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Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo attends 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus



Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo joins the eighth ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus via videoconferencing on 16 June 2021.

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo led the Myanmar delegation including Director-General Col Nyein Chan of the Department of International and Internal Affairs and officials to the 8th ASEAN

Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus chaired by Brunei Darussalam via videoconferencing yesterday. The defence ministers of 10 ASEAN member countries and eight partner countries including ASEAN Secretary-General attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Union minister and other delegates exchanged views on security challenges of Myanmar, current progress of the country, changing defence and security measures and other cooperation works, proper responses

to COVID-19, natural disasters related matters, cooperation works between Myanmar and Russia in combating terrorism under ADMM-Plus framework and other issues. After the meeting, the delegates also agreed to hold the

meeting annually instead of once every two years. Moreover, the officials issued the Bandar Seri Begawan declaration in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the ADMM towards a future-ready, peaceful and prosperous ASEAN.—MNA

Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher's duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates."

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some casualties,

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

- 1. Political affairs**

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

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

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

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

COVID-19: start ourselves to take preventive measures

ALL people are urged to abide by the following ways of prevention against COVID-19 without fail in line with the motto: “COVID-19: start ourselves to take preventive measures” not to violently infect COVID-19 as next wave and not to be infected of variant COVID-19 virus.

- (1) Systematically wear masks whenever go outside and also wear face shields whenever associate with many people.
- (2) Take adequate distance from each other as much as they can.
- (3) Avoid the crowds.
- (4) Take 20 seconds in systematically washing hands many times.
- (5) Avoid the visits to the closed chambers, air-conditioned rooms and the lesser ventilated rooms as much as possible.
- (6) Those who need to go outside houses should avoid acts close to and eat meals together with older persons above 60 years and those with diabetes, hypertension, and heart diseases.
- (7) Fully cooperate in quarantine processes.
- (8) Don’t buy something from the vendors who do not wear masks.
- (9) Exchange information to each other.
- (10) Cooperate in vaccination of COVID-19 pandemic. Continuously follow the preventive measures although they have received the vaccinations.
- (11) Strictly follow the work guidelines for preventing the COVID-19 pandemic issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.
- (12) If somebody suffers from symptoms of higher body temperature, coughing, suffocation, tiredness and sudden loss of smell and flavour, they need to immediately contact nearby health units to receive medical treatment.

355 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 June, total figure rises to 146,406

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **146,406 after 355 new cases** were reported on 16 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **133,216** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **3,250** after two died. —MNA

Politicians and media should not commit incitements and spread fake news

POLITICIANS and media should not commit incitements and spread fake news. The peacemaking process goes on as it is necessary to cease armed conflicts among the ethnic nationals for restoring peace and stability based on security measures.

(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)

Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on country's economy meets

THE 5th meeting of the Working Committee (5/2021) to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy was held yesterday morning at Office No. (1), Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The meeting was chaired by U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Member of the Working Committee Deputy Ministers, from Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Ministry of Commerce, Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and representatives of the ministries concerned attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the Chairman of the Working Committee discussed matters on the an-



alytical measures for the effective use of COVID-19 Fund, issues submitted by borrowers who utilized the fund, the processes to be acilitated for the re-operated businesses and the drafting process of Myanmar Economic Recovery Plan (MERP). Moreover, the Chairman discussed issues and difficulties submitted to the Committee and, coordination and cooperation matters among the ministries.

The meeting also discussed relief measures carried out by concerned ministries, future plan of actions and issues raised by the business community.—MNA

Cash prize for literature awards increased for literati for their works as of 2020

THE government presents the national literature lifetime achievement award, the national literature award in 18 genres and Sarpay Beikman manuscripts award in 14 genres to literati yearly.

Aiming to encourage and develop Myanmar literary arena, honouring literati and flourishing good literature, the government amended the prizes of the awards as K10 million for national literature lifetime achievement award, K3 million for the winners in the national literature award, K1.5 million for the first prize winner, K1 million for the second and K700,000 for the third in the Sarpay Beikman manuscripts award for the works as of 2020. —MNA

Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

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and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri -- shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil —for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

Information Team
State Administration Council

50,995 acres of monsoon maize to be planted in Myawady

ACCORDING to the township agriculture department, farmers in Myawady Township, Kayin State, cultivate monsoon paddy only for consumption and commercially plant monsoon maize.

Of 50,995 acres of monsoon maize planned to cultivate, 35,781 acres have been grown in the township. It is learned that monsoon maize is grown for up to 120 days.

At the time of maize harvesting, farmers can sell a basket of maize at K9,000. It costs about K300,000 per acre for farmers to grow maize, and

about K800,000 in return, resulting in approximately K500,000 per acre. Similarly, after 100 days of maize planting, green peas are planted with zero tillage (no-tillage system) between these maize plants, which is very beneficial for maize farmers.

It is reported that pre-field technical assistance is being provided to make sure that these farmers use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides proportionally to cultivate in a systematic manner using scientific methods and prevent them from getting pests. — Htein Lin Aung/GNLM

Of 50,995 acres of monsoon maize planned to cultivate, 35,781 acres have been grown in the township.



Due to lack of irrigated paddy field, rain-fed paddy makes main crop in Myeik



Myeik paddy growers mainly cultivate rain-fed paddy in Taninthayi Region due to a lack of irrigated paddy fields where summer paddy are grown with irrigation from dams.

MYEIK paddy growers mainly cultivate rain-fed paddy in Taninthayi Region due to a lack of irrigated paddy fields where summer paddy are grown with irrigation from dams, U Win Myat Soe, an officer from the township agriculture department, said.

“The main weakness of our Taninthayi Region is that there is no irrigated field in the region. As we rely on rain for paddy cultivation, we can plant only monsoon paddy. If we have irrigated areas, we can ensure the local food security by planting,” he said.

Myeik Township is one of the most populous townships in Taninthayi Region. According to the Department of Agriculture, the population was around 300,000 in 2019-2020 due to the economic development of the area and the influx of people from other areas. With 42,493 acres of monsoon paddy, 76 per cent of local food security is covered and the rest 24 per cent is bought from other regions and states.

The Myeik Township Agriculture Department provides the good paddy seeds to the hand of the local farmers who

convert to good seed plantations and establish the Model Good Seed villages. Doing so will increase yields per acre and meet 24% of local demand next time, he added.

The Department of Agriculture is working with farmers to switch to high-yield paddy seeds.

Farmers are also educated on planting techniques in the field to cultivate modern farming methods. They know that paddy yields increase if they cultivate them with modern methods. Due to the shortage of labour and high daily wage, they are only using the traditional method, said U Tun Oo, a farmer from Thakan Taungpu village.

There are 42,493 acres of monsoon paddy in Myeik Township every year. Local paddy varieties such as Aung Sein Rwe; Dawei Ma, Kyway Pyay, Nga Sein, Paul Lagae, Sabar Maung Kyi, and sticky rice are the main crops grown area.

Many farmers are also cultivating high-yielding Sinthukha paddy. According to local farmers, the yield of local paddy seeds is 40 to 50 baskets per acre. The yield of high-quality paddy seeds is 90 to 100 baskets per acre. — Myint Oo/GNLM

Flights cancelled due to flooding at Mazin airport, Ngapali

CONTINUOUS torrential rain has brought flooding to Mazin airport in Ngapali, in Rakhine State since yesterday.

The floodwaters inundated drains along the airport road, flooding the airport building and runway. The flight schedules were temporarily cancelled as the water level at the parking lot was

up to 17 inches, said U Mahn Zaw, in-charge of the airport.

According to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department of Thandwe, the rainfall was 3.75 inches on June 16 at 9 am.

Though there have been tree falls and flooding in some wards in Ngapali, no animal or person was harmed. — Yan Nyein(IPRD)/GNLM



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

Imports of petroleum products exceed \$1.3 bln in H1

MYANMAR imported more than US\$1.3 billion worth petroleum products during the first half (Oct-Mar) of the current financial year 2020-2021, as per the Myanmar Customs Department.

The figures indicated a sharp drop of over \$660 million compared to the corresponding period of last year.

In the current fiscal year, Myanmar imported over 1.6 million tonnes (worth over \$750 million) of diesel and over 1 million tonnes (worth over \$540 million) of petrol, as per data of the Commerce Ministry.

Normally, a monthly oil import is estimated at \$400 million, yet the oil importers are facing

banking restrictions for maritime trade. Nevertheless, oil importers via land border can use informal payment Hundi system instead, said an importer.

At present, the domestic fuel oil price has now risen above 30 per cent per litre in three months, as the heightened coronavirus restriction and possible lockdown in Asia sparked oil demand concerns, coupled with strong dollar exchange rate.

The fuel oil was pegged at around at K620 per litre for Octane 92, K750 for Octane 95, K660 for diesel and K670 for premium diesel in early February 2021 in the domestic retail market.

On 16 June, it rallied to the

highest of K1005 for Octane 92, K1,090 for Octane 95, K1,005 for diesel and K1,015 for premium diesel, according to the local fuel oil market.

Domestic oil price is positively related to the global market and the dollar value. The soaring demand drives up the oil prices rally higher, with WTI climbing above \$72.46 per barrel in mid-June.

Additionally, foreign exchange rate also affects the petroleum price. Kyat is depreciating in the local forex market starting from April, with above K1,640 per dollar. In mid-February, a dollar was worth only K1,430.

Normally, Myanmar imports fuel oil primarily from Singapore, with monthly volumes touching 200,000 tonnes for gasoline and 400,000 tonnes for diesel. There are about 2,000 fuel stations and over 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar, Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association stated.

In early June 2021, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy notified the private sector of keeping the oil storage above 35 per cent of the storage capacity of the tanks to avoid the possible discrepancy between demand and supply.

Last year, the domestic oil prices declined to start from January, owing to a fall in global oil

prices. On 8 January 2020, oil prices were pegged at around K905 per litre for Octane 92, K995 for Octane 95, and K985 for diesel and premium diesel. Following the global market crashing, the domestic oil price plunged to more than 50 per cent in April against January's prices.

In late April 2020, the oil prices touched the lowest K290-330 per litre for Octane 92, K430-455 for Octane 95, K435-465 for diesel, and K445-475 premium diesel, according to the domestic oil market.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. —KH/GNLM

Tomato growers from Ywangan township expect higher price



In early monsoon, the tomato prices are likely to be higher, and the local people mainly grow a tomato in those seasons.

YWANGAN township, Danu self-administered zone, Shan State (South) is reliant on agricultural business. The local people from that township are growing fresh vegetables such as tomato, chilli, cabbage, mustard and potato.

This year, the local people are mainly growing tomato and expecting it to fetch a higher price.

The tomatoes are grown mainly in the early monsoon and monsoon. To be able to grow the tomato in early monsoon, the local growers are preparing the land starting from February. The soil bag is also prepared to plant the tomato seeds in March. They are also planning to sow the tomato seeds, predicting the rain will fall in the water festival period.

In early monsoon, the tomato prices are likely to be higher, and the local people mainly grow a tomato in those seasons.

Although the incidence of bacterial infections is low on tomato plants, the cost of production is much higher than that in the rainy season. The tomato seeds are started to plant in June.

The cultivation cost is much higher in this year compared to that of last year including pesticide, fertilizer and labour charges. Cultivation of each plant of tomato costs K 700. Each plant can yield about two visses. This is the reason why the local tomato growers are expecting to get better prices this year, according to the local growers. —Township IPRD/GNLM

Lucrative ladies' fingers attract farmers to grow all year round

THE farmers from Wuntho and Kawlin townships, Sagaing Region grow the profitable ladies' fingers (Okra) throughout the entire year as it allows them to have daily healthy income.

"The okra is spaced six feet apart in cultivation. The plants grown from the seeds give more benefits — the input costs over K300,000, including fertilizer, seeds, pesticide and ploughing.

"The plants steadily produce in tropical weather. The yield of the okra is lower in the winter," said a grower Ko Maung Tun from Oatpho village.

"The ladies' fingers can be plucked in three months of cultivation during winter. In summer, it is marketable two months after cultivation.

"They can be harvested every two days. An acre daily produces about 15,000 ladies' fingers. We hire two workers at K2,000 a day. It can be harvested for up to four months.

"At present, the farmers receive daily income of over K50,000.

"As it is profitable, the farmers grow them all year round," said a grower Daw Ni from Thabyay village.

The neighbouring villages

of Thabyay village-Magyeegon, Zeephyupin, Gwaygyi, Latpangyitaw, Oakpho, Thayataik, Shansu, Seinle, Thabyaythar, Aunggon and Kyaingkhwin are relying on Daungmyoo and from irrigation.

During winter and summer, farmers commonly grow chilli, cucumber, onion, corn, Chrysanthemum, Gladiolus, cauliflower, cabbage and tomato, whereas the majority of the farmers choose ladies' fingers for monsoon season as they can be successfully grown even in the heavy rainfall areas. — Myint Tun /Ko Aungthu Ya (Kawlin)/GNLM



The farmers from Wuntho and Kawlin townships, Sagaing Region grow the profitable ladies' fingers (Okra) throughout the entire year as it allows them to have daily healthy income.

State Administration Council
Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.

Insurgents kill innocent people in some townships

THE extremist armed insurgents brutally killed the administrative officers of some townships in regions and states in order to affect the administrative mechanism and threaten the government employees and local populace based on the different opinions and one-sided stances using guns, knives, homemade bombs and grenades.

About 15 insurgents holding percussion rifles shot Sayadaw U Nanita of Passima Yone Monastery in Kan Gyi Village of Pale Township of Sagaing Region and Ko Zaw Myo from Kan Gyi Village on 15 June. They returned

from In Pin Hla Monastery from Kyo Pin Village and took a rest at the house of Ko Oo in Kyauk Yan Taw Pyin. The two victims died on the spot.

Similarly, on 16 June, U Aye Tun, deputy township education officer of Kyauktan Township of Yangon Region, was shot dead on the way to the township education office by the two insurgents riding motorcycle. The victim also died on the spot with a gunshot wound.

The officials investigate to arrest the suspects who committed brutal murder cases. — MNA



Armed terrorists commit arson attack in Kinma village, Pauk Township



ARMED terrorists attacked the security forces patrolling Kinma village, Pauk Township, Magway Region and set fire on the village houses.

When the security forces arrived at the Kinma village signboard while patrolling the village at around 11:10 am on 15 June, about ten armed terrorists attacked the security forces from the hill with guns and grenades. They retreated when the security forces retaliated against them.

Another armed attack happened when the security forces

conducted a detailed search on the hill around 11:50 am.

When the security forces conducted necessary inspections around the area, they found fire in the village. The fire was extinguished at around 6 pm after they went and cooperated to put out the fire. According to the detailed investigation, a group of about 40 terrorists set fire on the house of U Kyaw Htay, located in front of the village high school, at around 2:50 pm and the fire spread other houses due to the wind.

Due to the arson attack, about 100 of 225 houses were destroyed by fire. Some media outlets and social media users have been covering the incident with the intention of misrepresenting the public and discrediting the security forces as if security forces had set fire to Kinma village.

Security forces are working to arrest and prosecute the terrorists who ambushed security forces and set fire to the home of peaceful civilian who did not support their acts of violence. —MNA

Moscow orders mandatory vaccinations over ‘dramatic’ case rise

MOSCOW Mayor Sergei Sobyanin on Wednesday (June 16) ordered mandatory vaccinations for residents of the Russian capital working in the service industry, citing a “dramatic” rise in coronavirus infections.

“We simply must do everything to carry out mass vaccinations in the shortest possible time and stop this terrible disease, stop the deaths of thousands of people,” he wrote in a blog post.

Health officials in Moscow have in recent weeks reported a steady rise in the number of new Covid-19 cases, mirroring

a trend across Russia.

The country has the sixth-highest caseload in the world, but President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly claimed Russia handled the pandemic better than most other countries.

The increase in cases comes as authorities struggle to encourage Russians to get vaccinated, even though the country launched a mass campaign of free jabs in December.

Mr Sobyanin, whose city of some 12 million is the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak in Russia, said just 1.8 million residents had been inoculated.

“The coronavirus situation continues to unfold dramatically,” he said, as authorities announced 5,782 new infections in the capital and 75 deaths.

“In connection with the extremely difficult epidemiological situation, the Chief State Sanitary Doctor for the city of Moscow today adopted a decree on the compulsory vaccination of workers in the service sector.”

Mr Sobyanin last week announced that all Muscovites who get their first coronavirus jab would be automatically entered into a lottery to win a car. — AFP ■



A nurse wearing a face mask proceeds to vaccination against the coronavirus by Sputnik V (Gam-COVID-Vac) vaccine at a clinic in Moscow on 5 December 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

WHO warns virus quicker than vaccines after G7 doses pledge



While many wealthy nations enjoy a return to near normalcy thanks to high vaccination rates, the shots remain scarce in less well-off places. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE WHO warned Tuesday that Covid-19 was moving faster than the vaccines, and said the G7’s vow to share a billion doses with poorer nations was simply not enough.

Global health leaders also warned the pledge was too little, too late, with more than 11 billion shots needed.

Faced with outrage over disparities in jab access, the Group of Seven industrialized powers pledged during a weekend summit in Britain to take their total dose donations to more than one billion, up from 130 million promised in February.

“I welcome the announcement that G7 countries will donate 870 million (new) vaccine doses, primarily through Covax,” World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told journalists.

“This is a big help, but we need more, and we need them faster. Right now, the virus is moving faster than the global

distribution of vaccines.

“More than 10 thousand people are dying every day... these communities need vaccines, and they need them now, not next year.”

While people in many wealthy nations are enjoying a return to a sense of normalcy thanks to high vaccination rates, the shots remain scarce in less well-off parts of the world.

In terms of doses administered, the imbalance between the G7 and low-income countries, as defined by the World Bank, is 73 to one.

Many of the donated G7 doses will be filtered through Covax, a global body charged with ensuring equitable vaccine distribution.

Run by the WHO, the Gavi vaccine alliance and CEPI, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, it has to date shipped more than 87 million vaccine doses to 131 countries — far fewer than anticipated. — AFP ■

Start-up launches India’s first Covid home test kit

INDIAN start-up Mylab Discovery Solutions hopes that its inexpensive Covid-19 home test kit — the country’s first — will help the massive South Asian nation better track the pandemic’s spread among its 1.3-billion people.

CoviSelf was launched earlier this month and is the first home testing kit to be approved in India, which is slowly emerging from a brutal second wave that overwhelmed its hospitals and crematoriums, with almost 30 million infected

so far and over 350,000 dead. But many experts suspect that the real numbers are much higher, blaming insufficient testing and inaccurate recording of the cause of patient deaths.

The start-up, which also makes PCR tests to detect HIV infections, says that widespread access to CoviSelf — sold for 250 rupees (\$3.40) — would reduce pressure on overburdened laboratories and improve infection tracking. — AFP ■

Emergency approval for Iran-made vaccine

IRAN said Tuesday it had given emergency approval for a domestically produced vaccine, as it battles the Middle East’s deadliest coronavirus outbreak.

Iranian media reported that the move aimed to make up for a lack of imported vaccines and allowing people already inoculated with a first

jabs to receive a second.

“The Barekat (blessing) vaccine has received emergency use permission and it will be added to the national vaccination programme from next week,” said Health Minister Said Namaki, quoted on his ministry’s website.

The vaccine, with the full name COVIran Barekat, was

developed by a powerful state-owned foundation known as Setad.

An official from the foundation told state news agency IRNA that production of the vaccine had started in early June, with “around three million doses” produced so far.

Iran has been devastated by the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 82,000 people with over three million infected, according to official figures widely seen as understating the toll.

Strangled by American sanctions that have made it difficult to make money transfers to foreign firms, Tehran says it is struggling to import vaccines for its 83 million population.

The health ministry says more than 4.3 million people have received a first vaccine dose since the campaign began in February, but fewer than a million have received the two jabs necessary to be fully inoculated. — AFP ■



A woman, mask-clad due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, browses a phone as she walks past a shop along a street in Iran’s capital Tehran on 8 November, 2020. **PHOTO: ATTA KENARE / AFP**

Take lessons from Lord Buddha's restoration of peace

THE wonderful definition of peace is of great importance across the world. It is the lifeblood of global peoples. The peace is concerned with all global people as well as all the ethnic nationals in Myanmar. It is because peace can transform the ugly pages of history into magnificent ones with compassion.

More than 2,600 years ago, a wonderful peacemaking process happened in the month of Nayon when the Lord Buddha negotiated the people from both sides in a conflict based on

The world's great peacemaker Lord Buddha had given an example of the best process of peacemaking. Hence, the global peoples, including those of Myanmar, should follow His peacemaking process to have the capability to restore perpetual peace.

of the government to restore perpetual peace. In fact, peace does not have any exemption. Everybody has the rights to enjoy the fruits of peace. The peace will give birth to safe and sound environs for the people. The peace does not feature any diversity, discrimination and instigation. So, all the people firmly believe the peaceful and prosperous future is waiting for us with unprecedented gifts.

The world's great peacemaker Lord Buddha had given an example of the best process of peacemaking. Hence, the global peoples, including those of Myanmar, should follow His peacemaking process to have the capability to restore perpetual peace.

■ ■ ■

the water sharing problem between Kapilavattu and Koliya city-states in India.

At that time, the world's great peacemaker Lord Buddha successfully negotiated those from both sides in equally sharing the water to their farmlands by calming down their anger.

Currently, all the global countries are facing at least one issue of problems. Most of these countries still try to cease conflicts and wars for restoring peace. Definitely, the global peoples aspire the peace for the creation of safe and sound lives in their societies.

Myanmar is striving for restoring perpetual peace by overcoming various challenges, but there remain many issues in the country before restoring the peace. Nonetheless, just holding the aspiration to restore the peace is the best for the country's future, similar to the gradual maturing of dawn.

Currently, we are in the stage of waiting for the gradual maturing of the dawn with harmonious heartbeats. The dawn will be matured in the future to become the warm ray from the sun which will fall on all the people. We should warmly welcome the efforts

Kyi Aung (Kaytu-mati), who gave birth to 'National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement'

By Maung Hlaing

စာပေသမားရဲ့ ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက် စာပေသမားရဲ့အလုပ်၊ စာလုပ်နိုင်ဖို့ တကုပ်ကုပ်စာရေးစာအတွေးနယ်ချဲ့ စာဖို့စာစီ စာပိုလျှင် ကျေနပ် ထမင်းငတ်ချင် ငတ်ပါစေပေါ့...

၂၀၁၀ ခုအနေ၊ ဘယ်အခြေရှိစေ ငါမသေသမျှ၊ ကလောင်မချူ။

ငါအသက်ရှင်နေသရွေ့ ငါပျော်မွေ့ရာ၊ စာဝင့်ကပါမှာ တစာစာဖတ်ရင်း၊ အခါခါမှတ်ရင်း ခပ်ပြင်းပြင်း အသက်ရှူပြီး စာမူရေးနိုင်ဖို့ အားထုတ်မယ်။ ။

This Myanmar poem was written by Kyi Aung (Kaytu-mati) in the 'Naing-Ngant Gon-Yi' Magazine of September 2005 issue. My literal translation of the poem is as follows: -

- Resolution of a literary man
- To be able to produce literature is a literary man's work
- Bashing away on writing and thinking
- Composing vivid literary work
- Makes me pleased
- No matter whether I'm starving or not...
- Whatever my life is like
- Never put the pen down till death.
- As long as I live...
- In the literary arena that I adore
- Devoting myself to reading and jottings
- With heavy breathing
- I'll spare no effort to write...

It was during the days of the late 1990s when I was attached to the Ministry of Information (MOD). In 1997, Maj-Gen Kyi Aung became the Minister for Information.

When I first saw him, what I noticed was his stern face. He used to speak to us sternly. I hardly saw even a smile on his face. No sooner had he arrived at the MOI than he began to form the DCRS (Data Collection & Recording Section), which was composed of reliable persons selected from Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), Printing and Publishing Enterprise (PPE) which is now Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) and News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE).

The DCRS had to collect

data that the Minister needed and compile (research) papers, speeches and other reading materials for him. In those days, the MOI was deeply engaged with the distribution of the books on the tasks carried out by the government (of SPDC: State Peace and Development Council). Books such as 'Nation-Building Endeavours' (Vol. 1,2,3, and 4) and other books on politics were published. When Maj-Gen Kyi Aung assumed charge of the duties of MOI, the Vol.3 of 'Nation-Building Endeavours' had already come out. Because of his ardent wish, Vol.3 was translated into English and successfully published.

Being the head of the section (DCRS), I had to participate in the E.C. meetings and other meetings with men of letters. In this way, I came to be on friendly terms with him.

I could remember that whenever he conducted the E.C. meetings where Directors-General and Managing Directors attended, he led them with his stern face. However, when he had to meet with men of letters, intellectuals and intelligentsia, the stern appearance disappeared from his face, and he was all smiles. It was because he was Kyi Aung (Kaytu-mati) who revered the literati.

Before he reached the MOI, the dailies printed in Yangon had to be sent to the Upper Myanmar points and their environs by air and by rail, many times causing delays in dispatch and distribution. Sometimes, the backlog at airport offices would pile up for a couple of days, causing inconvenience for both the paper's administrative offices and the newsagents who did the despatching on their behalf and the airway and railway staff concerned.

Under the guidance of the Head of State at that time and efforts made by Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and his colleagues, Myanmar dailies—'Myanma Alin and 'Kyay-mon'—could be printed in Mandalay and distributed to the townships in Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, Kachin State and Shan State (North)' with effect from 1 March 2001.

From that day onwards, newsagents in Mandalay no longer had to drive out to the

airport and back but easily collect them at 'sub-printing house', a location more suitable for the Upper Myanmar agents and subscribers. Moreover, for the convenience of the subscribers in the states and regions, arrangements were made for them to subscribe through the township offices of the Information and Public Relations Department on payment of an advance monthly subscription fee. Compared to these days, it was a breakthrough in distributing the dailies over two decades ago.

Sarpay Beikman had only a single Public Library at the building on Merchant Street in Yangon in those days. It already gained momentum in having a large number of book-lovers using its services. Maj-Gen Kyi Aung wanted it to be digitalized and drove us relentlessly to open another Sarpay Beikman Public Library in Mandalay.

Because of his driving force,



Maj-Gen Kyi Aung seen inspecting Sarpay Beikman Book shop.

a prominent writer from Myanmar was offered to receive the 'South East Asian Writers Award' (which is popularly known as 'S.E.A. WRITE AWARD' among the nations of South-East Asia. The award, indeed, is organized by Thailand, a member country of the ASEAN. The first and foremost person selected as the recipient of the award was Sayagyi U Kyi Aye (Sinbyu-Kyun Aung Thein) in 1998.

Later, U Kyaw Aung (Kyaw Aung), Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Hnyin) and U Tin Maung (Tekkatho Htin Gyi) were also selected to receive the award in three consecutive years of 1999, 2000 and 2001.

In 2002, Sayagyi U Hla

such Public Library was successfully opened at the Yadanabon Market Building in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 22 March 2001. Sadly, the library was lost in the fire that broke out on 25 February 2008. Although books, including rare ones, were gutted by fire, the branch of Sarpay Beikman Library could be reopened at the Regional Information and Public Relations Department Office in Aungmyaythazan Township on 3 June 2008.

In his time as the Minister for MOI, Maj-Gen Kyi Aung could set another significant milestone in the history of literary awards in Myanmar. He created the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement. In the year 1997, when Maj-Gen Kyi Aung became Minister for MOI, Myanmar became a member country of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

To honour the membership,

the men of letters such as Maung Hsu Shin, U Thaw Kaung, Dr Kyaw Sein, U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung decided to create a lifetime literary award, taking the example of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Manuscript Award. (At that time, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Manuscript Award had emerged. Since its emergence, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary Award has been introduced to the literati.)

To put it in a nutshell, because of the efforts made by Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, or Kyi Aung (Kaytu-mati) and literary scholars, the dream of Lifetime Literary Award was about to come true. Although Maj-Gen Kyi Aung was transferred to the Ministry of Culture on 13 September 2002, the first and foremost 'National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement' was presented to Saya Paragu at the award-presentation ceremony of National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, the National Literary Awards and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2001, held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, Yangon on 6 December 2002. (According to the literary award scrutinizing procedures, though Saya Paragu was named in 2002, his selection was designated as 'for 2001'.)

From 2002 onwards, 31 writers and scholars have been awarded. Kyi Aung (Kaytu-mati), or Thiripyanchi Maj-Gen Kyi Aung (Retd.), was born of U Kyaw Hsin and Daw Ma Ma Gyi on 31 January 1941 in Thauungyi Village in Myaung Township, Sagaing Region. As he was born on Friday, he was called Maung Than Htay in his childhood days.

He was sent to Thauungyi Primary School for his primary education. He passed the matriculation examination from Myinmu State High School (Now B.E.H.S.) in 1958.

He continued his education at Mandalay University in the 1958-59 academic year and obtained a B.A. Degree in 1964. At the age of 17, he started writing short stories in the Myinmu SHS Magazine in 1958.

In 1964, he attended the Officer Training School (OTS) and was commissioned in the army in 1965. In the Tatmadaw, he rose in



Kyi Aung (Kaytu-mati) seen after taking his retirement

ranks from platoon commander to command commander.

In 1997, he became Minister for Information and Minister for Culture in 2003. He resigned from office of his own accord in 2006. The State conferred 'Thiripyanchi' on him, and he obtained other military decorations.

While he was serving as Minister, he wrote poems and articles on 'Dhammapuja-Verse' under the pen-names of Kyi Aung (Kaytu-mati) and Ngwe Thawdar. His other pen-name was Einda Swe, and his masterpiece was 'Maha-Wuntha Myat Buddha' (first part and second part) broadcast on MRTV on religiously significant days.

Kyi Aung (Kaytu-mati), who gave birth to 'National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement', has earned his eternal rest of peace since 9 May 2021.

Whenever there is news of the demise of any person we love, we usually send our sympathy to the bereaved. We mourn the passing of a loved one or one with whom we have worked together.

We usually talk a lot about the one who has left us and what he or she has done in a lifetime. Be the demised person of low or high station in life, and if one had devoted his life to duty, one is remembered and missed.

May Kyi Aung (Kaytu-mati) rest in peace!

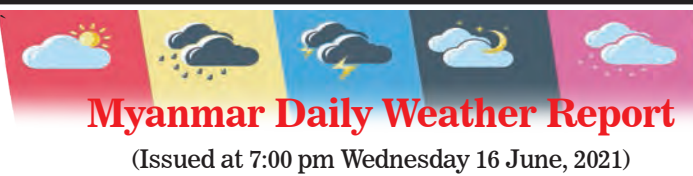
Reference :

1. ကြည်အောင် (ကေတုမတီ) နိုင်ငံ့ဂုဏ်ရည် ကဗျာများ၊ နိုင်ငံ့ဂုဏ်ရည် စာပေတိုက်၊ ၂၀၁၅
2. The Birth of 'National Lifetime, Award for Literary Achievement' (The Global New Light of Myanmar, 16-3-2021)

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Khin Thida as Rector of the University of West Yangon of the Higher Education Department under the Ministry of Education from yesterday.



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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 17 June, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Rakhine Coastal areas. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 June, 2021:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 June, 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay and NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%)

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ကို ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

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Taj Mahal reopens as India eases pandemic restrictions



The Taj Mahal has reopened to visitors as India loosened restrictions following an easing of the country's coronavirus surge. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Taj Mahal reopened to visitors Wednesday, as Indian authorities loosened restrictions following an easing in the country's devastating recent corona-

virus surge.

Infections and deaths soared to record levels in April and May, overwhelming health services in some places and

prompting lockdowns and other curbs.

Cases have declined in recent weeks, with several major cities including New Delhi and

Mumbai easing many restrictions.

In Agra, where the Taj Mahal is located, tourist guides and shopkeepers were upbeat as India's top tourist attraction sprung back to life Wednesday.

The 17th-century monument of love built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan was shut in March last year, reopened in September and closed again in April.

Crowds were thin on the first day of the reopening, with authorities restricting visitor numbers to 650 per day.

Covid-19 precautions meant visitors were not allowed to touch the shining marble mausoleum, but those making the pilgrimage to one of the New Seven Wonders of the World were still delighted.

"I am very glad I got to see it, it is amazing," gushed Brazilian visitor Melissa Dalla Rosa, 40. — AFP ■

Singapore exchange aims to boost tainted carbon markets

A financial exchange offering carbon credits and investments in conservation projects is set to launch in Singapore, but it may struggle to convince sceptics of the value of controversial carbon offsets.

Climate Impact X (CIX), backed by the Singapore stock exchange, the city-state's main investment fund and biggest bank, aims to help the growing number of firms seeking to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

From oil majors to tech giants and airlines, companies are lining up to make net-zero pledges, but face challenges to hit their targets.

Firms sometimes turn to

buying "carbon credits" — which allow them to keep polluting in exchange for reductions made elsewhere or investing in projects like protecting rainforests — to offset emissions.

But such methods are controversial as environmentalists accuse big business of paying for a quick fix rather than seeking to truly overhaul their operations, while some botched offset projects have failed to deliver.

Nevertheless demand for offsets is skyrocketing, leading to greater efforts to boost carbon markets — and fix their poor reputation.

CIX, which is expected to



Climate Impact X, backed by the Singapore stock exchange, aims to help the growing number of firms seeking to cut greenhouse gas emissions. **PHOTO: AFP**

launch by the end of the year, joins a small number of such

exchanges that have sprung up in recent times. — AFP ■

EU approves return of travellers from US and 7 other countries

EUROPEAN Union member states have agreed to lift coronavirus travel restrictions on travellers from eight countries and territories including the United States, officials and diplomats said Wednesday.

The white list of countries and regions exempted from the travel ban will be expanded to include Albania, North Macedonia, Serbia, Lebanon, the United States, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong, they said.

EU member states can still choose to require travellers from these areas to undergo Covid-19 testing or to observe periods in quarantine, but once the new list



A passenger wears a face mask at the Helsinki-Vantaa airport in Vantaa, Finland on 13 July, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

is approved the recommendation is that they should be exempted from a blanket travel ban.

Because of the pandemic, the EU closed its external borders in March 2020 for non-es-

sential travel, and for the past year has drawn up a regularly updated list of non-member states whose residents are allowed to travel to Europe.

Japan, Australia, Israel, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand were already on the approved list.

Countries can be included if they have recorded fewer than 75 cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 inhabitants over the past 14 days. In the United States this rate is 73.9, according to figures from the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC). — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

All EU countries can tackle Facebook on privacy, region's top court rules

ANY country in the EU can press Facebook and other online companies on the bloc's data privacy rules, not just the one where the firm is registered, Europe's top court ruled on Tuesday.

Such legal action, however, can only happen "under certain conditions" the European Court of Justice (ECJ) said, under a general "one-stop shop" principle which gives prime responsibility in such matters to data supervisory authorities in the registering member state.

The ruling shot down a challenge from Facebook in a case dating back to 2015, in which a Belgian court took up a data-protection issue against the US internet giant.

Facebook had argued the case should only be decided in Ireland, where its EU operations are based. — AFP ■

Centuries-old shipwrecks found off Singapore

TWO centuries-old shipwrecks packed with ceramics and other artefacts have been found off Singapore in a rare discovery that will shed light on the city-state's maritime heritage, archaeologists said Wednesday.

The prosperous island nation has long been a key trading hub on global shipping routes connecting the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea.

The wrecks were found off Pedra Branca, a rocky outcrop east of Singapore, according to the National Heritage Board and think tank the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, which worked together on the project.

The first wreck, discovered after divers accidentally came across ceramic plates in 2015, was carrying Chinese ceramics that possibly date back to the 14th century, when Singapore was known as Temasek. — AFP ■

‘No time to waste’ warns Japan climate activist



Japan’s Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced a new 2050 carbon neutral deadline last year. **PHOTO: KYODO**

KIMIKO Hirata has spent nearly half her life fighting to wean Japan off its dependence on coal, and now isn’t the time to slow down, the award-winning activist warns.

“I’m hopeful, but we have no time to waste,” said Hirata, the international director of

Japan’s Kiko Network NGO. “Our future will be gone if we don’t act now,” she told AFP.

It’s a message that Hirata, 50, has long worked to drive home in the world’s third-largest economy, which upped its reliance on coal after the 2011 Fukushima disaster took its nuclear plants offline.

On Tuesday, the soft-spoken activist was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize for her work, particularly on blocking new coal-fired power plants in Japan.

The country’s 140 coal plants generate nearly a third of its electricity, second only to liquid natural gas-fired plants.

A signatory to the Paris climate deal, Japan was the

sixth-biggest contributor to global greenhouse emissions in 2017, and last year the government set a new 2050 goal for carbon neutrality.

That significantly firmed up Tokyo’s climate commitments and was a “major step forward,” Hirata said.

It comes after years of efforts by the Kiko Network — kiko is Japanese for climate.

The Goldman prize awarders said the Kiko Network’s “sophisticated, multi-pronged, national anti-coal campaign”, launched in 2011, helped block a third of 50 new coal projects.

The work Hirata spearheaded prevented “the emission of 42 million tonnes of CO2 per year,” they added. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil to deploy police to protect Yanomami from miners

BRAZIL said Monday it would deploy a special security force to protect the Yanomami indigenous reservation, whose residents have clashed recently with illegal miners encroaching on native lands in the Amazon rainforest.

The measure comes after Brazil’s Supreme Court last month ordered far-right President Jair Bolsonaro’s government to adopt “necessary measures” to protect the Yanomami and Mundurucu peoples’ reservations from wildcat gold miners.

Justice Minister Anderson Torres gave a federal force of police and firefighters a 90-day renewable mandate to “preserve the public order” on Yanomami lands.

The government did not say how big the force would be. The Yanomami reservation, Brazil’s biggest, spans 96,000 square kilometres (37,000 square miles) in the northern states of Amazonas and Roraima. It is home to around 27,000 people.

Thousands of miners, often linked to organized crime, have invaded the reservation in recent years, sometimes resulting in violence. — AFP ■

Nuclear reactor problem a new headache for designer and China

THE emergence of problems in a new-generation nuclear reactor in China threatens to undermine efforts by its French designer to sell it elsewhere, and could hurt Beijing’s nuclear industry, analysts said.

French energy giant EDF and the Chinese government have sought to ease concerns about a gas build-up at the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant after a CNN report of a potential leak at the site. The Chinese foreign ministry said Tuesday that radiation levels remained normal at the site in southern Guangdong province and there were no safety concerns. But it is the latest snag to hit EDF’s much-vaunted EPR reactor.

The Taishan power station became in 2018 the first site worldwide to use the pressurised water design, which has been subject to years of delays in similar projects in Britain, France and Finland.

A second EPR reactor was launched at Taishan a year later. The facility is partly owned by EDF along with state-owned China General Nuclear Power Group, the majority stakeholder and operator of the plant. — AFP ■

Cuba to host int’l environment convention in July

THE 13th edition of Cuba’s International Convention on Environment and Development will take place virtually on July 6-9 for the first time, a senior official told a press conference Tuesday.

Maritza Garcia, president of the island’s Environment Agency, said that researchers from Cuba, the United States, Mexico, Italy and Germany, among other countries, had already confirmed their participation in the event.

“We will promote cooperation between countries in the fields of science, sustainable economic growth, social development, and human dignity,” she said.

Celso Pazos, the director general of Havana’s National Institute of Meteorology, told Xinhua that

the island will present new predictions for climate scenarios on the island from 2050 to 2100, which will contribute to updating data related to coastal floods across the country. “It is very important to asses climate change impact on different sectors of society, ranging from agriculture to public health,” he said. At present, Cuba continues to work on the implementation of Tarea Vida (Life Task), a governmental program aimed at ameliorating climate change impact on coastal areas vulnerable to the rise of sea levels in the coming decades.

Additionally, scientific authorities on the island have given priority to restoration of ecosystems, reforestation in rural and urban areas as well as protection of biodiversity in reserves. — Xinhua ■

China ready to launch first crew to new space station

THE first crew for China’s new space station prepared to blast off this week for the latest step in Beijing’s ambitious programme to establish itself as a space power.

The mission is China’s first crewed spaceflight in nearly five years, and a matter of prestige for the government as it prepares to mark the 100th birthday of the ruling Communist Party on July 1 with a propaganda blitz.

A Long March-2F rocket carrying three astronauts in the Shenzhou-12 spacecraft is slated to lift off from a base in northwest China’s Gobi desert on Thursday, according to experts with knowledge of the matter.

They plan to spend three months on the Tiangong station, China’s longest crewed space mission to date, with spacewalks among their tasks.



The rocket that will send the first crew members to live on China’s new orbiting space station has been moved onto the launch pad ahead of its planned blastoff. **PHOTO: XINHUA / FILE**

The astronauts will aim to “get their new home in space kitted out and ready to use,” said Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

“It’s a practical goal rather

than a groundbreaking one.”

The Long March rocket, with the Shenzhou craft attached, was moved to the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre last week, according to the Chinese space agency. — AFP ■

UK unemployment dips as economy reopens

BRITAIN’S unemployment rate dipped to 4.7 per cent in the three months to the end of April as the UK economy began to emerge from its lockdown, official data showed on Tuesday.

Unemployment eased from a rate of 4.8 per cent in the first quarter, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

The jobs market is being helped also by the government’s furlough scheme paying the bulk of wages for millions of private-sector workers.



Pedestrians walk past shops in Hounslow, west London. The UK reopened non-essential retail, including restaurants and bars, in April, allowing the wider British economy to recover further from pandemic fallout. PHOTO: AFP

In May, “the number of employees on payroll grew strongly... up by almost 200,000, although it is still over half a million down since the pandemic struck”, noted Sam Beckett, ONS head of economic statistics.

Data showed more employers were seeking to hire, with strong growth in job offers in sectors such as hospitality as coronavirus lockdown measures began to be eased.

The UK reopened non-essential retail, including restaurants and

bars, in April, allowing the wider British economy to recover further from pandemic fallout.

However, on Monday, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a four-week delay to the full lifting of coronavirus restrictions in England owing to a surge in infections caused by the Delta variant. The delay comes as a blow to Johnson’s plans to fully reopen the UK economy on June 21 after months of gradually easing restrictions since March. — AFP ■

Covid, conflict and debt hinder Ethiopia’s economic reforms

SHORTLY after taking office, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed promised a spectacular overhaul of Ethiopia’s tightly-controlled economy: reforms to spur growth, unshackle the country’s potential, and lift millions out of poverty.

But three years on, with elections on 21 June, Abiy’s agenda remains

largely unrealized, and the country burdened with debt, the economic pain of the coronavirus, and a costly war in Tigray. “Things are worse now... The country is broke and on the verge of defaulting,” said one European diplomat, who asked not to be named.

One of Africa’s fast-

est-growing economies, Ethiopia took massive loans to fund some of its flashiest infrastructure projects, including a modern railway from Addis Ababa to Djibouti. But paying back its external debt — some \$30 billion (25 billion euros), mostly to China — has proven difficult.. —AFP ■



Stewardesses aboard a train on Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway, one of the major infrastructure projects which Ethiopia borrowed heavily to fund. PHOTO: AFP

Jobs fears as Italy eyes end to Covid ban on layoffs

TRADE unions warn about a “social tsunami”, left-wing parties of a “massacre for employment” -- the imminent end of Italy’s coronavirus freeze on layoffs is causing tensions in Mario Draghi’s national unity government.

Supporters say the freeze, which is unique in Europe, saved thousands of jobs after the pandemic plunged Italy into deep recession -- but the European Union has been disparaging, and employers are angling for its end.

Companies were first banned from sacking workers under former premier Giuseppe Conte in February 2020, when a wave of Covid-19 sparked Europe’s first



Coronavirus cases are now on the wane and Italy’s lay-off ban is due to expire at the end of June for the biggest companies. PHOTO: AFP

nationwide lockdown in Italy. The measure was later extended.

When Draghi took office in February this year, he said the government “should protect workers... but it would be a mistake to protect all economic activities equally”, saying there must be a “choice”.

The European Commission entered the fray this month, denouncing the ban on layoffs as “counterproductive” as it protects employees on long-term contracts but not those in more precarious jobs, notably women and young people. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V DA PING VOY.NO. (060N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DA PING VOY. NO. (060N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2021** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V OSLO TRADER VOY.NO. (123W/125N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OSLO TRADER VOY.NO. (123W/125N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0236-687N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0236-687N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S’PORE) PTE., LTD.

US restaurants struggle with surge of diners: survey



A waitress takes customers' orders in the outdoor seating area of a restaurant in Los Angeles on 28 Jan, 2021. **PHOTO: VALERIE MACON / AFP**

AMERICANS are dining out in record numbers as pandemic restrictions lift, with restaurants struggling to keep up with demand amid a labour shortage, data released by review site Yelp showed Tuesday.

Yelp data showed more than 3.7 million diners seated using its app in May 2021, the highest number ever, surpassing pre-pandemic highs, according to Yelp restaurant marketplace manager Devon Wright.

The number of diners was 48 percent higher than in May 2019, according to the data.

The surge comes with a growing number of Americans having been vaccinated, and local governments gradually lifting mask mandates and limits on indoor dining.

"As diners head back into restaurants, new restaurant and food businesses are opening at near pre-pandemic levels," Wright said in a blog post.

"Nearly 6,600 new restaurant and food businesses opened in May 2021, a 42 per cent increase from May 2020 and down by only 21 per cent from May 2019."

Yelp also counted 16,500 reopenings in April 2021, with that number dipping to 5,000 in May. — AFP ■

'Computer issue' grounds Southwest Airlines in US: regulator

US carrier Southwest Airlines grounded its flights on Tuesday due to a problem with its reservation system, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

"The FAA issued a temporary nationwide ground stop at the request of Southwest Airlines while the company resolved a reservation computer issue," the regulator said on Twitter.

The problem is the second in a 24-hour stretch for the domestic-focused carrier, which delayed more than 1,400 flights across the United States on Monday due to problem with a third-party weather data provider.

At 1950 GMT, Southwest said on Twitter it was ramping back up after the outage.

"Southwest is in the process of resuming normal operations after a brief pause in our flight activity resulting from intermittent performance issues with our network connectivity Tuesday afternoon," a company spokesman said in an email to AFP.— AFP ■

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE
EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDER IN US DOLLARS PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDERS SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) DATE & TIME

(B) PLACE

2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMAR TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.mte.com.mm)

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(29-6-2021) (09:00) AM

EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT
YANGON/EX-SITE (TEAK/HARD WOOD LOGS)
TEAK LOGS ABOUT (362) TONS
- THIRD QUALITY & UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (173) CBT (245) CBM
- HARD WOOD LOGS
PYINKADO/KANYIN ABOUT (3500) TONS
- IN/KANYIN LOGS
ABOUT (11928) TONS
WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT
- THIRD QUALITY & UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (83) CBT (117) CBM
- TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON

OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

MITSUBISHI ASIAN CHILDREN'S ENIKKI FESTA (2019-2020)

MG NYAN WINT AUNG (GRAND PRIX WINNER)
GRADE-5, NO.1 BASIC EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL, HPA-AN, KAYIN STATE

MG HTUT KHUNG HEIN (AFUCA AWARD)
GRADE-5, NO.5 BASIC EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL, MYEIK, TANINTHARYI DIVISION

MA SU PYAE SONE (NFUAJ AWARD)
GRADE-7, PHOO PRIVATE SCHOOL, KYAIKTO, MON STATE

MA MAY MYAT THU (MITSUBISHI PAC AWARD)
GRADE-5, PRACTISING MIDDLE SCHOOL, TAUNGGYI, SHAN STATE(EAST)

MA WUTT HMONE PHYU (EXCELLENCE AWARD)
GRADE-5, NO.18 BASIC EDUCATION PRIMARY SCHOOL, TAMWE, YANGON DIVISION

MG HEIN SI THU (EXCELLENCE AWARD)
GRADE-5, BASIC EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL(BRANCH), NAN TAW KONE, MINBU, MAGWAY DIVISION

MA YADANA PHYU (EXCELLENCE AWARD)
GRADE-5, NO.7 BASIC EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL, KYAING TONG, SHAN STATE (EAST)

MA CHUE CHUE ZIN THU (EXCELLENCE AWARD)
GRADE-5, BASIC EDUCATION PRIMARY SCHOOL, KANNAR, ZALUN, AYEYARWADY DIVISION

Republicans introduce bill to fire Fauci, face of US Covid response

SEVERAL Republican lawmakers, eager to blame a US government official for the response to the coronavirus pandemic, introduced a bill Tuesday to fire Anthony Fauci, the face of American efforts to combat Covid-19.

Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene led a handful of colleagues in announcing the so-called Fire Fauci Act, which would reduce the famed infectious disease expert's government salary to zero and require the Senate to confirm someone to fill his position.

Fauci, who has advised seven US presidents, had become a trusted figure in the government's Covid-19 response, beginning with his work during Donald Trump's administration.

But conservatives have taken aim at his performance,



US Republicans including congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene (2ndL) introduced a measure that would remove pandemic expert Anthony Fauci from his government job. **PHOTO: AFP**

accusing him of misleading Americans and providing contradictory advice on masks and social distancing.

"Dr Fauci was not elected by the American people. He was not chosen to guide our economy.

He was not chosen to rule over parents and their children's education," Greene told reporters. — AFP ■

Third Mexican student's remains identified from missing 43

FORENSIC experts have identified the remains of a third Mexican student from among the 43 whose murky disappearance in 2014 shocked the country, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Investigators sent bone fragments found in the southern state of Guerrero, where the teaching students went missing, to Austria for genetic analysis by the University of Innsbruck.

A set of remains was identified as those of Jhosivani Guerrero de la Cruz, said Omar Gomez, head of a special investigation unit dealing with the case.

The university's experts have already identified the remains of two other students, Christian Alfonso Rodriguez Telumbre and Alexander Mora Venancio.

The students had commandeered five buses to travel to a demonstration, but were stopped by corrupt police in the city of Iguala and handed over to a drug cartel.

Prosecutors initially said the cartel mistook the students for members of a rival gang and killed them before incinerating their bodies at a garbage dump and tossing the remains in a ravine.

But an official report presented in January 2015 by the government of then president Enrique Pena Nieto was rejected by relatives as well as independent experts from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Gomez said that Guerrero's vertebra did not show signs of having been highly exposed to fire. — AFP ■

South Korea failing to tackle widespread digital sex crimes: HRW



Young women in South Korea are fighting for a new future. The MeToo movement which has highlighted sexual harassment and abuse around the world has taken a surprising hold in this socially conservative country. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOUTH Korean authorities are failing to properly tackle the country's widespread digital sex crimes against women, which have a devastating impact on victims, a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report said Wednesday.

South Korea is the world's 12th largest economy and a leading technological power, but remains a male-dominated society with a poor record on women's rights.

Digital sex crimes, or the sharing of intimate pictures or video without permission, are a massive problem in the country, where "molka" or spycam videos secretly filmed in public places are common, as is "revenge porn" — private sex videos filmed or shared non-consensually by disgruntled exes.

South Korean officials "in the criminal legal system — most of whom are men — often seem to simply not understand, or not accept, that these are very serious crimes," said HRW's Heather Barr, the report author.

In 2019, almost 45 per cent of sexual digital crime cases were dropped by the country's prosecution, compared with 19 per cent of robbery cases and 27.7 per cent of homicides, the report said.

Even when there were convictions, it found almost 80 per cent of perpetrators received just "a suspended sentence, a fine, or a combination of the two" last year.

"Digital sex crimes have become so common, and so feared... they are affecting the quality of life of all women and girls," Barr said. — AFP ■



In this photo taken on 4 March 2015, a relative of missing Mexican student Jhosivani Guerrero de la Cruz holds his portrait during a march in Acapulco, Guerrero State, Mexico on 16 June 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysian court to rule on challenge by French-Irish teen's family

A Malaysian court will rule Wednesday on a challenge by the family of a French-Irish teenager over an inquest verdict that she died by misadventure after vanishing in the jungle.

The body of Nora Quoirin, a 15-year-old with learning difficulties, was discovered after a huge hunt through the rainforest following her disappearance from a resort outside Kuala Lumpur in 2019. In January, a coroner handed down a ruling of misadventure, indicating her death during the family holiday was accidental rather than a crime, and said no one else was involved.

But her London-based parents, who have dismissed authorities' claims their daughter wandered into the jungle alone at night, and believe she was abducted, said they were "utterly disappointed" by the verdict.

They lodged a challenge and are seeking to have the ruling revised to an open verdict -- suggesting there are still questions to be answered about the case. — AFP ■

Peru nervously awaits outcome nine days after presidential vote

Peru's leftist presidential hopeful Pedro Castillo sought Tuesday to defend his narrow lead in the elections that his rightwing rival Keiko Fujimori is disputing as she fights to avoid an imminent corruption trial.

Castillo, who has rejected calls for the deeply divisive June 6 vote to be annulled, held a rally in Lima Tuesday night where he called on the country's election jury to "once and for all, stop dragging on and keeping the Peruvian people in anxiety, and to respect the popular will of this country."

"Today begins the real battle to end the great inequalities that the country has," the candidate told thousands of supporters from the balcony of his party headquarters. — AFP ■

Biden to confront Putin in tense Geneva summit

PRESIDENT Joe Biden will draw “red lines” for President Vladimir Putin at a tense Geneva summit on Wednesday, where ghosts of the Cold War will hover over modern-day US concerns that Russia has become a rogue, authoritarian state.

President Joe Biden will draw “red lines” for President Vladimir Putin at a tense Geneva summit on Wednesday, where ghosts of the Cold War will hover over modern-day US concerns that Russia has become a rogue, authoritarian state.

The setting -- a sumptuous villa overlooking Lake Geneva -- may be picturesque, but a grueling diplomatic face-off awaits.

Up to five hours of talks are planned, starting at around 1:00 pm (1100 GMT), with no break for meals. Putin is due to arrive first, then Biden, with Swiss President Guy Parmelin acting as host.

Asked if the two leaders might share food together, a staple gesture of goodwill in summit diplomacy, a senior US official said no.

“There will be no breaking



Geneva is laying on a vast security operation for the Biden-Putin summit, with 4,000 personnel deployed **PHOTO:AFP**

of bread,” he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The choice of Geneva, following long US-Russian negotiations, recalls the Cold War summit between US president Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the Swiss city in 1985.

This time, tensions are less about strategic nuclear weapons and competing ideologies than

what the Biden administration sees as an increasingly hostile, rule-breaking regime.

From cyber attacks on American entities and meddling in the last two US presidential elections, to human rights violations and aggression against Ukraine and other European countries, Washington’s list of allegations against the Kremlin runs long. — AFP ■

Iran to elect president amid nuclear talks, sanctions pain



Iranians waving national flags drive past an electoral banner showcasing Iran’s ultraconservative candidate Ebrahim Raisi during a street rally in the capital Tehran on June 15, 2021 **PHOTO:AFP**

IRANIAN voters are to elect a new president Friday, with the ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi expected to replace the moderate Hassan Rouhani after a host of candidates were disqualified.

The vote comes at a time when the recession-hit country is in talks with world powers to

revive a battered 2015 nuclear deal and eager to end a punishing US sanctions regime.

Buzz has been minimal in Tehran, where campaign posters are sparse, as observers expect no major surprises and countrywide turnout is predicted to hit a new low among an electorate exhausted by social

and economic crisis.

Ultimate power in Iran since the 1979 revolution lies with the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but the president has significant influence on issues from industrial policy to foreign affairs.

The landmark achievement of Rouhani’s two consecutive four-year terms, the maximum allowed, was the accord under which Tehran accepted limits on its nuclear programme in return for relief from international sanctions.

But hopes that Iran would reap the benefits were dashed three years ago when then-US president Donald Trump ripped up the deal and launched a “maximum pressure” campaign to diplomatically and economically isolate it.

The country of 83 million, blocked by the US from selling its oil to and trading with much of the world, was plunged into recession while Rouhani and his camp were harshly criticised by ultraconservatives for having trusted the West. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car bomb attack at Colombian military base wounds 36

A car bomb blast inside an army base in the Colombian city of Cucuta wounded 36 people Tuesday, officials said, blaming the attack to ELN guerillas.

The initial theory is that members of the National Liberation Army (ELN), the country’s last recognized guerrilla group, were behind the attack, Defence minister Diego Molano said, as he condemned the “terrorist act”.

Involvement of FARC guerrillas that refused to sign a 2016 peace agreement with the government is also “a matter of investigation,” the minister added.

Unknown people posing as public officials drove into the base on board a white Toyota van Tuesday afternoon, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

They then set off two explosions in the vehicle.

Colombian President Ivan Duque tweeted that he traveled to the scene of the blast “to directly supervise the situation.”

In 2019, Duque broke off negotiations ELN following a car bomb attack on a cadet school in southern Bogota that killed 22 students.

The various armed groups battle for control of 41,000 hectares of coca leaf in the region, as well as control of an important smuggling route to Venezuela and the Caribbean. — AFP ■

‘With masters defeated, the slaves can’t fight’: Taliban eye victory after US exit

WITH Afghan troops in retreat and soon to lose vital American air support, Taliban commanders are voicing exuberance about quickly seizing full control of the country and re-establishing their version of an Islamic state.

Unprecedented peace talks between the insurgents and Afghan government continue to flutter, and as violence rages across Afghanistan, militants claim to have taken nearly 30 districts since the US began its final troop withdrawal in early May.

With supply lines stretched, Afghan forces have been clobbered by Taliban fighters in recent weeks, forcing the country’s military leaders to strategically retreat from a number of

rural districts.

“The arrogant Americans thought they could wipe the Taliban from the face of the earth,” said Mullah Misbah, an insurgent commander in violence-wracked Ghazni province, during a recent interview with AFP.

“But the Taliban defeated the Americans and their allies, and, God willing, an Islamic regime will be established in Afghanistan now that they are leaving.”

In recent weeks, the Taliban have taken two districts in Ghazni, a key province straddling the highway connecting the capital with the former insurgent stronghold of Kandahar to the south. — AFP ■



Afghan forces have been battered in recent weeks and the Taliban are confident they will quickly seize control of the entire country after the US began a troop withdrawal in May **PHOTO:AFP**

Myanmar team advance to third round Asian Qualifiers as new format set

WITH the new format of the 2023 Asian Cup Third Round Qualifiers, the Myanmar team will advance to the third round of the Asian Qualifiers without having to play in the playoffs, according to the Asian Football Federation source.

Myanmar will fight for the playoff matches with the previous or old format to qualify for

the third round Asian Qualifiers. Team Myanmar stood at the bottom of Group F after the second round matches.

However, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced a new format for the AFC Asian Cup on 16 June, with 22 teams qualifying for the third round and only two places to play in the playoffs.

The new format allows all eight fourth-place teams to advance to the third round, with the top three bottom teams entering the next stage, and thus only four teams remain to play in the playoffs. As a result, the Myanmar team, which is at the bottom of Group F after the second round matches, is in the top three teams in the fifth or bottom place and

will compete directly in the third round qualifiers of the Asian Cup.

The top three teams among the bottom-placed sitters are Myanmar, Yemen and Bangladesh, and the teams will qualify for the third round of the Asian Cup directly.

The 5th to 7th place teams in the bottom positions are Indonesia, Cambodia, China Taipei

and Guam, and they will fight for the playoffs again, with the two winning teams advancing to the third round.

Playoffs will be played on 7 September and 12 October. Twenty-four teams will play the third round of the Asian Cup, and the fixtures and venues will be announced soon. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Manchester City begin their defence of the Premier League away to Tottenham. **PHOTO: PETER POWELL/POOL/AFP**

Man City to visit Spurs in Premier League opener

PREMIER League champions Manchester City will start the defence of their title away to Tottenham after the fixtures for the 2021-22 season were unveiled on Wednesday.

City are among the sides heavily linked with Spurs striker Harry Kane, throwing up the tantalizing possibility that the England captain could line up against his boyhood club on the opening weekend.

Pep Guardiola's side won

the league by 12 points last season ahead of rivals Manchester United, who open their campaign against old foes Leeds at Old Trafford.

Both clashes were played behind closed doors on Leeds' return to the top flight last season, but hopes are high for significant crowd numbers for the coming season.

A 40,000 crowd will witness the Euro 2020 semi-finals and final at Wembley in July as part of

a UK government pilot scheme.

Elsewhere on the weekend of August 14, new boys Brentford begin life back in the top flight for the first time in 75 years with a London derby at home to Arsenal, while Championship winners Norwich entertain Liverpool on their return to the Premier League.

Champions League winners Chelsea welcome managerless Crystal Palace to Stamford Bridge. — AFP ■

Germany must 'crank it up' against Portugal, says Loew

GERMANY head coach Joachim Loew says his side must "crank things up" ahead of Saturday's Euro 2020 clash against Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal after an opening defeat against France.

The Germans lost 1-0 to the world champions in their Group F opener in Munich on Tuesday, courtesy of a Mats Hummels own goal.

The scoreline flattered the home side as Kylian Mbappe and Karim Benzema had second-half goals disallowed, while Adrien Rabiot hit the post for the French. Germany's defence showed signs of improvement, having leaked 20 goals in their previous 13 games, but the main concern is up front, where Thomas Muller, Serge Gnabry and Kai Havertz mustered just one shot between them.

"It's up to us to crank things up in the next two or three days," said Loew. "We have to look to improve, because we need a goal or two."

Hummels said on Instagram the defeat "hurts us a lot

and me especially, because my own goal decided the game," but the centre-back said the focus was now on beating holders Portugal in Munich.

Despite having more possession, running four kilometres more than the French as a team and completing nearly twice as many passes, Germany came up short. The second-half introduction of Timo Werner and Leroy Sane was not enough to turn the tide.

"The substitutes didn't get into the game as well as we had hoped," said Loew. "But France are strong. They sat very deep after the lead and didn't give us much space."

Midfielder Ilkay Gundogan, Manchester City's top-scorer last season, said it was important for Germany to create more chances against Portugal, who won their opener against Hungary 3-0.

There is talk of the Germans abandoning their three-man defence, with two wing-backs, in favour of a back four to push forward with an extra player in midfield. — AFP ■

Scotland's Tierney in contention to face England at Euro 2020

SCOTLAND'S hopes of having Kieran Tierney fit in time to face England in their crunch Euro 2020 clash on Friday have been boosted after the Arsenal defender returned to training. Tierney was badly missed as Scotland lost 2-0 to the Czech Republic on Monday in their first match at a major tournament for 23 years.

Scotland boss Steve Clarke described the 24-year-old's injury as a "little niggle" ahead of the game against the Czechs at Hampden. He was back on the training ground at Scotland's base in northeast England on Tuesday.

"He did a little bit of light training and we will just see how he progresses. He's got a chance," said Clarke. Getting Tierney back will be vital if the Scots are to have any chance of upsetting the

odds at Wembley. Without him, Clarke is devoid of top-quality centre-backs for his preferred 3-5-2 system, which was exposed in a desperately disappointing start to their Euro campaign. However, the former Kilmarnock and West Brom manager was keen to stress that all is not lost in Scotland's quest to qualify from the group stage for the first time at a major tournament.

"The players are fine, completely relaxed and know what they have to do," he said. "We need to get the points required to get out of the group and we still have the chance to do that. "All the doom and gloom that followed the result — not the performance, the result — should be put to one side. My job is to analyze the performance and unfortunately most people just look at the result. — AFP ■



Germany forward Thomas Mueller shows his frustration in Tuesday's defeat to France. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**