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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing plants star-flower sapling at monsoon tree-growing ceremony as environmental green activity in 2021



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing seen watering a star-flower sapling at the rainy season tree planting ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 June 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the 2021 environmental greening activity at No 17 block in Pozaungtaung forest reserve beside No 1 road in Nay Pyi Taw-Tatkon in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Senior General planted a star-flower sapling at the designated place.

SAC Members and the Joint-Secretary, Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers and officials also grew saplings at the designated places.

The Senior General viewed cultivation of saplings at No 17

block in the forest reserve.

A total of 16 kinds of saplings such as star-flower, teak ironwood, gum-kino, eucalyptus and oil eucalyptus were grown at the ceremony. Pozaungtaung forest reserve is on 8,517.09 acres of land with 51 blocks filled with more than 20 kinds of trees.

As a total of 72.88 million of saplings were grown in the mon-

soon tree-growing ceremony as the 2017 environmental greening activities across the nation, 59.02 million of saplings are thriving, accounting for 80.9 per cent. A total of 73.22 million saplings were grown at the same ceremony in 2018, 62.32 million of which are thriving, accounting for 85.11 per cent. Likewise, a total of 68.79 million saplings were planted

at the same ceremony in 2019, 58.48 million of which are thriving, accounting for 85.01 per cent. A similar ceremony took place in 2020 when 68.86 million saplings were cultivated, 57.81 million of which are thriving, accounting for 83.96 per cent. In 2021, the same ceremony plans to cover cultivation of 36.26 million saplings across the nation.—MNA

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

- 1. Political affairs**

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

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

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

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order No 254/2021

9th Waxing of Nayon 1383 ME
18 June 2021

The Ministry of Health and Sports hereby released this order by exercising the authority stipulated in Sub-Section (b) of Section 21 of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Disease Law.

1. As the Ministry of Health and Sports is conducting the preventive measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019-COVID-19 on time, number of confirmed patients in COVID-19 virus rose in Letpadan Township of Bago Region with high rate of finding virus. Hence, the people residing in the township need to stay at home.
2. Hence, it was announced that the people residing in Letpadan Township of Bago Region are inclusive of the Stay-at-Home programme.
3. The people residing in the township inclusive of the stay-at-home programme must abide by the following disciplines:-
 - (a) all must live in their house only, (except for those going to serve at government departments, organizations, companies and factories.)
 - (b) one person from each house only to go outside for shopping without fail
 - (c) two persons only from the house to go to hospitals or clinics
 - (d) Wear masks whenever they go outside the houses
 - (e) allow the ferries to transport the persons to go to and leave the duty and other permitted vehicles to cross the wards
 - (f) allow one person only in addition to driver abroad the vehicle to go shoppingin the ward and two persons in addition to driver to go to hospital/clinic
 - (g) trucks need to abide by the standard operation procedure (SOP) for transportation to ensure smooth flow of commodities from the township.
4. Local people need to seek the approvals from relevant ward/village administration bodies for increasing the people number beyond the scheduled for issues mentioned in the sub-para (b), (c) and (f) of paragraph 3 and for making travels for other emergency issues, and relevant ward/village administration bodies must not allow the entrance and exit of other persons into the ward, exception for officials and those returned from duty.
5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by the order under the existing law.
6. This order will come into force as of 4 am on 19-6-2021.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister

The government, the political parties, and all citizens need to work in concert to fulfil the nation's needs

EMPHASIS must be placed on generating hydropower without environmental impacts. Efficient use of water and sufficient electrification will help develop the nation. River water pumping projects must be implemented to improve the agricultural tasks. The government, the political parties, and all citizens need to work in concert to fulfil the nation's needs.

(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)

Infection resurges in Sagaing Region and Chin State in the third week of May: Vice-Senior General

OFFICIALS need to specially supervise the people to abide by disciplines of COVID-19, said Chairman of the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the fourth meeting of the committee at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee was re-constituted on 11 February 2021. At present, more than 178.2 million of glob-



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win is attending the fourth meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Officials need to specially supervise the people to abide by disciplines of COVID-19. As prevention, containment and treatment of the disease is national duty of all citizens, only when all can set aside political needs, diverse attitudes and individual wishes and participate in the tasks, will the prevention, control and treatment of the disease effectively and successfully be undertaken.

al people were infected and more than 3.9 million patients were dead across the world. Likewise, the third wave of pandemic started in Myanmar while neighbouring countries are facing terrible amount of infectious rate.

COVID-19 pandemic started infection in March 2020, and the period till August 2020 was set as the first wave of infection and the period from August to May 2021, the second wave. The infection rate declined to the lowest level in early May this

year but infection resurged in Sagaing Region and Chin State in the third week of May. In spection, virus of variant species was found. Such variant virus is higher infection rate than that of the first and second waves and it is high violence and high rate of hospitalization. A total of 146,768 confirmed patients were found from 23 May 2020 to 17 June 2021, 146,768 persons were found as confirmed patients and 133,346 patients of whom recovered from the disease and 3,250 patients were dead. At present, 10,172 confirmed patients are being warded at the hospitals.

Officials need to supervise students, parents and teachers to systematically abide by COVID-19 disciplines at the school opening period. It is necessary to make preparations for those who suffered from infection of the virus to receive medical treatment in time and to control the infection with disclosing the contact persons.

Officials need to specially supervise the people to abide by disciplines of COVID-19. As prevention, containment and treatment of the disease is national duty of all citizens, only when all can set aside political needs, diverse attitudes and individual wishes and participate in the tasks, will the prevention, control and treatment of the disease effectively and successfully be undertaken. Although an agreement was signed to purchase 30 million doses of COVID-19 drug from India, availability of the drug suspended due to higher infection in India. People should believe the information of the Ministry of Health and Sports but do not realize rumours and fake news on vaccination from illegal news agencies and social networks.

Secretary of the committee Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut reported on reconstitution of the committee and implementation of 11

tasks of the committee. Union ministers discussed higher infection of the disease across the world, rapid response of Myanmar to COVID-19 disease, preventive measures of COVID-19 at workers and factories, confirm results at laboratories in regions and states, extension of laboratory tests, treatment for the patients, continuation of quarantine process, raising of health awareness, surveillance of disease at border gates, raising of COVID-19 fund and spending, coordination with international community, effects of vaccination, and prioritized area for control of the disease.

In conclusion, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to effective implement the tasks. Committee members need to inform relevant ministries about the latest situation, and administrative bodies need to supervise the people to abide by press releases on COVID-19.—MNA

Final rites held for late Presiding Nayaka of Maha Withutayama Myoma Zaygon Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre of Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejosara

THE final rites of Presiding Nayaka of Maha Withutayama Myoma Zaygon Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre of Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw, Head of Abhidhamma Course Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejosara took place at the monastery yesterday afternoon.

The final rites ceremony was attended by members of the Sangha led by Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Area Sangha Nayaka Committee Maha Ledi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indavudha, officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, disciples and religious associations.

The Sayadaws, monks and disciples took Five Precepts form Ledi Sayadaw.

Then, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana read the message of contrition sent by Sayadaws of Pyinmana Withutayama Zaygon monastery while Maubin Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita read the message sent by township Sangha Nayaka Committee and Daw Sein Myint

read the one sent by Abhidhamma Propagation Association of Pyinmana Township.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Theravamsa of KyunU Monastery read the biography of the late Sayadaw.

Then, the respective religious associations and the State cultural troupe sang the song as paying homage to the remains of the late Sayadaw.

The officials donated the offertories to the Sayadaws. Then, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sirikincana Bhivamsa of Maha Withokdayon Shwegyin Monastery delivered a sermon on contrition and the congregation shared merits gained.

Next, the disciples requested the late Sayadaw to forget their sins and then finally paid homage.

The remains of the Sayadaw was conveyed onto the Karaweik decorated float with the Gatha of Abhiyacana Nimantana. The remain of the Sayadaw was carried onto the decorated



float and conveyed to the ground of the Phaung Taw Swel Pagoda where the crematorium is located.

Then, Abhiyacana Niman-tana Gatha was recited for the

conveyance of the remains of the Sayadaw to the crematorium and the process went according to the agenda.

Then, those in attendance paid homage to the Sayad-

aw's remains. Members of the Sangha recited three stanzas of Sanvega Gatha starting Anicca Vata Sankhara, and Sadhu three times. Then, the remains of the Sayadaw was cremated. —MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nay Pyi Taw Council Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Control and Emergency Response Committee Notification to Public 18 June 2021

1. Myanmar has reported a rapid increase in cases of new COVID-19 variants since the end of May, with new confirmed cases every day. Disease prevention and containment measures, as well as treatment activities, have been accelerated. It is announced to the people living in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and those who would come from the outside of the territory, trucks and buses, to cooperate as follows:

 - (a) Teams of the Nay Pyi Taw Public Health Department, administration, and security forces do a medical check-up to the people who come from the outside of Nay Pyi Taw at Nay Pyi Taw airport, train station and the city checkpoints- Nyaung Lun checkpoint, No. (5) Junction checkpoint, Si Junction checkpoint and Pantin checkpoint, in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.
 - (b) If necessary, they will be tested by RDT Test Kit, with the registration of their name, address, travel history and telephone numbers.
 - (c) Those who come from stay-at-home townships will be under the 10-day quarantine at Nay Pyi Taw Municipal guest house (2), New AYA hotel and Zabuthiri hotel, and COVID-19 detection will be carried out with RDT test kits on the 3rd day and 7th day while under the quarantine.
 - (d) People are educated to systematically wear face masks and stay 6 feet apart from each other.
- (e) When COVID-19 positive patients are found at checkpoints and facility quarantine centres, they will be taken to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000 bedded) (serious cases), Nay Pyi Taw Public Hospital (300 bedded), Pubbathiri General Hospital (50 bedded) and Dekkhinathiri Township Hospital (50 bedded).
 - (f) Those who have had contact with a COVID-19 positive patient will be taken to Zeyathiri Township Hospital (50 bedded) and Uttarathiri Township Hospital (50 bedded) to be quarantined.
 - (g) Drivers who violate the rules will be taken action according to the existing law and freight vehicles, and passenger vehicles are prohibited from coming to Nay Pyi Taw again.
 - (h) People living in and out of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory are ordered to follow the issued guidelines in order to cut the spread of the COVID-19 disease, and actions will be taken against those who do not under the Natural Disaster Management Law.
 - (i) Therefore, public are urged to follow the guidelines and restrictions by considering the COVID-19 disease containment and control measure as a national issue from the date of this notification.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Control and Emergency Response Committee

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Workshop on attending Japan’s online seminar on economic policies 2021 held

THE workshop on attending the online “Seminar on Economic Policies 2021” hosted by Japan was held on 17 June in Nay Pyi Taw, in line with the COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines.

The workshop was chaired by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win. They discussed the activities of Japan in areas of “Public Expenditure Management; Tax Policy; Fiscal and Monetary Policy; COVID-19 and Economic Challenges;” and recommenda-

tions on policies that Myanmar should implement.

At the workshop, Deputy Director for Budget Department Daw Su Su Maw, who attended the seminar, presented the seminar experience and Japan’s policy implementations. Then, attendees were divided into groups and made suggestions on Myanmar’s public expenditure management, tax policy, fiscal and monetary policy, and COVID-19 and economic challenges based on the experiences of Japan. — MNA



Public information released not to believe fake and false news on social networks

CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist organizations, extremist NLD members and followers post statuses on fake and false news and rumours on the social networks in addition to instigation and incitements with attempts to deteriorate the peace and stability of the State and rule of law. Moreover, they themselves commit terror acts and incite others to do so.

Whenever an event happened in the country, the media banned by the government for their acts not in line with the press media ethics based in foreign countries exaggerate and distribute the false news with the aim of causing the public panic. As some foreign broadcasting stations disseminate such kind of news again, some diplomatic societies one-sidedly released the statements based on such false news without seeking approvals from the government and relevant departments.

Among the fake and false news spreading on the social networks, some false news spread that the outbreak of fire in Kinma Village of Pauk Township in Magway Region on 15 June was triggered by security forces. In reality, NLD supporters and anti-government persons from Kinma Village accused U Kyaw Htay from Kinma Village, who does not support the terrorist acts, of informer and set fire to his house. So, the outbreak of fire destroyed some 100 houses in the village. Security forces rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire. They salvaged Daw Khin Su, 83 and Daw Htwar Sein, 81, from the fire to the monastery as safer place.

In the event, the terrorists who set fire to the house of U Kyaw Htay sent the untrue information on the outbreak of fire to Myanmar Now news agency with the aim of covering their guilt. Such a news agency did not scrutinize the facts whether are correct or not under the press media ethics and broadcast the false news. Moreover, some terrorist supporters distribute such event attached to a video clip on the outbreak of fire from other country posted on the Tiktok, through the social networks.

Hatred and panic spread among the people who read the fabricated news. In fact, it aimed to cause instability of the country and make the people suffer unsafety of mind. That is why the information was released that the people wishing to live in peace are not to believe the fake and false news, and the people are urged to collectively perform the acts against the fabricated news. — MNA

Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

FROM 14-6-2021 to 18-6-2021, local/foreign donors contributed 66.050 million Kyats to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA 013733 and foreign currency account EDC 600012 opened at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 18-6-2021 is as follows:

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List	
	Kyat
Account opening balance on 14-6-2021	30,807,494,615.39
Received amount of money from (+) 14-6-2021 to 18-6-2021	66,050,000.00
Closed balance on 18-6-2021	30,873,544,615.39

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List	
	USD
Account opening balance on 14-6-2021	178,140,149.53
Received amount of money from (+) 14-6-2021 to 18-6-2021	-
Closed balance on 18-6-2021	178,140,149.53

Kyaukse to grow 51,799 acres of monsoon paddy in 2021-2022FY

KYAUKSE Township is targeted to develop 51,799 acres of monsoon paddy in the 2021-2022 financial year (FY), according to the Township Agriculture Department.

Officials from Agriculture Department, Agricultural Land Management and Statistics Department, Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department and Agricultural Mechanization Department, village administrators and local farmers held a work coordination meeting at the agriculture training camp on 16 June in order to meet the target and requirements.

In 2021-2022FY, Kyaukse Township will grow a total of 52,799 acres of monsoon paddy, including 5,910 acres in Thindee canal, 2,521 acres in Htaunggyi canal, 7,072 acres in Samar canal, 524 acres in DeeWaine-15 canal, 436 acres in Thittatgone canal, 232 acres in Yeya Man Baw Tuang region and 11 acres in Yebawgyi village-tract with underground water.

Officials from related departments will hold coordination meetings with village administrators and local farmers every Wednesday at the agricultural training camp to exceed the monsoon paddy acreage in Kyaukse township. — Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM

301 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 June, total figure rises to 147,069

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 147,069 after 301 new cases were reported on 18 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 133,452 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,251 after one died. —MNA

Yamethin Township to cover 60 acres of chilli pepper under Food Safety Project



Chilli peppers are systematically dried and producers can reduce the level of fungal contamination.

YAMETHIN township will cover 60 acres of chilli pepper under Food Safety Project (FSP) and the drying machines will be used to reduce the level of fungal contamination in peppers, said U Than Win, deputy officer of Yamethin Agriculture Department.

In compliance with the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), the fresh chilli peppers will be processed using solar dryer and mobile gas dryer in a short time. It will help boost the quality of peppers and reduce the level of fungal contamination in the peppers.

“Yamethin’s weather condition is suitable to chilli pepper cultivation. The growers yearly plant the chilli peppers. The growers has done land treatment

and the plantation will start this month. The dryers help the processing stages, excluding impurities such as sand and reducing the level of fungal contamination in the peppers. The dried peppers fetch a good price”, he continued.

Last financial year, there were 50 acres of chilli peppers in Yamethin Township. Those peppers are systematically dried and producers can reduce the level of fungal contamination. The growers are financially doing well as they link with value-added businesses in Sagaing Region, beyond local growers. Thus, 60 acres are projected to be cultivated under the GAP this FY. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)/ GNLM

Domestic black bean price rises to K 1.1 bln per tonne

THE domestic black bean price has elevated to K 1,110,000 per tonne, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Depot).

Although the black bean price on 1 May was K 888,500 per tonne, the price skipped to about K 1,110,000 per tonne on 17 June, an increase of around K 221,500 per tonne in over one month, according to the bean market data.

The price of black bean has increased when India, the primary buyer of Myanmar pluses, has redefined black bean, green gram and pigeon pea from a restricted commodity to a free import commodity.

However, the price has not yet reached the price that hit K 1.3 million per tonne at the end of 2019.

Since 2017, India has been setting import quota on beans, including black beans and pigeon peas under India government plus foreign trade policy for 2015-2020.

At present, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of In-

dia issued proclamation S.O.1858 (E) on 15 May 2021 that the three pulses have been changed from a restricted commodity to a free import commodity as of 31 October, 2021.

The issuance of bill of lading to import pigeon pea, green gram and black bean needs to be completed by 31 October, 2021 and the port clearance of imported cargos should be completed by 30 November, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India notified.

The black bean plantations are yielding around 400,000 tonnes annually in Myanmar, and the bean is mainly exported to India. Similarly, Myanmar has also produced about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas yearly and exported them chiefly to India.

The black bean, which is mainly bought from India, is mainly grown in Myanmar. Other pulses including green gram and pigeon pea are grown in Africa and Australia in addition to Myanmar, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/ GNLM

Spikes in shipping rate pose hurdles for exporters during global pandemic



Myanmar is constantly delivering rice and broken rice only to Bangladesh, according to Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

THE shipping rates and the container cost are rocketing in maritime trade amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, posing the toughest hurdles for rice exporters, said U Than Oo, secretary of Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

The shipping rates and container cost dramatically surged by four to ten times higher than previous freight rates. The traders are financially not doing well with the purchase price from foreign trade partners for now. Consequently, they halt trading

for a while.

“We cannot sell the rice at the prevailing market price, in terms of Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) and agreement. We cannot bear the exorbitant freight rates when the ships are docked at the port. The spikes in shipping cost amid the pandemic-induced container shortage scaled down the imports as well. So, the arrivals of the container ships declined. It somehow hurt the export sector. When the traders hire the ships with competitive pricing, it pushed up

the freight rates. They cannot make profit with high shipping costs. This being so, trading is suspended at the present time”, said U Than Oo.

Additionally, container shortage problems also hinder trading under the Free on Board (FOB) agreement. The goods are stockpiled in the warehouse as the ships rarely arrive, he continued. As a result of this, rice shipment to the southeast Asian nations and European countries came to abrupt stop.

Myanmar is constantly delivering rice and broken rice only to Bangladesh, according to Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

Moreover, limiting cash withdrawal from the banks is a contributing factor to the money transaction problem in rice trade.

Earlier, about 80,000 bags of rice and broken rice were daily traded at the Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre, whereas only 30,000 bags are traded for now. —NN/ GNLM

Green gram growers expect higher prices in harvest season

THE local residents from Pyawbwe township are growing paddy, bamboo, sesame, corn and variety of pluses. The green gram growers expect to fetch better prices in this year’s green gram harvesting season.

A local farmer in the name of U Aung Win from Khin Gyi Ya village said that we have grown one acre of green gram and corn to feed the animal as mixed crops. The local farmers have to buy the green gram

seeds for K 3,500 per basket. Each acre of farmland has to use about four baskets of green gram seeds. The three-month old plants could start harvesting. The fertilizer and pesticide need to be sprayed onto the

plants when it is necessary. The green gram plants can be harvested about 30 baskets per acre in good weather condition.

When the green gram started harvesting, those were sold back in the breakage in

the city. The prevailing price of green gram is K 38,000 per basket. The green gram growers expect to have better price in this harvesting season as well as good rainfall. —Min Min Htwe (IPRD)/ GNLM

Rare Myanmar Roofed Turtles hatch for first time in ten years at Lawkanandar Wildlife Sanctuary

THE endangered Burmese roofed turtles, which has been saved from extinction, hatched for the first time in ten years at Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary, said U Shwe Htay Aung, warden of Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary.

To protect those Burmese roofed turtles from extinction, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) handed over 100 roofed turtles to the Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary under the approval of the Department of Forest, including 3 to 4 years old 40 male and 60 female turtles. The Department transferred some turtles to WCS and TSA so that 10 male roofed turtles and six female turtles were sent to Singapore in 2016. Additionally, ten male turtles were set free into Chindwin River in Kanni city, Sagaing Region in 2018. This being so, 20 male turtles and 54 female turtles are bred at the Lawkananda

Wildlife sanctuary, U Shwe Htay Aung elaborated.

The roofed turtles hatching succeeded in ten years after the Department of Forest under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, WCS and TSA jointly conducted roofed turtle conservation and research, he continued.

Those Burmese roofed turtles which can be found only in Myanmar is the second most critically endangered species in the world. Four female roofed turtles out of 54 reportedly laid eggs in artificial sand in January and February this year. A baby turtle hatched on 12 April 2021, while other two turtles came out of eggs on 19 April. Then, one on 22 and four on 25 April were born respectively. Moreover, other three baby turtles were born each on 9 and 10 May. Mating happened in October 2020, U Shwe Htay Aung explained about turtle hatching at the sanctuary.



To protect those Burmese roofed turtles from extinction, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) handed over 100 roofed turtles to the Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary under the approval of the Department of Forest, including 3 to 4 years old 40 male and 60 female turtles.

The Forest Department, WCS and TSA cooperatively carried out research on sexual maturity, turtles mating, egg laying and hatching times. The staff of the sanctuary and voluntary staff conserved and successfully researched the Burmese roofed turtles until hatching in the past ten years, under the medical care of Vet Dr Tin Lwin.

The Burmese roofed turtles are found in Yadanarbon Zoo, Yan-

gon Zoo and Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary. Those turtles which have been sent to Singapore has not reproduced yet, said Dr Kalaray, regional director of TSA.

"I believed the reproduction of roofed turtles will improve like the rare start tortoises kept at the sanctuary", U Shwe Htay Aung Stated.

Those Burmese Roofed Turtle (*Bataur trivittata*) can be discovered in Ayeyawady, Chindwin

and Sittaung rivers and their tributaries. Those roofed turtles are herbivores.

They were listed in CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) appendix ii in 2010, categorized as critically endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2012, completely protected by MWL in 2018. — Ko Htein/KPD/GNLM

Muse border trade sharply falls by \$717 mln: MoC reports



Myanmar intended to reach trade target of over \$5 billion through Muse for the last FY 2019-2020, However, only \$4.86 billion worth goods were traded.

THE trade value through Muse land border touched a low of US\$2.7 billion between 1 October and 4 June in the current financial year 2020-2021, showing a rise of \$717 million as against a year ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

The figures jumped from \$3.5 billion recorded in the corresponding period of last FY 2019-2020.

As of 4 June 2021, Myanmar's exports to China through Muse land border were valued \$1.75 billion, while imports are worth over \$1 billion, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

The cross-border trade via Muse ground to a halt after China tightened the border security and made policy changes in light

of the COVID-19. China has temporarily shut down Man Wein checkpoint, which is a major border crossing between Muse and Kyalgaung areas, from early April.

Consequently, there is no trade flowing in and out of the country via Muse-Man Wein border. Furthermore, trade through Kyinsankyawt border, a major checkpoint for fruit exports, is down by 80 per cent, said traders.

Suspension in border trade caused a negative impact on perishable fruits. The policy changes in China's border exacerbated Myanmar's exports amid the COVID-19 resurgences, said a Muse trader.

Prior to the closure of Man Wein checkpoint, Myanmar daily

sent about 2,000 tonnes of rice and 40,000 broken rice bags to China.

At present, Myanmar's rice export to China through Muse land border has stalled amidst the coronavirus concerns. Moreover, the exports of seasonal fruits such as watermelon, muskmelon and mango are declining.

This Man Wein post plays a pivotal role in trading between Myanmar and China. Myanmar exports rice, broken rice, onion, chili pepper, pulses and beans, food commodities and fishery products to China, whereas electrical appliance, equipment, medical device, household goods, construction materials and food products are imported in the country via Man Wein.

Myanmar intended to reach trade target of over \$5 billion through Muse for the last FY 2019-2020, However, only \$4.86 billion worth goods were traded. Border trade values at Muse stood at \$5.4 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$5.8 billion in the 2017-2018FY and \$4.9 billion in the 2018-2019FY respectively, as per data of the Commerce's Ministry. — KK / GNLM

YBS bus lines investigated for taking more charges and misrepresentation

SOME YBS bus lines in Yangon are reportedly treating passengers rudely and charging higher fare, and the Private Transport Supervision Committee is taking actions with undercover operation in the buses, according to the Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC).

YRTC is providing services to facilitate the travel of the people of Yangon. With increased tourism in June, a total of 2,870 buses were able to handle 465,262 passengers which is more than double the number of passengers in May.

"We have called in the committee members to supervise the issue regarding the higher fares and, been taking actions. Committee members are investigating by disguising them-

selves as passengers in the bus," said YRTC Joint Secretary U Lian Qingman.

During the first wave of the COVID-19 period, YRTA collaborated with relevant departments for disease prevention education at bus stops, providing hand sanitizers and letting only passengers with facemasks in the bus. At present, respective bus lines are being instructed to continue to follow the COVID-19 prevention guidelines to prevent further pandemic while driving, air conditioning in vehicles is turned off.

It is reported that people can reach to YRTC's Call Centre number 09448147149 to complain about the overcharges and misrepresentation of the buses. — Nyein Thu/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Pay attention to floods and landslides in monsoon

MONSOON brings raindrops to Myanmar in June. Naturally, the raindrop makes soil be wet and swampy.

Myanmar people welcome the monsoon but they are worried about flooding and landslides in the monsoon. It is because the water based on torrential rains may cause flooding and landslides in various parts of the country.

Even developed countries cannot evade from the landslides and flooding triggered by unfavourable weather. So, it is not unusual that Myanmar, the least developed country, faces natural disasters including floods and landslides in the monsoon.

However, everybody has chance to take preventive measures depending on collection of information about the forecasts on climatic conditions. There were many examples to overcome challenges of the climate due to taking an adequate time for preventing the natural disasters.

Hence, all the citizens should make concerted efforts for making preparedness against the disasters by taking lessons from the past events such as severe floodings in Sagaing Region and Kachin State in 2015. The flooded water inundated these areas, cutting communications between flood victims of Sagaing Region and Kachin State and those from other regions and states. However, local people did not surrender to the bad climatic conditions. Even though the people from Sagaing Region and Kachin State faced bitter difficulties in severe flooding and landslides, they strongly overcame these difficulties with concerted efforts. When the flooding ebbed from these areas, local people polished their residences.

Now, the regions and states where tide may reach have built cyclone shelters in which local victims can take safe accommodation and foods. Landslides blocked the roads and communications routes with soil

and rocks in the hilly parts. In fact, natural disasters at the most powerful stage can destroy the houses and property of locals. But, waning disasters cannot give troubles to the people. So, we should adopt the comprehensive plans to overcome the challenges of natural disasters in the monsoon.

We need unity among the people to be applied in taking care of the people and their families. Otherwise, we all would be victims of disasters. That is why all the citizens must collectively take preventive measures against flooding and landslides while repairing the damaged roads triggered by the monsoon.

■ ■ ■

UN chief urges debt relief extension for middle-income countries

Innovative measures to address debt are required to help the world's more than 100 middle-income countries expand their economies and exit the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Secretary-General António Guterres told the General Assembly on Thursday.

ADDRESSING a high-level meeting on these nations, which account for more than half of the UN's 193 Member States, he underlined the need for financing to help them recover in the wake of the global crisis.

He said that middle-income countries should have their debts suspended into 2022 to cope with the social and economic impact of the virus.

Leaving no nation behind

Many were already dealing with mounting debt before the pandemic, which has only further aggravated the situation.

"In small island states, for example, the collapse of tourism has greatly hindered their capacity to repay debts. And while the global response to the debt crisis is rightly attempting to support low-income countries, middle-income countries must not be left behind", he stated.

Diversity defines the world's middle-income countries, which were already home to some 62



Workers manufacture PPE in a Kenyan factory. PHOTO: MOH, KENYA

per cent of the world's poor prior to the pandemic.

The list includes India, which has a population of more than one billion, and Palau, an archipelago in the Pacific island with less than 20,000 people.

Besides population size, these countries also vary in economic activity, geography and income levels per capita, which ranges from \$1,000 to \$12,000 annually, meaning they often exceed per capita income thresh-

olds for debt relief.

Tackle longstanding weaknesses

Mr. Guterres stressed the need for better mechanisms and international cooperation to ad-

dress what he characterized as their mounting and unsustainable debt levels.

"Even if these countries manage to avoid default, they will see long-lasting limitations on critical government spending on a variety of development and climate objectives in the years to come", he warned.

He underlined the need for "a new debt mechanism" that includes debt swaps, buy-backs and cancellations.

'Tackle long-standing weaknesses'

"This is the moment to tackle long-standing weaknesses in the international debt architecture, from lack of agreed principles, to restructurings that provide too little relief, too late.

"Innovative instruments to allow debt restructuring and meaningful debt reduction can help middle-income countries expand their fiscal space to boost investment and steer a resilient and sustainable recovery from

the crisis."

This past March, the Secretary-General convened world leaders for a meeting to bolster support for action to stave off the debt crisis in developing countries.

The UN chief was encouraged to see growing recognition around the need for new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), a type of foreign reserve asset developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, he said unused SDRs must be re-allocated to support vulnerable nations, including middle-income countries.

Last year, the G20 leading economies announced a debt service suspension initiative which allows the world's poorest countries to temporarily halt bilateral credit payments.

The Secretary-General said the measure should be extended into 2022 and "made available to highly indebted, vulnerable middle-income countries that request it."

SOURCE: UN

Domestic workers among hardest hit by COVID crisis, says UN labour agency

Domestic workers globally have been among the hardest hit by the COVID crisis, losing more jobs and working hours than other sectors, the UN labour agency ILO said on Tuesday.

TEN years on from the landmark adoption of the International Labour Organization Convention that confirmed their rights, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder insisted that despite "real progress" in labour laws and social security provision in some countries, these "essential service providers" had rarely been so vulnerable in many others.

"These workers lost their jobs in greater numbers or saw their hours of work reduced to a greater extent than other parts of the workforce", he said, pointing to ILO data showing that the number of domestic workers in the second quarter of 2020 had fallen by 25 to 50 per cent in most Latin American and Caribbean countries – and by 70 per cent in Peru – compared with pre-pandemic levels.

Most European countries, as well as Canada and South Africa saw job shedding among domestic workers range from five to 20 per

cent. Overall, these losses resulted in a 50 per cent decrease in total working hours for the sector; in the 13 of the 20 countries under review, Mr. Ryder continued, before highlighting the disproportionate impact of the crisis on domestic workers.

Private misery

Countries need to take action, because eight in 10 domestic workers are informally employed and therefore lack legal and welfare protection, the ILO chief said.

"Their status inside the country can be called into question if they lose their jobs (and) many domestic workers live in with their employees, so they could lose their lodgings if they lose their jobs as well. So, behind the aggregated numbers there is a sort of deeper human impact which accentuates even more the suffering involved in the latent economic impact of the COVID pandemic."

In Brazil, which is the second highest employer of domestic workers in the world, almost seven in 10 employees work informally – double the national average.

This meant that when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, fewer than 40 per cent of domestic workers had effective access to social security linked to their employment, said ILO report co-author Claire Hobden.

"Given this impact, the need to formalise domestic work in Brazil is incredibly urgent," she maintained, noting encouraging efforts by domestic workers and employers that fixes "very different labour standards" in Sao Paulo that others could look to, in order to promote a recovery that focuses on society's most at-risk after the pandemic. According to ILO, there are at least 75.6 million domestic workers aged 15 and over, amounting to around one in 25 people employed worldwide. Just

over three-quarters are women.

By gender, the highest number of female domestic workers are in Latin America and the Caribbean (91 per cent and 89 per cent

respectively) And while women make up the majority of the workforce in Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, by contrast, male domestic workers outnumber their

female counterparts in Arab states (63 per cent) and North Africa. In Southern Asia, the split is relatively even.

SOURCE: ILO/UN



According to ILO, there are at least 75.6 million domestic workers aged 15 and over, amounting to around one in 25 people employed worldwide. Just over three-quarters are women. PHOTO: AFP

Zawtikayone Pali Takatho Kyaungtaik to organize Waso-robe offering ceremony

THE Zawtikayone Pali Takatho Kyaungtaik Pari-rati Sasana Association will organize Waso-robe offering ceremony to the 300 Sanghas led by State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Thet Taw Shay Sayadaw Baddhanta Kunnala Joti at Zawtikayone Pali University in Pyay on 24 July, 1st Waning Waso of 1383ME at 4 pm.

Those who want to donate China-made CYC robe at K5,000, upper robe at K3,000 and lower robe at K2,000 to the committee members and



Baddhanta Kunnala Joti.

Nayaka Sayadaws or by contacting Zawtikayone Pali Takatho via 09-420703374, 09-5312630 and 09-423656441. – Maung Shwe Win (Pyay) / GNLM



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 18 June, 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19 June, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay Region, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Magway Regions and Kachin, (Southern and Eastern) Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9 -12) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and (6-8) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate to strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 June, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 June, 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay and Neighbouring Area for 19 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (8 0%).

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

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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CNN, Reuters news agencies presenting news without media ethics need to post correct news

CNN and Reuters news agencies mentioned false news on their news pages without media ethics on 17 June that security forces set fire to Kinma Village of Pauk Township in Magway Region.

The true information was released on 16 June. When security forces went to Kinma Village of Pauk Township in Magway Region to arrest those who make explosives and homemade guns, armed terrorists opened fire at the security forces near the village set fire to the houses.

Some media accused security forces of setting fire to the houses in Kinma Village on the social network pages concerning acts of terrorists.

The outbreak of fire at houses in Kinma Village started that while U Sein Maung and five men talked about something at the house of U Sein Maung in Wungyi Village of Shahla Village-tract in Seikpyu Township in Pakokku District at 12:45 am on 13 June, three men, including Kyaw Min Naing threw two homemade grenades to them. In the explosion, U Sein Maung and Ko Min Min Soe were injured, and security forces arrested Kyaw Min Naing, who threw homemade grenades and placed him under investigation.

In this regard, the investigation proved that homemade grenades were bought from a man in Kinma Village of Pauk Township. According to further information, such man-made homemade guns and grenades with monetary assistance of an NLD member and former member of ward/village administration who also lived in the same village. So security forces went to Kinma Village on 15



June for exposing and arresting them.

On arrival at the village signboard, some ten terrorists from the hillock opened fire at the security forces with the use of firearms and homemade bombs. As the security forces retaliated, terrorists retreated from the hillock. While the security forces combed the hill,

terrorists committed ambushed attacks. So, the security forces performed counter-attacks and tried to enter Kinma Village. In so doing, local PDF terrorists who fled into Kinma Village and the armed insurgents who came from Chin State set fire to the house of U Kyaw Htay, a member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party from

the village. The fire destroyed the houses of the village.

On 1 June, the security forces arrived at Kinma Village to investigate the killing of USDP member U Nyo Chaw of the village by the terrorist groups. Those security forces clashed with PDF terrorists from the village. Hence, most of the villagers did not reside in the village and moved to towns and villages. There remained guards of houses, older persons and PDF terrorists in the village. That is why they could not extinguish the fire which destroyed all.

While breaking out the fire, there was no villagers, and fire trucks were difficult to put out the fire and water was shortage. Although security forces extinguished the fire but the fire destroyed some 100 houses. Security forces packed grandma Daw Khin Su, 83 and grandma Daw Htwar Sein, 81 from two burnt houses on their backs to the village monastery as safer place.

Due to setting fire by ter-

rorists, all houses and buildings were destroyed by the fire, except for two pagodas on the hillock, two public rest houses, two buildings from Basic Education Middle School Branch and one building under construction and 20 houses. The security forces returned from the village at about 6.30 pm.

State-owned newspapers have released information on 18 June that PDF terrorists from Kinma Village set fire to their village. In addition, NLD supporters, PDFs, extremists and some media posted statuses on fabricated news on Facebook social networks with attempts to cause misunderstanding over the State Administration Council by local people and the international community.

Local people condemn CNN and Reuters news agencies which expressed wrong news without media ethics. As it is necessary to describe the true event under the Right to Correct, letters of objection will be sent to respective news agencies. — MNA

Insurgents set fire to BEMS (Branch) in Hopin Township

THE State Administration Council reopened the schools across the nation according to the COVID-19 health rules starting 1 June for continuous learning of students and the emergence of future leaders.

However, the insurgents who have directly linked with the NLD party, which wants to conduct acts of terrorism and commits various destructive actions, threatened the teachers

and students, committed arson attack, bomb attack, and sent the objection letters.

The insurgents set fire to the Branch B.E.M.S in Innlay Village of Hopin Township of Kachin State on 17 June. Then, the regional military and firefighters extinguished the fire. A school building was damaged in the fire, and no one was injured. The security forces investigate to take action against the suspects. — MNA



Facebook AI software able to dig up origins of deepfake images

FACEBOOK scientists on Wednesday said they developed artificial intelligence software to not only identify “deepfake” images but to figure out where they came from.

Deepfakes are photos, videos or audio clips altered using artificial intelligence to appear authentic, which experts have warned can mislead or be completely false.

Facebook research scientists Tal Hassner and Xi Yin said their team worked with Michigan State University to create software that reverse engineers deepfake images to figure out how they were made and where they originated.

“Our method will facilitate deepfake detection and tracing in real-world settings, where the deepfake image itself is often the only information detectors have to work with,” the scientists said in a blog post.

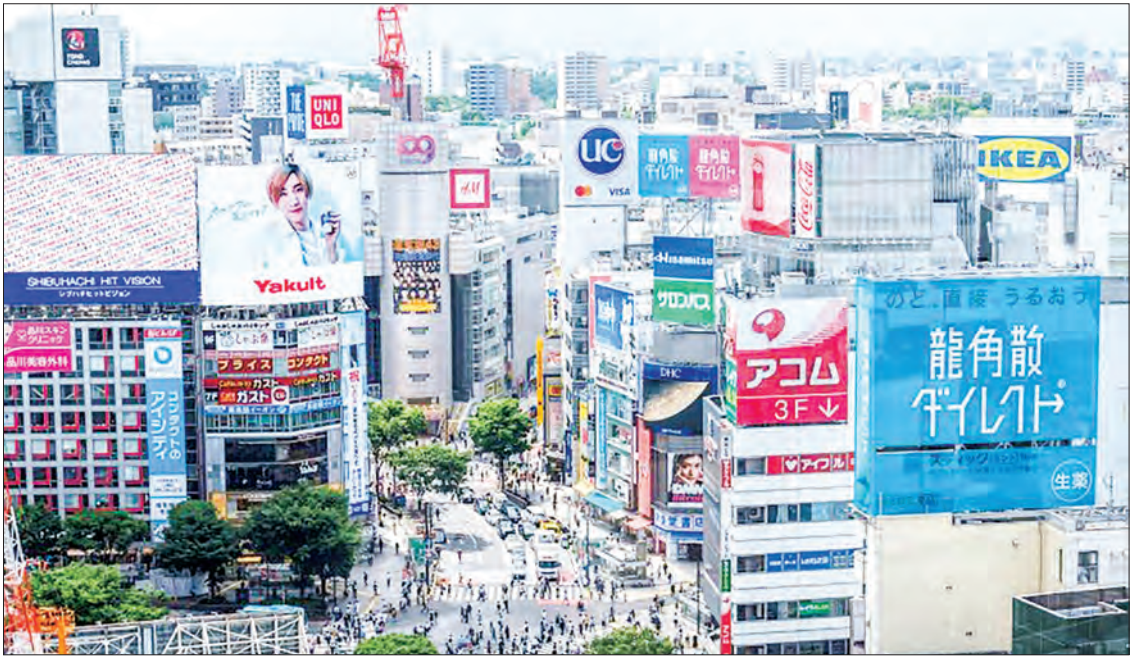
“This work will give researchers and practitioners tools to better investigate incidents of coordinated disinformation using deepfakes, as well as open up new directions for future research,” they added.

Facebook’s new software runs deepfakes through a network to search for imperfections left during the manufacturing process, which the scientists say alter an image’s digital “fingerprint”.

“In digital photography, fingerprints are used to identify the digital camera used to produce an image,” the scientists said. — AFP ■



This work will give researchers and practitioners tools to better investigate incidents of coordinated disinformation using deepfakes. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP



Financial support measures for Japanese businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic have been extended. PHOTO: AFP

Bank of Japan announces first green investment fund

JAPAN’S central bank on Friday announced its first investment fund for efforts to address climate change, as the government works towards its new target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

The scheme, likely to start this year, will be a successor to an existing programme aimed at promoting economic growth more generally, the Bank of Japan said after a two-day policy meeting.

“Climate change issues could exert an extremely large impact on developments in economic activity and prices as well as financial conditions from a medium- to long-term perspective,” its policy statement said.

“The bank considers that supporting the private sector’s efforts on the issues from a central bank’s standpoint will contribute to stabilising the macroeconomy in the long run.”

Financial support measures for pandemic-hit businesses were also extended by six months to the end of March 2022, a day after the government approved lifting a virus state of emergency in nine prefectures including Tokyo.

Slightly looser “quasi-emergency” restrictions will be set in the capital and six other areas until 11 July, less than two weeks before the postponed Tokyo Olympics begin. The extension of business support had been widely expected, said Naoya Oshikubo, senior economist at SuMi TRUST.

“Many companies are continuing to suffer financially from the Covid-19 state of emergency in a number of Japanese prefectures, as well as from the country’s low vaccination rates,” said Oshikubo ahead of the policy decision. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan battles to save rare tiny Dead Sea carp

JORDAN is racing against time to save a tiny rare fish from extinction as falling water levels partly triggered by global warming threaten to dry up its last habitat.

The Dead Sea toothcarp – scientific name *Aphanius dispar richardsoni* – has been on the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature since 2014.

The IUCN warns that the “exploitation of spring waters and climate change” are major threats facing the four-centimetre-long, silver-coloured fish.

“This fish is threatened with extinction at the global level. It is endemic here and does not exist elsewhere,” said Ibrahim Mahasneh, the manager of the fish’s last home, the Fifa Nature Reserve.

Lying some 140 kilometres (85 miles) southwest of Amman in the Jordan Rift Valley and 60 kilometres south of the Dead Sea, the area is the lowest wet reserve on Earth.

Established in 2011, the nature park consists of some 20 square kilometres. It is located some 426 metres (1,400 feet) below sea level and is managed by an independent body, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Even though the Hashemite kingdom is primarily desert, this area of wetlands is criss-crossed by streams and is home to a variety of plant and wildlife species including birds. — AFP ■

Study highlights gender gap in health innovations



A biologist at OSE Immunotherapeutics pharmaceutical lab works on a program to develop a vaccine against Covid-19 on 31 March, 2021 in Nantes, France. PHOTO: AFP

HARVARD business professor Rem Koning studies how bias hurts innovation. But three years ago, his research hit too close to home when his wife, suffering from a rare post childbirth condition, couldn’t find treatments designed with new mums in mind.

“It came out of nowhere. And the whole thing was a lot more scary than I think it needed to be,” Koning told AFP about the diagnosis of postpartum preeclampsia, which is characterized by high blood pressure. The couple were also dis-

appointed by the quality of tech products aimed at mothers -- and realized it might be because most medical innovations were designed by men who dismissed or overlooked women’s needs.

These experiences led Koning to conduct a machine learning text analysis of more than 440,000 US biomedical patents filed from 1976 to 2010, the results of which were published Thursday in the journal Science.

By tracking inventors’ names and tying them to patents, Koning and his colleagues John-Paul Ferguson and Sampsa Samila found patents filed from all-female inventor teams were more than 35 per cent more likely to focus on the health of women.

Teams that were majority female were 18 per cent more likely to make products with women in mind. — AFP ■

Japan to focus on greener society, digital for pandemic recovery

JAPAN'S Cabinet will approve Friday its annual economic policy guideline with the focus on promoting a greener society and digitalization to be the driving forces of a sustained post-coronavirus economic recovery.

With the first policy blueprint under Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who took office in September, the government will "intensively promote investment" in four priority areas that also cover child-related issues and regional revitalization, while continuing to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

To achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, the government will adopt the principle of making it a "top priority" to promote as much renewable energy as possible, while try-



Japan plans to ramp up its use of solar panels, such as these shown in Yufu, Oita prefecture in 2019. **PHOTO: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP/FILE**

ing to minimize the burden on people caused by such efforts.

Through measures such as Japan's 2 trillion yen (\$18

billion) fund to support green technology development and carbon pricing, the government will encourage the private sec-

tor to run innovative projects, and try to attract from across the world "environment investments" estimated to be worth 3,000 trillion yen.

On the digitalization front, the government will vow to build up "public and private infrastructure in the digital era in the next five years" through such steps as offering administrative services online and providing more opportunities for workers and students to acquire IT expertise.

Among other envisaged plans is to set up a new administrative organization to comprehensively deal with challenges surrounding children such as child poverty, abuse and bullying, although the plan lacks a specific timing for its launch. — AFP ■

NEWS

IN BRIEF

World Bank rejects El Salvador request for help in adopting bitcoin

THE World Bank rejected a request from El Salvador for assistance in its bid to adopt bitcoin as a currency, a spokesperson for the Washington-based development lender said Thursday.

El Salvador uses the US dollar as its official currency, but its legislature approved a measure on June 9 that will allow the volatile cryptocurrency to be used for all transactions starting in September, becoming the first nation to do so. "While the government did approach us for assistance on bitcoin, this is not something the World Bank can support given the environmental and transparency shortcomings," the World Bank official told AFP by email.

"We are committed to helping El Salvador in numerous ways including for currency transparency and regulatory processes."

El Salvador Finance Minister Alejandro Zelaya said Wednesday that President Nayib Bukele had requested "technical help" from the World Bank to implement and regulate the use of the virtual currency. — AFP ■

BOJ decides to extend funding support for virus-hit firms

THE Bank of Japan decided Friday to extend the deadline for its scheme to support corporate funding by six months until next March as the coronavirus pandemic drags on. At the end of a two-day policy-setting meeting, the BOJ maintained its ultraeasy monetary policy as widely expected. It made no change to its program to keep borrowing costs low by setting short-term interest rates at minus 0.1 percent and guiding 10-year Japanese government bond yields around zero percent.

To support efforts to tackle climate change, the BOJ said it will launch a new program this year to provide funds to financial institutions for their investments or loans aimed at addressing the issue. An outline of the new measure will be unveiled at the next policy meeting in July.

As part of asset-buying, the BOJ stuck to its pledge to buy exchange-traded funds when necessary, with the annual upper limit set at 12 trillion yen (\$109 billion). — **Kyodo News** ■

UK, US strike deal over Airbus-Boeing dispute

BRITAIN and the US have suspended retaliatory tariffs levied during a 17-year dispute over state aid for European plane-maker Airbus and US rival Boeing, the countries announced Thursday. The moves came in the wake of a similar long-term deal between the European Union and US unveiled Tuesday and leaves Britain to concentrate on securing a post-Brexit free-trade deal with the world's biggest economy.

"Reaching an agreement with the United Kingdom to finally put the large civil aircraft disputes behind us is a great step forward for our special relationship," US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said in statement following talks with Britain's International Trade Secretary Liz

Truss.

In a separate statement, Truss said the two countries would also work "more closely to challenge unfair practices by nations like China and using the power of free trade to build back better from the pandemic". The UK-US relationship — special or otherwise — is back on a more even keel after President Joe Biden succeeded Donald Trump in January.

Five-year deal

The Airbus-Boeing dispute, the longest-running in the history of the World Trade Organization, has seen damaging retaliatory tariffs slapped on products such as French wines, Scotch whisky and US wheat and tobacco. — AFP ■



The Airbus-Boeing dispute is the longest-running one in the history of the World Trade Organization. **PHOTO: AIRBUS/AFP/FILE**

EU ministers baulk at banking reform

EU finance ministers on Thursday again dampened expectations on completing major banking reforms in Europe, with big divisions between Germany and Italy on how to move forward.

"We must never lose hope. I don't hide from you that it's a difficult negotiation," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said, as he arrived for talks in Luxembourg.

At the meeting, ministers were supposed to finalise a timetable for completing the EU's banking union, a major step in advancing European economic unity that was launched in the heart of the financial crisis.

The missing piece of the project is the creation of a common European deposit insurance that would cast a continent-wide safety net for customers hit by failing banks.

Germany has long resisted the idea, however, with public opinion dead set against seeing government money going to save depositors in other European countries.

In exchange for giving ground on the issue, Germany and others are demanding that countries like Italy decouple the stability of their banking systems from holdings in national debt.

This would address something known as the "doom loop", where banks in Europe are allowed to hold sovereign debt bonds as super-safe assets to meet the demands of banking regulators. — AFP ■

Eight detained over deadly China gas blast

CHINESE police have detained eight suspects over a gas blast that killed 25 people and reduced several buildings to rubble in the central city of Shiyan, authorities said Friday.

Over a hundred people were injured in the explosion, which struck a busy two-storey building packed with shoppers and people eating breakfast in the Hubei province city on Sunday morning. Eight suspects, including the general manager of the company that owned the gas pipe, have been detained, according to the Shiyan government.

Authorities found that “the company’s safety management system was unsound” and “there were serious defects in the operation of relevant equipment,” the government’s statement said.

The blast occurred in a



The blast prompted a rare statement from Chinese President Xi Jinping urging local officials to “learn profound lessons” from it. PHOTO: CNS/AFP/FILE

building that had previously housed a vehicle frame manufacturer, and several survivors told local media that the gas pipeline had fallen into disrepair after the factory was moved last year.

Around 900 residents

in surrounding buildings were evacuated following the blast, which littered the area with debris and saw rescuers carrying shocked survivors out on stretchers.

Industrial accidents are common in China due to weak safety standards

and corruption among officials tasked with enforcing them.

Sunday’s blast prompted a rare statement from Chinese President Xi Jinping urging local officials to “learn profound lessons from the incident”. — AFP

Apple Daily ups daily circulation 5 times after arrest of executives

HONG Kong’s pro-democracy Apple Daily produced 500,000 copies of its Friday newspaper, five times its normal daily circulation, a day after five of its executives were arrested for allegedly violating the national security law.

The decision was an apparent effort to entice readers and supporters to show solidarity by buying the newspaper, pushing back against the Hong Kong government’s oppressive actions targeting the press.

On Thursday, police raided the building housing the group’s headquarters as well as the newspaper’s office, according to local media reports.

There has been concern the paper will shutter in the near future as it comes under political pressure. The government has frozen assets of Jimmy Lai, the founder of the parent media group Next Digital Ltd., after alleging he breached the national security law. Lai has already been indicted under the same law. The media mogul is charged with conspiring with foreign forces, a crime punishable by life imprisonment.

The newspaper increased its print run to 550,000 in August last year, up from its usual daily circulation of 70,000 to 100,000 copies, following the arrest of Lai. — Kyodo News ■



People stand in a queue to purchase copies of the Apple Daily at a newspaper stand in Hong Kong in the early hours of 18 June, 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

NEWS IN BRIEF

Digital nomads flee virus-hit Manila for shattered tourist towns

AFTER months cooped up in coronavirus-hit Manila, Tanya Mariano fled the Philippine capital to work from the beach, joining a growing number of digital nomads helping a devastated tourism industry stay afloat. A ban on foreign holidaymakers entering the archipelago nation and domestic travel curbs since the pandemic began last year have forced many operators to close and wiped out millions of jobs.

Many digital workers in congested Manila, fearing Covid-19 and fed up with lockdowns and restrictions, are escaping to largely deserted nature hotspots to do their jobs — injecting much-needed money into communities dependent on outside visitors.

Sitting with her laptop on the balcony of the ocean-view apartment she rents with her boyfriend in San Juan, a surf town several hours north of her home, Mariano says the move has been a “big quality of life improvement”. — AFP ■

Live audience ‘baby steps’ back to normality for Milan fashion

LIGHTS, camera, real live audiences — Milan fashion welcomes back actual people to its shows Friday, a sign the industry is ready to start turning the page on virtual formats adopted during the pandemic.

The numbers are still modest, with only Armani, Dolce & Gabbana and Etro inviting an audience to their men’s Spring/Summer 2022 collections. “This is the dress rehearsal of the return to normalcy,” Federica Trotta Mureau, editor of the Italian fashion magazine Mia Le Journal, told AFP.

The shows represent baby steps but the effect of the live events, instead of the video presentations or short films relied on since early last year when coronavirus cut short the twice-yearly shows in Italy’s business capital, would still be appreciated, Mureau said. — AFP ■

Electric auto startups hit speed bumps after heady debuts

SEVERAL electric auto startups that raised large sums from investors in the wake of Tesla’s ascent are hitting potholes as they pursue next-generation vehicles.

The most recent crisis occurred at Lordstown Motors, which announced Monday the sudden departure of two top executives after warning last week it needed more capital to keep operating.

Company officials plan a series of events dubbed “Lordstown Week” later this month to shore up investor support.

But local government officials are not sure what to make of the company, which had discussed adding more than 2,000 jobs in a region plagued by plant closures.

“Am I confident? Not as much as I was a week ago,” Lordstown Mayor Arno Hill said earlier this week. “We’re waiting and seeing what the next step is.”

There have been similar leadership shake-ups in at least two other electric auto companies that recently went public, raising questions about the transactions and underscoring the difficulties startups face in competing in the capital-intensive industry.

“It’s definitely more challenging for a small company,” said Jessica Caldwell, executive director of insights at Edmunds.com, pointing to heavy spending needed to build and maintain factories and obtain key components.

“It does seem like Tesla is an overnight success story, which is not really the case,” she told AFP. “But they came in and disrupted the space amongst automotive companies that have been around for decades.

Everyone wants to believe that the dream could happen.” — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V CHANG AN

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHANG AN VOY.NO. (201)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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‘Listen to the party’: Chinese cities deck out in slogans for anniversary



Banners and billboards have been placed around the country reminding citizens to live a “civilized” life and obey authorities. PHOTO: AFP

CHINA is ramping up a propaganda blitz ahead of the 100th birthday of the ruling Communist Party, with banners and billboards around the country reminding citizens to live a “civilised” life and obey authorities.

The world’s second-largest economy has been lauding its achievements in the weeks leading up to 1 July, which marks the centenary of the party’s founding in Shanghai.

Large boards with a red-emblazoned “100” showing the Communist hammer and sickle emblem have been hung above retail stores and along busy streets to mark the superpower’s rise.

“Listen to the party, appreciate the party, follow the party,”

declares one roadside sign in Beijing.

The Communist Party has more than 91 million members, according to the official Xinhua news agency — many of them grassroots cadres and ordinary civil servants.

Party propaganda is a part of daily life in China, where red banners giving advice, encouragement and official messages are seen on streets all year round.

But public displays have proliferated in recent weeks as the centenary draws near.

“Build a civilised image everywhere, let’s all be civilised citizens”, reads one banner, against a warm-hued silhouette of families against the capital’s skyline. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed, dozen injured in US drive-by shooting spree

ONE person was killed and a dozen injured in a drive-by shooting spree Thursday as a gunman roamed the streets in the southwestern US state of Arizona, police said.

Over the course of one-and-a-half hours, a suspect opened fire in at least eight sites around communities outside Phoenix, apparently at random, before he was taken into custody at a traffic stop.

As well as the fatality, three other people were shot while another nine suffered minor injuries including from broken glass. None of the injuries were thought to be life-threatening.

“We don’t know what the motive was, we don’t have an idea of what this person was thinking when he went out and did this,” said Peoria police spokesman Brandon Sheffert.

“Obviously we want to figure that out, because there’s a lot of scared people — a lot of people who this affected,” he told a press conference held indoors due to sweltering heat wave temperatures of up to 118F (48C) in Phoenix. — AFP ■

Zambia’s Kenneth Kaunda, Africa’s ‘Gandhi’, dead at 97

ZAMBIA’S founding president Kenneth Kaunda died on Thursday at the age of 97, the government announced, days after he was admitted to hospital with pneumonia.

The government declared 21 days of national mourning, ordered flags to fly at half mast and banned all entertainment in honour of the “icon and global statesman”.

“You have gone at a time we least expected,” President Edgar Lungu said on Facebook, describing Kaunda as a “true African icon.”

Cabinet secretary Simon Miti said in an address on public television that Kaunda “died peacefully” at 2:30 pm (1230 GMT) at a military hospital where he had been receiving treatment since Monday.

Kaunda ruled Zambia for 27 years, taking the helm after the country gained independence from Britain in October 1964.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a tweet that he was “saddened to learn of the death of Kenneth Kaunda,” sending his condolences to the people of Zambia. — AFP ■

US welcomes ‘clear commitment’ from Turkey to secure Kabul airport



Passengers arrive at the domestic terminal of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul in 2018. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE United States on Thursday hailed a commitment by Turkey to secure Kabul’s airport, addressing one key area of concern amid fears the government will collapse once US forces leave.

The agreement is likely

to mark a new warming of US relations with Turkey, a NATO ally whose relations had been fraught with President Joe Biden’s five-month-old administration.

Turkish President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan and Biden, meeting Monday on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Brussels in their first encounter since the US election, had a “detailed discussion” about the fate of the airport, said Jake Sullivan, Biden’s national security advisor.

The two presidents “agreed that they would work together to make this happen,” Sullivan told reporters.

Erdogan said Turkey needed “certain forms of support” and that Biden agreed to provide them, he said.

“The two of them tasked teams just to work out the final details. But the clear commitment from the leaders was established that Turkey would play a lead role in securing Hamid Karzai International Airport,” Sullivan said. — AFP ■

First person of colour named to Canada’s top court

PRIME Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday nominated the first person of colour to the top court in Canada, a country in which nearly one in four people identify as a minority.

Mahmud Jamal has been an Ontario Court of Appeal judge since 2019, after having previously taught at two of Canada’s top law schools and worked for decades as a litigator — including appearing in 35 appeals before the Supreme Court.

“He’ll be a valuable asset to the Supreme Court — and that’s why, today, I’m announcing his historic nomination to our country’s highest court,” Trudeau said on Twitter.

Jamal must still be vetted by the House of

Commons justice committee, but this is a formality.

He was born in 1967 into an Indian family in Nairobi and raised in Britain before moving to Canada in 1981.

Canada is a multicultural nation with almost one quarter of its population of 38 million identifying in the last census as a member of a visible minority group.

But recent attacks on Muslims, its historical treatment of indigenous peoples — labeled by a commission as “cultural genocide” — and police brutality against Black people and other ethnic minorities have highlighted the ongoing legacy of racism in Canada. — AFP ■

Russia ready for further dialogue if US is willing: Putin

THE Kremlin was guarded about future dialogue with Washington on Thursday, a day after the first face-to-face meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US counterpart Joe Biden.

The two leaders met in Geneva on Wednesday to ease soaring tensions between Moscow and Washington, with relations at their lowest since the end of the Cold War. Putin said Russia was ready to continue the talks provided Washington was also willing to do so.

“We are ready to continue this dialogue to the same extent as the American side is,” Putin said in televised remarks.

The Russian leader said the meeting was “quite friendly” and that he and Biden “were able to



Putin said Russia was ready to continue the talks provided Washington was also willing to do so. PHOTO: AFP

understand each other on key issues”.
Putin said the US president was a “professional” and “you have to be very attentive when

a young, educated, beautiful woman — she herself constantly confuses things,” Putin said, referring to White House press secretary Jen Psaki. “It is not because she is poorly educated or has a bad memory, just when people think that some things are secondary they don’t focus too much attention on them,” he said. Putin said “Americans think that nothing is more important than themselves”.

‘Significant achievement’
After talks that lasted more than three hours, the leaders issued a brief statement agreeing to start dialogue on nuclear arms control, a key issue after Biden’s predecessor Donald Trump withdrew from a bilateral arms accord with Russia. — AFP ■

NKorea must prepare for ‘dialogue and confrontation’ with US: Kim



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un says his country needs to be ready for both dialogue and confrontation with the United States. PHOTO: KCNA VIA KNS/AFP/FILE

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has said the country must prepare for both “dialogue and confrontation” with the United States, but with a particular emphasis on the latter as Pyongyang probes for any US policy shift under President Joe Biden.

It was Kim’s first reaction to the Biden administration’s recent review of its North Korean strategy that promised a “practical, calibrated approach” — including diplomatic efforts — to persuade Pyongyang into giving up its nuclear and missile programme.

Since Biden’s election, the two countries have adopted something of a strategic wait-and-see attitude following the diplomatic roller-coaster ride under Donald Trump that produced three historic summits with Kim but no agreement on dismantling the North’s nuclear arsenal.

Kim “stressed the need to get prepared for both dialogue and confrontation, especially to get fully prepared for confrontation in order to protect the dignity of our state” and reliably guarantee a “peaceful environment”, state news agency KCNA said on Friday.

Kim’s comments at Thursday’s central committee meeting signal a wait and see approach where the “ball is now in the US’s court” to push for either dialogue or confrontation, Hong Min from the Korea Institute for National Unification, told AFP.

Pyongyang had already accused Biden of pursuing a “hostile policy” and saying it was a “big blunder” for the veteran Democrat to say he would deal with the threat posed by the North’s nuclear programme “through diplomacy as well as stern deterrence”. — AFP ■

Iran opens presidential vote with ultraconservative tipped to win

IRAN’S supreme leader opened a presidential election Friday in which ultra-conservative cleric Ebrahim Raisi is seen as all but certain to coast to victory over his vetted rivals.

After a lacklustre campaign, turnout is expected to plummet to a new low in a country exhausted by a punishing regime of US economic sanctions that dashed hopes for a brighter future.

The supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, cast the first ballot in Tehran and then urged Iran’s nearly 60 million eligible voters to follow suit before polls are set to close at midnight (1930 GMT).

“The sooner you perform this task and duty, the better,” the 81-year-old Khamenei

said. “Everything that the Iranian people do today until tonight, by going to the polls and voting, serves to build their future.”

But enthusiasm has been dampened by the disqualification of many candidates and the deep economic malaise which has sparked spiralling inflation and job losses, the crisis deepened by the Covid pandemic.

“I’m not a politician, I don’t know anything about politics,” a Tehran car mechanic who gave his name as Nasrollah told AFP. “I have no money. All families are now facing economic problems.

“How can we vote for these people who did this to us? It’s not right.” — AFP ■



Ultraconservative cleric Ebrahim Raisi appears to be the frontrunner in Iran’s presidential election due to take place on Friday and has been named by Iranian media as a possible successor to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pelosi’s peril: US House speaker navigates Democratic divisions

FOR years Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the US House of Representatives, was the most powerful woman in American politics, Congress’s top Democrat squaring off against pugilist Republican president Donald Trump.

Today her fiercest battles — over the scope of legislation, political ideology, and hot-button topics like Israel — are not against an intransigent White House but rebellious progressives in her own caucus.

Nearly five months into Joe Biden’s presidency, cracks have emerged in the Democratic edifice, and the 81-year-old Pelosi has her fingers in the dam.

Biden’s transformational post-Covid agenda — a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, action on police reform, protections of voting rights, and fighting climate change — faces Republican obstruction and a Washington system custom-built for gridlock. — AFP ■

‘Sangorians’ take a page from insurgent playbook in fight against Taliban

THEY name themselves after a Turkish soap opera, count former Taliban insurgents among their ranks and dress like their enemies, but the shadowy “Sangorians” militiamen are among the fiercest forces on the Afghan battlefield.

They were established in 2015 by Abdul Jabar Qahraman, a high-ranking politician and military commander who was assassinated three years later by a Taliban bomb.

Local media reports say the covert group has received training from the country’s spy agency as well as foreign forces.

And the Jamestown Foundation — a US-based conservative think-tank — says it was established specifically to infiltrate and disrupt the Taliban. — AFP

ONE Championship to hold 12 further MMA events in 2021

ONE Championship, which organizes MMA martial arts competitions in Asia, is planning to hold 12 more tournaments between July and December, according to the ONE Championship source.

The ONE Championship has been holding competitions this year, but due to the COVID-19 epidemic, only 12 events have been held, from January to May, including an event which was held previously in this month.

As pandemic rates rise again in Asia, the fighting organization has postponed and cancelled some of the competitions scheduled for the end of May and this month.

According to the ONE Championship, the next competitions will be held on 9 and 30 July, 13 and 27 August, 3 and 24 September, 8 and 29 October, 12 and 26

November and 10, 31 December.

The organization will announce the trailer and fixtures within a month before the start of the competition.

Myanmar MMA Fighters Aung La N Sang and Tial Thang also took part in the previous fights of the ONE Championship. Aung La has lost both of his Championship belt in the recent fights but Tial Thang could maintain his best moment with the win over Paul Lumini at the Unbreakable III event of ONE Championship in Singapore on 5 February.

After losing ONE middleweight and light heavyweight title belts, Aung La N Sang is set to challenge for the Middleweight title later this year, with at least one more bout for the Burmese Python to come this year. —GNLM



Aung La N Sang (upper position) tries to choke his rival Reineir De Ridder at ONE Inside the Matrix event in Singapore on 30 October, 2020. **PHOTO: AUNG LA N SANG'S FB**

England eye Euro 2020 last 16 by breaking Scotland hearts

ENGLAND can join Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands in the last 16 of Euro 2020 on Friday if the Three Lions get the better of neighbours Scotland in a grudge match at Wembley.

The oldest and most played fixture in international football will take place at a major tournament for just the second time with the Scots aiming to avenge England's 2-0 win at Euro 96.

England manager Gareth Southgate was part of that winning side 25 years ago, but does not want his players to be distracted by the acrimony that surrounds a meeting with Scotland.

"For the fans and for us it is a big occasion but it is another opportunity for three points and our objective is qualification. That



England can join Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands in the last 16 of Euro 2020 on Friday if the Three Lions get the better of neighbours Scotland in a grudge match at Wembley. **PHOTO: AFP**

is what we have got to focus on," said Southgate. "I want them to approach it like any other game of football and focus on playing well and (they) don't need to emphasise the other parts too much."

Despite having just 2,500 tickets for the 22,500 crowd limited by coronavirus restrictions, Scottish fans have already descended on London in their thousands. — AFP ■

Norway's football clubs to vote on Qatar World Cup boycott

WILL Norwegian football star Erling Braut Haaland stay home or play on what fans have dubbed a "cemetery?" This Sunday, a meeting of Norway's football community will decide whether to boycott next year's World Cup in Qatar.

Under pressure from grassroots activists the Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) has decided to hold an extraordinary congress to decide on whether to pass up football's showpiece event all together.

The games on the pitches in the Middle Eastern emirate will "unfortunately be like playing on a cemetery," according to Ole Kristian Sandvik, spokesman of the Norwegian Supporters Alliance (NSA), invoking a commonly used metaphor among opponents of Norway's participation.

Norway, which has not qualified for a major international competition since Euro 2000, is currently fourth in its World Cup qualifying group behind Turkey, the Netherlands and Montenegro.

So while qualification seems an uphill task, the result of the vote could have an impact on whether Norway and its young star Haaland -- one of the rising stars of world football -- continue to play qualifying matches. — AFP ■

Depay and Dumfries send Netherlands into Euro 2020 knockouts

MEMPHIS Depay's early penalty set the Netherlands on the way to a 2-0 win over Austria in Amsterdam on Thursday, their second straight victory at Euro 2020 securing qualification for the last 16 already as winners of Group C. Depay made no mistake from the spot in the 11th minute after David Alaba's foul on Denzel Dumfries was spotted by the Israeli referee only after he had come across to review the images. Dumfries, so impressive in the thrilling opening 3-2 win over Ukraine, added another midway through the second half, his

second goal of the tournament. The Dutch were comfortable at home in the Johan Cruyff Arena and Frank de Boer's side are so far making a success of their first major tournament appearance since the 2014 World Cup. That is great news for De Boer, whose predecessor as national coach, current Barcelona boss Ronald Koeman, was among the spectators. Ukraine beat North Macedonia 2-1 earlier in Bucharest and, with head-to-head the first tiebreaker, the Dutch now cannot be caught at the top of the group. — AFP ■

Memphis Depay's early penalty set the Netherlands on the way to a 2-0 win over Austria in Amsterdam on Thursday, their second straight victory at Euro 2020 securing qualification for the last 16 already as winners of Group C. **PHOTO: AFP**

