for this year. — AFP ■

Neymar helps Brazil cruise to Copa win over Covid-depleted Venezuela

STAR forward Neymar netted a penalty and created a second as hosts Brazil eased to a 3-0 victory over a coronavirus-depleted Venezuela on Sunday in the opening match of the 2021 Copa America.

Centre-back Marquinhos opened the scored midway through the first half and Gabriel Barbosa sealed the Group B win a minute from time.

In a tournament already delayed a year and moved from its original hosts Argentina and Colombia due to the pandemic, it was fitting that the coronavirus should take centre-stage right up to the tournament kick-off. Played in front of an empty Mane Garrincha stadium in Brasilia due to Covid-19 restrictions, Brazil made light of the continent's minnows, who arrived with a makeshift side missing eight players ruled out after testing positive for coronavirus the day before.

Venezuela called up 15 emergency replacements but could still only name seven out of a possible 12 substitutes due to a lack of available players.

"It's not just being without key players, we didn't have time to prepare better for this team," complained Venezuela's Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro.

The game went ahead and, predictably, reigning champions Brazil were well on top.

"The three points are important. We had to start well regardless of our rivals having players out," said Brazil captain Casemiro.

Following a minute's silence to remember Covid victims, Richarlison was denied from close range by Venezuela's goalkeeper Joel Graterol early on before the forward flicked a header wide form a corner.

Centre-back Eder Militao was also off target with a header while Graterol did well to hold a Danilo volley from distance. Venezuela produced little going forward but Jose Martinez did have the Brazil defence back-pedalling with a dangerous burst before winning a corner that came to nothing. — AFP ■

Brazil's Neymar shoots to score a penalty against Venezuela during the Conmebol Copa America 2021 football tournament group phase match at the Mane Garrincha Stadium in Brasilia on 13 June 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Germany with questions to answer ahead of France clash at Euro 2020

WORLD champions France open their Euro 2020 campaign on Tuesday against an embattled Germany team eager to rediscover their best form in the first clash of two traditional European heavyweights in this year's tournament.

Didier Deschamps' France head to Munich for the Group F game with a feud brewing between forwards Kylian Mbappe and Olivier Giroud but are still the title favourites, while the Germans are struggling and under pressure.

France's players take part in a training session at the team's training grounds in Clairefontaine-en-Yvelines, southwest of Paris, on 13 June 2021, during the UEFA EURO 2020 European Football Championship. **PHOTO: AFP**

After 15 years in charge, their coach Joachim Loew will step down after the European Championship and wants to forge a mentality "like 2014" when his squad "pulled together" to win the World Cup.

The French need no reminding of Brazil, where they bowed out in the quarter-finals when a Mats Hummels header sealed victory for Germany at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

The French got their revenge when Antoine Griezmann scored both goals in a 2-0 semi-final win at Euro 2016 before the hosts lost to Portugal in the final.

France won the last meeting between the neighbouring countries in 2018 when Griezmann again scored both goals to seal a 2-1 Nations League win in Paris.

Germany face a tough start to Euro 2020, with a match against holders Portugal four days after the France game before finishing their group campaign against Hungary. — AFP ■