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Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visit ship-building workshop of JSC Zelenodolsk Plant named after AM Gorky



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is viewing around the ship-building workshop of JSC “Zelenodolsk Plant named after AM Gorky” in Kazan City of the Republic of the Tatarstan yesterday.

THE delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Military Attaché Commodore Kyaw Soe Moe and officials, visited the ship-building workshop of JSC “Zelenodolsk Plant named after AM Gorky” in Kazan City

of the Republic of the Tatarstan yesterday afternoon. At the workshop, Acting Managing Director Mr Alexander Emelyushin and officials of the ship-building workshop of JSC “Zelenodolsk Plant named after AM Gorky” explained a brief history of the workshop and the progress of building

the ships. The Senior General and party asked for further information and viewed the work procedures of building the ships. The ship-building workshop of JSC “Zelenodolsk Plant named after AM Gorky”, 125 years old, is standing tall as a successful company. It creates the designs of ships to be used

in any seasons and build the various types of ships by applying modern technologies. The workshop also carries out the manufacturing of machinery to be used in the marine sector and necessary equipment for the oil and natural gas services in addition to the ship-building tasks. Moreover, the Titanium

Foundry of the company is one of the largest plants in Europe, manufacturing necessary parts for ship-building, aircraft-building and oil and natural gas operations. The company built more than 1,500 ships, some 600 of which were war vessels. These ships are sold to foreign countries.—MNA

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Message sent by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut,
Chairman of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control to ceremony to
mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
(26 June 2021)

MAY All Myanmar citizens be auspicious and free from danger of narcotic drugs. The UN General Assembly in 1987 has decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. It has been 34 times since the world countries have been observing this occasion annually.

Although the central-level and state/region level ceremonies for the 33rd Anniversary of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking could not have been observed last year due to the COVID-19 crisis, the ceremonies of burning seized drugs and related materials were held in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Lashio and Kutkai. Also this year, only the burning ceremonies are held in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi at the same time, with the participation of representatives from international embassies and the United Nations agencies.

Substance abusing, illegal drug-producing and trafficking, dealing of substances used in producing narcotic drugs have affected the people’s health, social and basic economic heart and have encouraged terrorist acts, arms smuggling, money laundering, illicit financial flows, corruption and transactional crimes. Money from narcotic drugs, on the other hand, has been affecting the State’s stability, rule of law and development.

Even though the world is COVID-19 impacted, the use of substances does not reduce and it is important to note that the drugs production, trafficking and abuse styles have changed.

Myanmar has been facing illegal poppy cultivation, production and trafficking. According to the UNODC’s report on poppy cultivation, Myanmar’s poppy cultivation has declined significantly today because of successive governments’ drug control efforts. In regions affected by narcotic drugs issues, alternative development has substantially supported the livelihood of poppy farmers and the regional development.

With the cooperation among Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Drug Control Police Force, special operations have been conducted in drug-prone areas, including the maritime, since 2013. To date, a total of 31 special anti-narcotics operations have been carried out and many drug-related items have been exposed and seized.

During 2020-2021, international cooperation in the Golden Triangle Region with neighbouring countries prevented a lot of the chemicals used in drug production, effectively preventing drug production and cracking down on drug trafficking.

In 2020, despite the restriction of COVID-19 disease, the military, the Myanmar Police Force and other partner organizations conducted joint operations and exposed 13,960 drug cases worth K1,436.34 billion and 19,994 suspects. More than K2,782 million were confiscated as State funds. As of 31 May, there were 2,833 drug cases worth K380.712 billion, 4,077 suspects, and K190.2334 million were confiscated as the State fund.

In addition to opium and heroin, the control of chemicals including man-made drugs such as stimulants, ICE and Ketamine is also important in reducing drug production. Due to increased prevention and control of precursor chemicals in the country, drug dealers and manufacturers have used the designer precursors in a variety of ways for drug production. As Myanmar is located among neighbouring industrialized nations that produce most chemicals, prohibition control has become a challenge. The Central Committee for Drug Abuse and Control, in collaboration with international organizations, is monitoring the import of chemicals.

As the saying goes “Prevention is better than cure”, only effective prevention of drug use will make the life of young people better. Since young people are the country’s future, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education are carrying out awareness-raising activities to prevent drug abuse. The involvement of the community and local people is especially needed as educating and monitoring one another in the community is more effective.

Drug abusers are young people who can work, reducing the country’s productivity and the health consequences of drug abuse can be detrimental to health and national development. As drug addiction is a treatable disease, treatment is provided by the Ministry of Health and Sports and rehabilitation services are provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

By the time the Government is giving priority to facilitating the trade flows to stabilize commodity prices, drug traffickers are taking advantage of the priority of speeding up the trade flows. At a time when the whole world is being affected by the COVID-19 disease, it is still being exploited for drug production and trafficking. Unfortunately, drug production is still on the rise, according to reports of arrests.

Drug traffickers and manufacturers are the enemies of the entire human races because they are greedy and selfish. We, regardless of religion or race, must safeguard the interests of the human races by engaging in drug control activities for the benefits of all.

Our country has drafted a new national drug control policy to bring it in line with the modern system and redesigned the 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law to balance criminal penalties. It also approved a national strategic plan to formulate the policy. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar, it has not yet been implemented, but regional action plans will need to be developed and implemented depending on the disease control.

As a member of the United Nations, Myanmar is actively cooperating in the international arena with the neighbouring countries, regional countries, ASEAN countries, countries outside the region, member countries of BIMSTEC and Greater Mekong Sub-regions in narcotic drugs control activities.

Successive governments have changed their political systems, but have cracked down on the drug problem as a common enemy. Unfortunately, some countries are mixing drug problems with politics. Nevertheless, our country will continue to address the drug problem as a national responsibility.

The Government is enhancing the cooperation with international organizations and partner organizations for drug prevention and control as well as promoting drug control activities in collaboration with departmental organizations and civil society organizations in the country. The public also should take the risk of drugs as a common threat and work together as a national duty.

This year, the theme of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is “Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives.” We urged you to build a drug-free society by promoting multidisciplinary knowledge.

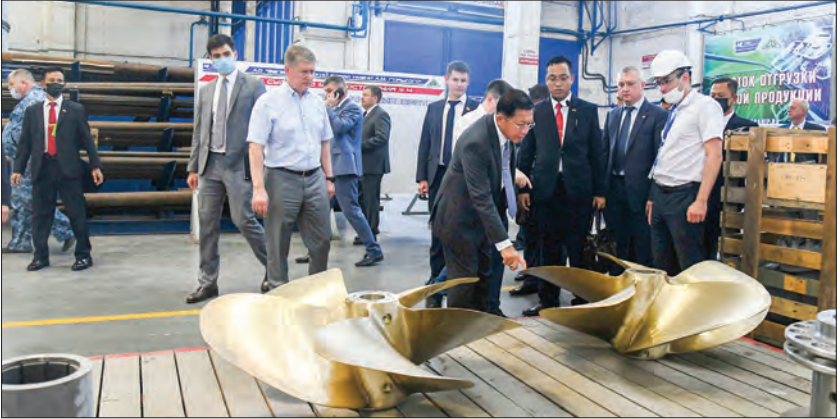
All must place emphasis on ecosystem restoration

INCLUDING the Covid-19 global pandemic. With the continued outbreak of the pandemic this year, all must place emphasis on ecosystem restoration as a priority to solve the problems of depleting natural resources, environmental pollution and climate change.

(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 6 June 2021)

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visit ship-building workshop of JSC Zelenodolsk Plant named after AM Gorky

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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.

Health and Sports Ministry opens COVID-19 call centre

THE Ministry of Health and Sports opens the COVID-19 call centre at its office in Nay Pyi Taw as of 8 am on 22 June for the reply to queries on health awareness

about COVID-19 and facts for abiding by the restrictions to the people on time. The people can dial the following telephone numbers from 8 am to 9 pm

on a daily basis for facts about the COVID-19 disease.

Contact numbers: (1) 067-3411508
(2) 067-3411509

(3) 067-3411144
(4) 09-882557991
(5) 09-882557992
(6) 09-882557993

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visit Kamaz Holding Company in Republic of the Tatarstan

THE delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Military Attaché Commodore Kyaw Soe Moe and officials, on 24 June morning, left the Sheremetyevo International Airport in Moscow of the Russian Federation for the Republic of the Tatarstan. They were seen off at the airport by Major General Alexander Lopilin, the Deputy Chief of Main Directorate of International Military Cooperation in the Russian Ministry of Defense, Minister Counsellor U Zaw Lin Oo of Myanmar Embassy to Russia and officials.

On arrival at Begishevo Airport of Naberezhnye of the Republic of the Tatarstan, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Nigmatullin Rustan Kamilievich and officials.

The Senior General and party viewed manufacturing of trucks, buses and diesel engines at Kamaz Holding Automobile Plant in Naberezhnye. Officials of the plant explained the procedure of manufacturing the parts of automobiles. The



ing exchanged gifts.

Kamaz plant was established by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the legislative council of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic in February 1976 with the purpose of manufacturing large trucks. It launched manufacturing of Oka midjet (VAZ-1111) vehicles on 21 December 1987. It was re-constituted as a Joint Stock Company on 25 June 1990. An outbreak of fire happened at the engine plant of Kamaz in 1993. It established Cummins Kama Joint Venture Company together with its partner Cummins Inc in 2006. At present, the company exports work-



Senior General asked for further information.

The Senior General and party viewed a demonstration on driving of trucks and battlefield used Typhoon armoured vehicles manufactured by Kamaz Holding.

They also viewed round heavy trucks, battery-powered garbage van, small cars and other vehicles being manufactured by Kamaz Holding. Next, the Senior General and the deputy director-general of Kamaz Hold-



ing used vehicles to the world. Kamaz Company has won Dakar Rally 18 times. According to the statistics in 2020, it manufactured more than 43,000 trucks. Most of the trucks used at the Russian Armed Forces were manufactured by the Kamaz Company.

The Senior General and party proceeded to Kazan City of the Republic of the Tatarstan from Naberezhnye and spent the night at the presidential special guest house of the Republic of the Tatarstan.—MNA

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.

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party pay visits to medical equipment production companies in Kazan



The Senior General is viewing the equipment used at the operation theatre.



The Senior General is looking into the human patient simulation.

THE delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Military Attaché Commodore Kyaw Soe Moe and officials viewed the equipment used at the operation theatre manufactured by Eidos Medicine and Endomedium companies in Kazan of the Republic of the Tatarstan yesterday morning.

Officials of Endomedium

Company explained a brief history of emerging Eidos Medicine and documentary photos, production of diagnostic test kits for COVID-19, testing the disease in the human patient simulation system, modern devices using scope manufactured by Endomedium Company for diagnostic measures and testing of disease. The Senior General raised questions for further information.

At the meeting hall, officials clarified the production of med-

ical treatment and cooperation measures.

Eidos Medicine Plant was established by Med Vision Group of Companies in 2014. It is a Japanese Medical Company specializing in the production of simulators designs and medical simulators. It emphasizes the production of human patient simulation and surgery simulation as main products. The Human Patient Simulation system is high accuracy and it is similar to genuine skin with

physiological math models to be able to provide effective and correct treatments to the patients. Price and service cost are much lower than other machinery. The products are exported to Europe and American countries. These products are used at schools, hospitals, military organizations and other sectors.

Endomedium Company was set up on 6 June 1997 to produce endoscope machinery and related parts for ear, nose, throat,

chest, abdomen and urinary tracts. Currently, it manufactures more than 40 kinds of products, over 800 kinds of endosurgical equipment and accessories. It opens the training centre together with Kazan Medical Academy to stage educational movements. Moreover, Endomedium Company holds meetings with surgeons on treatments for endoscopic surgical operations and diseases such as obstetric and gynecologic diseases.—MNA

Myanmar navy delegation attends 2nd-day int'l maritime defence show in Russia

THE delegation led by the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung visited the second day International Maritime Defence Show (IMDS-2021) held in Saint Petersburg of the Russian Federation yesterday.

The delegation then went to the port in Saint Petersburg and viewed the submarine, frigates, corvettes, patrol vessels including other types of ships. —MNA



Officials themselves need to understand political changes and clarify them to subordinate officers and staff: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Vice-Senior General Soe Win is cordially comforting patients individually at the Defence Services General Hospital in Mingaladon yesterday.

IT is necessary to rapidly implement policy and guidance of the State Administration Council Chairman in a short time, said Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior

General Soe Win at the meeting with the chairman and members of Yangon Region Administration Council and chairmen of district and township administration bodies at the office of Yangon Region Administration Council yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General pointed out that officials themselves need to understand the political changes and clarify it to subordinate officers and staff. The Vice-Senior General explained needs of the people to

cooperate with the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force and administrative bodies for ensuring peace and stability and the rule of law, necessity to raise awareness of rules and regulations not to cause terror acts, exposing and arresting under the law for

ensuring law enforcement and rapidly taking action against those offenders, assigned duty shouldered by relevant departments and organizations with loyalty, cooperation in implementing Pankhin project to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to the non-card holder citizens for holding a correct election, strictly abiding by the testing and quarantine process for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 as neighbouring countries face high infection rate of disease, widely raising awareness of knowledge to the people to individually follow orders and directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports for prevention of COVID-19, preparations for quarantine centres and fulfillment of needs. The Vice-Senior General and party cordially comforted officers and other ranks of the Tatmadaw and members of Myanmar Police Force in individuals at the Defence Services Orthopaedic Specialty Hospital and the Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) in Mingaladon Station of Yangon Region, asked about medical treatment and presented foodstuffs.—MNA



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nay Pyi Taw Council Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Containment and Emergency Response Committee Notification to Public 25 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. Moreover, Nay Pyi Taw Council Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Containment and Emergency Response Committee also released a notification for the people living in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and those who would come from the outside of the territory, trucks and buses on 18 June.
2. The government offices for health issues, economy, education, religious affairs and other issues of entire people across the nations are located in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. Therefore, the COVID-19 preventive measures will be added as follows;
 - (a) Temperature screening, COVID-19 symptoms and blood oxygen level will be checked at the entry points to Nay Pyi Taw. If people with high body temperature, symptoms and below 92 per cent of blood oxygen level are found, they will be tested with RTD test kits and provide with necessary treatment.
 - (b) Those who come from Stay-at-Home townships will have to get quarantined for 10 days and tested twice for disease.
 - (c) The guests who want to visit the government offices/ departments will be tested with RDT at Nay Pyi Taw tollgate and they will be allowed to enter if the results show negatives. If they test positive for COVID-19, they will have to take medical treatment at the designated hospitals.
 - (d) The government employees working in Nay Pyi Taw will be tested with RDT at the tollgate if they return to Nay Pyi Taw from certain places when they complete their duties.
3. Therefore, it is here announced again for the people living in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and those who would come from the outside of the territory to follow these extra COVID-19 preventive measures.

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

Ethnic affairs, public management and services committee holds meeting (9/2021)

THE Ethnic Affairs, Public Management and Services Committee held a coordination meeting (9/2021) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The State Administration Council members, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and other officials of the department concerned attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Committee Chairman Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, SAC member made an opening remark.

Then, Secretary of the committee Deputy Minister U Zaw

Aye Maung clarified the meeting minutes of the previous meeting (8/2021) and ongoing work plans.

After that, the attendees to the meeting respectively briefed all on the proposals to the committee.

The chairman of the committee also highlighted the plans to submit the proposals of ministries to the management committee of SAC and other cases to implement based on the committee's decision.

The respective officials coordinated the ethnic affairs and services, and Committee Chairman General Mya Tun Oo concluded the meeting. —MNA



Union Minister for IFER meets with Chairman and members of Rakhine State Investment Committee

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo met with the Chairman and members of Rakhine State Administration Council and Rakhine State Investment Committee members at the office of Rakhine State Administration Council's meeting hall in Sittway in the afternoon of 25 June 2021.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the matters related to the investment promotions and facilitation of the State and, urged the committee members to undertake the State's investment promotion measures in accord with the



Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) issued by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). He also highlighted the committee members to monitor and support the necessary assistance to the existing investment which were permitted by MIC and endorsed by State Investment Committee

in line with the Investment Policy and the important provision of Myanmar Investment Law, Rules and Regulations.

After that, the Chairman of the State Administration Council and the State Investment Committee Dr Aung Kyaw Min discussed the investment promotion activities which have been undertaken by the Committee and explained future investment activities and promotion plan. Then, the State Committee members asked the matters on the investment promotion and the Union Minister responded to those questions raised by the committee members. —MNA

Boat race to be held in Inlay lake in national races village (Yangon)



PLANS are underway to hold a traditional boat race in Inlay Lake in the National Races Village in Yangon where residential people in Yangon came for recreation.

More than 700 holidaymakers came to the village during business days, 2,000 on Saturday and 3,000 on Sunday before the COVID-19 crisis. After the temporary closure of the village, it was reopened on 2 May and have been welcoming more than 100 visitors on a business day, 300 on Saturday and 700 on Sunday. Nan-Myint tower, Ship and the surrounding of the Inlay Lake are favourites of most of the young people. As the new service with stone benches for family recreation is provided, the surrounding around the lake is more alive than ever before.

“People come and rest here on weekdays and weekends. We have a plan to hold a boat race in Inlay Lake under the guidance of the superiors,” said Deputy Director of the village U Myo Win.

“Ethnic performances suspended during the rainy season will be held at the Union Hall as from October and the arrangements are being made for tourists to watch the boat race,” he added.

Since the length of the Inlay Lake is about 200 metres and the width is 50 to 70 metres, it is large enough to hold a boat race and the people of Yangon will be able to enjoy the traditional boat race, which demonstrates the power of unity.

The National Races Village, located on the bank of Bago River near the Thanlyin bridge, is 117-acre big with the houses of the eight national races and is one of the tourist sites not only for domestic travellers but also for international tourists. — Nyein Thu/GNLM

Eradicate drug abuse, drug trafficking through public strength

THE United Nations' General Assembly held in 1987 adopted a resolution to set every 26th June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

In line with this year's motto: Share Facts on Drugs. Save Lives, all the people need to build the socio-economic lives with free from narcotic drugs with raising the awareness on danger of narcotic drugs.

At the ceremonies to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, seized narcotic drugs and related accessories were incinerated in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Lashio and Kutkai with attendance of diplomats and representatives from UN agencies.

Drug abuse, illegal production, trafficking and trading of accessories used in production of narcotic drugs harm health, social and economic affairs of the people while causing terrorism, arms smuggling, money laundering, illegal monetary flow, corruption, bribery, transactional crimes as well as undermining stability of the State, rule of law and development of the country.

Myanmar, being a UN member country, actively participates in drug eradication tasks together with neighbouring countries, regional countries, ASEAN, BIMSTEC and Greater Mekong Sub-region countries.

trafficking and abuse forms across the world.

Despite exercising various political systems, governments in successive eras have been combating the narcotic drugs as a common enemy of the country. But, some countries abuse the narcotic drug problem as a political tool. Whatever it may be, Myanmar decides to eradicate the narcotic drugs as national duty.

Myanmar, being a UN member country, actively participates in drug eradication tasks together with neighbouring countries, regional countries, ASEAN, BIMSTEC and Greater Mekong Sub-region countries.

■ ■ ■

Starting from 2013, the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force are joining hands in launching the special operations in the areas where problems of narcotic drugs happened. So far, they have performed 31 special operations of narcotic drug eradication with seizing a large volume of the narcotic drugs and related accessories.

Significantly, the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force and partner organizations conducted operations in 2020, arresting 19,994 suspects in 13,960 drug related cases, seizing narcotic drugs worth some K1,436.34 billion and confiscating K2,782 million as the State finance. Moreover, a total of 4,077 suspects were arrested in 2,833 drug related cases, seizing the drugs worth more than K380.712 billion and confiscating K190.2334 million as State finance up to 31 May 2021. It is noticeable that cases of drug abuse do not decline but it changes drug production,

UN chief urges European Parliament to support COVID vaccines for all

The European Union (EU) must use its leverage to ensure people everywhere have access to COVID-19 vaccines, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on Thursday.

IN a wide-ranging multilingual speech to the European Parliament in Brussels, the UN chief underscored the need to ramp up vaccinations globally. "The pandemic is causing more deaths today than a year ago. And vaccines are our only way out of this crisis. They must be considered as a global public good, available and affordable to all," he said.

"Vaccine equity is not only the greatest moral test of our times. It is also a matter of effectiveness", he added.

Vaccine task force

The Secretary-General reiterated his recent call for an Emergency Task Force that would mobilize pharmaceutical companies and key industry players in implementing a plan to ensure the entire global population is vaccinated by "as early as possible in 2022".

Members would include vaccine-producing countries, as well as nations that could manufac-

ture these treatments provided they have assistance, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO); the vaccine alliance, GAVI, and international financial institutions.

The Task Force would explore all options to scale-up vaccine production, such as technology transfers, patent pooling, sharing intellectual property, and addressing supply chain bottlenecks.

"And the European Union must use its leverage as a global actor to help in this effort and ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines for all", he said.

Creating a fairer world

Fresh from being re-appointed as UN Secretary-General, Mr Guterres told parliamentarians from the 27 member bloc, that he will use his second term to foster more effective global cooperation to address common concerns.

"The pandemic has revealed our shared fragility, our interconnectedness, and the overwhelm-

ing need for collective action. Our biggest challenge — and greatest opportunity — is to use this crisis as a chance to pivot to a greener, fairer and more sustainable world," he said.

With the pandemic exposing shocking inequalities between developed and developing countries, he urged governments to consider imposing a "solidarity tax" or "wealth tax" on those who profited from the crisis, which would go towards funding socio-economic recovery.

"But beyond that, developing countries must have access to additional liquidity," he said, speaking in French. "In this context, I renew my call to support the most vulnerable people and countries, including, if necessary, through debt relief."

Climate action

Addressing the fragile state of the planet, Mr Guterres thanked the EU for showing leadership in achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.



Residents gather to get vaccinated with the Sinovac vaccine against the COVID-19 coronavirus during a mass vaccination drive, in Semarang on Tuesday, as infections soar in Indonesia. PHOTO: AFP

More and more countries are joining the drive for carbon neutrality, and he said their commitments must be bolstered by clear deadlines for ending fossil fuel subsidies and finance, and plans to halve emissions by 2030. Ahead of the COP26 UN

climate change conference this November in Scotland, the Secretary-General urged the EU to mobilize the \$100 billion to support climate action in developing countries, as promised under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

"With many countries on the frontline of the climate crisis, we have a moral imperative and a clear economic case for supporting developing countries to adapt and build resilience to current and future climate impacts," he said. Source : UN

Ventilator 'bank' boosts Covid-19 fight in Nepal's hospitals



Nepal Ventilator Services co-founder Bishal Dhakal checks ventilators at a warehouse before they are rented out to hospitals treating Covid-19 patients in Kathmandu on June 14, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

A ventilator "bank" where hospitals can rent critical care machines for Covid-19 patients has given Nepal's cash-strapped healthcare system a

much-needed lifeline.

The Himalayan nation, like its South Asian neighbours, experienced a spike in infections in April and May with hospitals over-

whelmed and medical supplies running low.

As the infectious disease started to spread across the impoverished nation a year ago,

Nepal only had 840 ventilators for a population of nearly 30 million, according to government data.

Most of the ventilators — needed to help severely ill Covid-19 patients breathe — were in the capital Kathmandu, leaving regional and rural hospitals vulnerable.

While daily infections have since declined from a peak of more than 9,000 cases in mid-May, authorities say hospitals remain under pressure.

But Nepal Ventilator Services, a non-profit that has bought 85 of the machines through donations since the start of the pandemic last year, has helped to meet the surge in demand.

"Nepal is chronically, insufficiently equipped with machines like ventilators," the group's co-founder, 42-year-old doctor Bishal Dhakal, told AFP.

"It does not have even required numbers, which is about 2,000 to 3,000 machines for a 30-million population of Nepal."

The heart surgeon turned general practitioner reached out to donors for funding in April last year and money poured in, allowing the organisation to buy 20 ventilators to rent out to hospitals at cost.

Bhim Hospital in the country's south, which had one ventilator, loaned two from Dhakal's group in August for three months.

"Our patients needed ventilators but we did not have enough budget to immediately buy any," the government hospital's medical superintendent, Shakuntala Gupta, told AFP. "The bureaucratic process for an approval is also long."

'Rescued us'

Since then, the ventilators have been used for nearly 1,500 patients across the country.

Hospitals are charged 3,000 rupees (\$25) per day to cover maintenance and transportation costs.

Karuna Hospital in Kathman-

du, which has been renting eight ventilators since April this year, said the "bank" was life-saving.

"At the peak, almost every patient who was admitted in the ICU required ventilator support," the private hospital's chief executive, Ram Kumar Shrestha, told AFP.

"If the ventilator 'bank' did not exist, the death rate would perhaps be beyond our imagination, not just here but in many places of Nepal." Laxmi Rokaya, 29, was struggling to breathe a week after she was infected in May.

Her brother, Kunsang Magar, was unable to find a spare ventilator in Kathmandu until they reached Karuna.

"They (Nepal Ventilator Services) rescued us. I don't know if we would have found a ventilator without them," Magar told AFP, adding that Rokaya was placed on a ventilator for two days and released from hospital just over a week later.

Source : AFP



“မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကင်းစင်ဖို့ အသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေဖို့”

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာသမဝါယမနေ့
၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၃) ရက် (စနေနေ့)



“Rebuild Better Together”

“လူမှုစီးပွားဖိုမိုတိုးတက်ကောင်းမွန်ဖို့ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကြိုးပမ်းတည်ဆောက်ဖို့”

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 25 June, 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 26 June, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Naypyitaw, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Shan, Chin, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 June, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 June, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, widespread in Yangon Region and isolated in Mandalay Region.

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2021 region and state under-21 (men’s) football matches continue



The SAC member, the MoHS deputy minister and officials look on the 2021 Region/ State Under-21 (men’s) soccer tourney.

THE Ministry of Health and Sports, the Department of Sports and Physical Education and the Myanmar Football Federation continue to hold the 2021 Region and State Under-21 (men’s) Football Tournament in Nay Pyi Taw.

Member of the State Administration Council U Saw Daniel, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports U Myo Hlaing, Acting Directors-General for the Department of Sports and Physical Education U Kyaw San and U Kyaw Oo, Directors and football fans attended the football match.

Yesterday matches were played between the Yangon Region team and Kayin State team in the morning, and Mon State team and Taninthayi Region Team, and Magway Region team and Kayah Region Team in the evening.

It is reported that the Nay Pyi Taw team and Sagaing Region team will play at Wunna Theikdi Sports Training Ground (1), and the Mandalay Region Team and Ayeyawady Region Team will play at Wunna Theikdi Sports Training Ground (3) on June 26 at 3:30 pm. – MNA

Information Team of State Administration Council replies to the telephone queries of MRTV

MAJOR Kaung Htet San from the Information Team of the State Administration Council clarified the telephone interviews from MRTV as follows:

Q: A video of an armed group brutally killing a family with percussion lock firearms in Kalay Township has been posted on social media. Let me ask the truth about this video.

A: Armed insurgents came to the house of U Win Zaw Oo, who lived on Nwartaung Kyaung street, Nyaungpintha ward, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region at around 9:15 pm on 19 June and shot the family. This news was published on 20 June. Due to the shooting, U Win Zaw Oo died of a bullet wound in the chest in front of the house, and his wife Daw San San Maw, son Ko Thiha Aung and son-in-law Ko Zaw Zaw died from gunshot wounds in the house. His daughter

Ma San Shwe Oo who was shot in the abdomen and injures to the right eyebrow was taken to Tatmadaw hospital for medical treatment. According to the local people, the video uploaded on the internet was the incident that happened in Nyaungpintha ward, Kalay Township. The brutal killing of an innocent family is a shock to the community. Authorities are working with the public to arrest the culprits as soon as possible.

Q: In the morning of June 24, 15 soldiers, one PDF member were killed and three PDF members were injured in a clash between Tatmadaw and PDF in Minkin Township, according to Khit Thit Media. I would like to know whether this news is true or not.

A: Security forces were attacked by a group of 35 armed terrorists on the way from Pann-



Major Kaung Htet San of the SAC Information Team clarifies the MRTV’s telephone interview.

sat village to Inpinhla village, Minkin Township, Sagaing Region on 24 June. While being retaliated, the armed terrorists retreated towards the north. Due to the clash, four terrorists were killed and 9 guns, 2 homemade mines, 3 wooden butts used in making percussion locked firearm, 4 iron pipes, 50 ticals of gunpowder and 50 lead balls were confiscated. – MNA

Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

FROM 21-6-2021 to 25-6-2021, local/foreign donors contributed K11.150 million 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 25-6-2021 is as follows:

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List

	Kyat
Account opening balance on 21-6-2021	30,873,544,615.39
Received amount of money from (+) 21-6-2021 to 25-6-2021	11,150,000.00
Closed balance on 25-6-2021	30,884,694,615.39

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List

	USD
Account opening balance on 21-6-2021	178,140,149.53
Received amount of money from (+) 21-6-2021 to 25-6-2021	-
Closed balance on 25-6-2021	178,140,149.53

Myanmar Press Council

Announcement 5/2021

25 June 2021

1. Myanmar Press Council, as the fourth estate, has been steadfastly implementing its firm standing in harmonious collaboration with other similar estates of legislation, judiciary and administration for the beneficiary’s sake of the country and Myanmar society.

2. Nowadays, all estates are striving for peace, stability and the rule of law as national prerequisites. At the same time, the media sector is also resolutely upholding its media ethics and the News Media Law. However, some news agencies are breaching the News Media Law and media ethics leading to growing more disputes amongst Myanmar society. It was therefore announced that their media licences were revoked and declared as illegal news agencies.

3. Thus, Myanmar Press Council hereby announces that it shall not be responsible for any further possible disputes that may occur as the media personnel contact and feed news items to those illegal news agencies by infringing the existing laws, News Media Law and journalistic ethics.

Myanmar Press Council

Myanmar Thanaka Association to seek licence for Thanaka as herbal medicine

MYANMAR Thanaka Association will strive for Thanaka to be listed as an authorized ingredient in herbal medicines, said U Kyaw Moe, chair of the association.

Thanaka, yellowish-white cosmetic paste made from ground bark, is a natural cosmetic in Myanmar. As Thanaka plant is medicinal, all will seek permits to utilize Thanaka powder from barks and seeds for medicinal purposes.

“Thanaka will be used in

herbal medicinal products. Thanaka is medically used for scar treatment, toothache relief and other health benefits. To distribute them into the market, a licence is required,” he explained.

At present, Thanaka leaf and Centella are experimentally produced as herbal tea. The association will produce more Thanaka herbal products. — Myo Win Tun (Mandalay sub-printing house)/GNLM



At present, Thanaka leaf and Centella are experimentally produced as herbal tea. The association will produce more Thanaka herbal products.

Irrigation water provided to cultivate 52,457 acres of monsoon paddy in Kyaukse



The department will cultivate a total of 52,457 acres of monsoon paddy using the irrigation water system. Besides, 110 acres of monsoon paddy will also be grown using underground water.

KYAUKSE township Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (WRUD) is providing the irrigation water to the monsoon paddy farmlands by setting the dates to meet the paddy cultivation target.

In the 2021-22 financial year, the township agriculture department targeted to cultivate 52,457 acres of monsoon paddy by the irrigation water

system.

In order to meet the cultivation target, WRUD is providing irrigation water starting from 15 June till 30 November. The irrigation water is being distributed to Upper Lin Zin drain, Ngwar That drain, Nga Pyaung drain, Nat Kham/Thindi drain, Thandwe drain, Min Ye drain, Ta Moak drain, Zeetaw drain, Palaik drain and Myaung Zone

drain starting from 6 am on an alternate rotational basis like closing seven days and opening seven days.

The department will cultivate a total of 52,457 acres of monsoon paddy using the irrigation water system. Besides, 110 acres of monsoon paddy will also be grown use underground water. — Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM

Inya COVID-19 treatment centre prepares to receive 500 COVID-19 patients

INYA COVID-19 treatment centre (Mayangon) is preparing to provide treatment to 500 COVID-19 patients, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The COVID-19 treatment centre is making arrangements to provide healthcare services including free and timely medical treatment to those who are confirmed with the COVID-19 infection.

Besides, two hospitals are also taking preparation measures to receive hospitalization of the COVID-19 positive patients. These two hospitals are the Public Hospital in Hlinethaya township and the civil hospital in Shwepyitha township. Hline-thaya township hospital will be able to accommodate 100 patients and has made ready the essential things such as oxygen for 50 patients while Shwelinpan civil hospital will be able to accommodate 50 patients.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is providing the necessary immunization equipment and medical sup-

plies to areas where the virus has been found in large numbers. The Tatmadaw medical team is also providing necessary medical treatment and monitoring daily those confirmed patients in cooperation with the medical staff from the state, region, district and township public health and medical services department as well as the volunteers.

Presently, the authorities are also having the medical examinations conducted on all the visitors who will come from the stay at home townships to the Yangon region to make sure whether they have COVID-19 or not.

With the essential further control of spreading of COVID-19, the instructions, orders and notifications of the union level organizations and the relevant ministries released on 31 May 2021 was extended to 30 June 2021.

Myanmar has reported a total of 149,927 cases with 3,265 deaths and 134,093 recoveries as of 24 June 2021. — Aye Maung/GNLM

859 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 June, total figure rises to 151,573

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **151,573** after **859 new cases** were reported on 25 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **134,779** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **3,282** after **7** died. —MNA

Myanmar bean growers see strong market on G to G pact

THE bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Myanmar and India ensured a strong market next five years, along with other relaxations on import quota, the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar can export 250,000 tonnes of black gram (urad) and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas under the G to G (government to government) pact during the April-March period between the 2021-2022 financial year and the 2025-2026 FY. The bilateral negotiations for the G to G pact started in 2016 and the two countries signed an MoU on 18 June 2021.

Additionally, this G to G pact will not relate to India's yearly quota on bean import. Therefore, Myanmar exporters can ship them under this quota as well.

In May 2021, India's Minis-



Myanmar can export 250,000 tonnes of black gram (urad) and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas under the G to G (government to government) pact during the April-March period between the 2021-2022 financial year and the 2025-2026 FY.

try of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved not only black gram but also other pulses being imported from Myanmar that have the bill of landing up to October-end 2021, with relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment.

India experienced some damages to their farms due to erratic weather, resulting in a yield drop. The demand in India has risen amid the impacts of the global pandemic and the low supply. Consequently, India's ministry gave green light to the

relaxations of conditions for imports of pulses from Myanmar.

The number of bean acreage is expected to increase in the coming season following the relaxations.

Following the policy change of India's pulses import, the prices of black gram and pigeon peas have risen in the domestic market. The grams are in high demand at present, according to the traders from Mandalay commodity depot.

Strong local demand boosted the price of black gram (urad) to K1,105,000-1,235,000 per tonne on 25 June. Black gram fetched only K880,000 per tonne in April-end. Similarly, the high demand pushed up the price of pigeon peas up to K1,092,500 per tonne on 25 June, Bayintnaung Wholesale Market data showed.

India set an import quota on beans including black gram and

pigeon peas starting from 2017. Myanmar earlier had to export black bean and pigeon peas under the quota system and limit period. The local growers were battered by quota and price manipulation in the previous years.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Products. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, counting for 33 per cent of agricultural products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black gram, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanut, chickpea, soybean, black-eyed beans, butter bean and rice bean are also grown in the country. — MM/GNLM

Good sale of gourds makes growers happy

THE villagers from Kyaukton village in Minbu (Sagu) township are cultivating the gourds on a manageable scale. Now, the growers are happy, earning fair prices for gourds that are selling well in the market.

The sprout of a gourd plant could be sold after cultivating for one month. The fruit could yield after growing for two months.

The gourd plants are grown the whole year. But the plants need to use underground water in cold season and summer. The gourd plants grown in the monsoon are yielding higher. So, the plant doesn't need to be sprayed with fertilizer. But,

the plant needs to use fertilizer in summer and cold season.

The gourd seeds are grown only on the ground in summer and cold season, but in monsoon, the growers are making bamboo-trestle for growing gourd plants.

The gourds are sold for K200 or K400 per piece depending upon the size. The gourds sprouts are sold for K10 per once a week. The growers could earn daily family income by growing gourds. The bottle gourd is a crop that should be grown, said U Chint Htwe, a local grower from Kyaukton village. —Zayar Htet (Minbu)/GNLM



The gourds are sold for K200 or K400 per piece depending upon the size. The gourds sprouts are sold for K10 per once a week.

CBM sells \$6 mln for second time this month



On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has sold US\$6 million for the second time this month on June 24.

About \$6 million was sold at an auction exchange rate of K1,590 per US dollar.

On 7 June, the CBM sold about \$3 million for the first time this month at an auction market rate. The bank has already sold a total of \$9 million for this month.

In May, the CBM reportedly sold \$24 million at an auction rate. CBM is selling the US dollar at an auction rate intending to keep the exchange rate stable.

The dollar exchange rate against Myanmar Kyat stood at around K1,330 per dollar at

the end-January. Then, the rate jumped to K1,730 per dollar on 12 May.

With the rising US dollar exchange rate, the CBM has been constantly selling the US dollar at an auction exchange rate since 12 May. Consequently, the exchange rate dips to around K1,600 in the local foreign exchange market.

The local foreign exchange market's data in 2021, the highest and the lowest exchange rate is currently fixed around K1,327-1,345 in January, K1,335-1,465 in February, K1,420-1,550 in March, K1,550-1,610 in April and K1,585-1,730 in May.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-

1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

Last year, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market. — NN/GNLM

Toshiba shareholders vote out board chairman over governance scandal

DISGRUNTLED Toshiba Corp. shareholders voted Friday to remove its board chairman and another director responsible for oversight, in a debilitating blow to the Japanese industrial conglomerate engulfed by a governance scandal.

The outcome at a general shareholders' meeting adds a new twist to the turmoil at Toshiba after an independent probe found it had colluded with the government in pressuring foreign activist investors in the run-up to a general shareholders meeting last year.

The two candidates voted out were board chairman Osamu Nagayama, who had defied calls from some investors to step down and instead vowed to rebuild the board. The other director, Nobuyuki Kobayashi, was as a member of Toshiba's audit committee, which found no issue with how last year's general shareholders meeting was held.

The vote came after Toshiba CEO Satoshi Tsunakawa vowed to win back trust from shareholders and improve its corporate climate, five years after an accounting scandal.

Tsunakawa did not reveal a breakdown of the vote, saying only that the two failed to secure the support from a majority of shareholders. He himself was reappointed.

Toshiba is scrambling to repair its reputation after an investigation by independent lawyers found that the company, seen by the government as critical to national security, sought help from Japan's industry ministry to fend off overseas investors like Effissimo Capital Management Pte. Ltd. ahead of an annual shareholders' meeting in 2020.



People head to a shareholders' meeting of Toshiba Corp. in Tokyo on June 25, 2021. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The probe, commissioned by some of Toshiba's overseas investors, has exposed governance

issues at Toshiba and raised questions about how much the government should be allowed to interfere with private companies under the name of protecting national security. — Kyodo News ■

Strawberries are the only fruit for Wimbledon spectators



Romanian seasonal worker Constantin Anghel picks strawberries at Hugh Lowe Farms, near Maidstone, Kent. PHOTO: AFP

THE players who dominated Wimbledon over the past three decades may have changed, from Pete Sampras and Steffi

Graf to Roger Federer and Serena Williams, but one feature has remained constant — the supplier of its trademark straw-

berries. Hugh Lowe Farms, situated near Maidstone in Kent, the county known as 'The Garden of Eng-

land', has been the sole supplier of the fruit so closely associated with the Grand Slam event for almost 30 years. It is a family business with present managing director Marion Regan having taken over from her father, Hugh Lowe, who had succeeded his grandfather in running the operation.

Regan told AFP the importance to the business of the 30 tonnes they supply over the fortnight — a freshly picked delivery arriving in southwest London every day — is huge even though it is a tiny percentage of their annual sales of 5,000 tonnes. — AFP ■

Nike shares surge as return of pro sports boosts outlook

SHARES of Nike skyrocketed Thursday on blow-out earnings propelled by gains in direct sales to consumers and positive momentum from the return of professional sports.

The sportswear giant scored record quarterly revenue earnings in North America and also benefited from a big jump in sales in Europe, Middle East and Africa compared to the same period last year, when Covid-19 restrictions were most severe.

Higher revenues also helped offset the effects on higher spending on marketing in connection with major sporting events such as this month's NBA playoffs and Euro 2020, where the company is a sponsor of Cristiano Ronaldo and of several teams still in contention.

"We're proud that more goals have been scored using Nike boots than all the others combined," said Chief Executive John Donahoe on an earnings conference call. Nike's profits for the



Shares of Nike skyrocketed Thursday on blowout earnings propelled by gains in direct sales to consumers and positive momentum from the return of professional sports. PHOTO: JOHANNES EISELE/AFP

quarter ending May 31 was \$1.5 billion, compared with a loss of \$790 million a year ago. Revenue nearly doubled to \$12.3 billion. Executives also out-

lined a plan for strong performance through fiscal 2025, projecting annual sales growth of high single digit to low double digit growth. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan's Sojitz invests in Singapore graphene start-up 2D Materials

JAPANESE trading house Sojitz Corp. has acquired an equity stake in 2D Materials Pte. Ltd. to take advantage of the Singaporean start-up's manufacturing technology to commercialize "graphene" nanocarbon materials.

The investment amount and other details were not disclosed about a deal that marks Sojitz's first foray into the field of next-generation new materials. Its partner was spun off from a national university lab in the Southeast Asian country.

Graphene is a mesh-like sheet of hexagonal carbon atoms with a honeycomb structure that resembles the cross section of a beehive.

It is drawing global attention as the "ultimate nanomaterial" for its diverse properties such as being atomically thin, light, flexible, transparent and as strong as diamond, according to Sojitz. Sojitz expects its capital participation will help overcome the challenges in bringing into practical use the highly conductive material with strong mechanical performance, which also is very costly and difficult to manufacture. — Kyodo news ■

Invitation For Open tender No.(3/2021)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (5008.574) Metric Tons, (21) Lots of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar as follow,
a) Cathode Copper (108.574) MT (1) Lot, Yangon, Eden Warehouse
b) Cathode Copper (100) MT (5) Lots, Yangon, Eden Warehouse
c) Cathode Copper (200) MT (5) Lots, Yangon, Eden Warehouse
d) Cathode Copper (200) MT (7) Lots, Monywa, Mine Site
e) Cathode Copper (500) MT (2) Lots, Monywa, Mine Site
f) Cathode Copper (1000) MT (1) Lot, Monywa, Mine Site
2. Base price of Cathode Copper (Eden Warehouse, Yangon) shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount shall be winning tender.
3. Base price of Monywa, Mine Site Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
4. Tender Closing Date and Time is 21.7.2021 (14:00)PM and Opening Tender is (15:00) PM.
5. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to (+95) 067 3409378 and 067 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee
Department of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

NEWS
IN BRIEF18 killed, 16 injured
in fire at China
martial arts school

AT least 18 people were killed and 16 injured when a fire broke out at a martial arts school in central China in the early hours of Friday, according to a local government statement.

Local media reported that most of the victims were boarding pupils aged between seven and 16.

The fire had been extinguished and authorities were investigating the cause of the blaze, the statement from Zhecheng county government said.

There were 34 boarding students on the premises when the fire broke out, according to local government staff quoted by Beijing Toutiao News.

The wounded — four of whom had severe injuries — were rushed to a local hospital, where an unnamed doctor told local media they were “doing everything they could” to save them. — AFP ■

64 dead in
Ethiopian air strike
as army denies
targeting civilians

AT least 64 people were killed and 180 were injured in an air strike on a market in Ethiopia's war-torn northern Tigray region, a local health officer said Thursday, as the army denied targeting civilians.

Details of the bloody attack on Togoga town, 30 kilometres (18 miles) northwest of the regional capital Mekele, on Tuesday were slow to emerge partly because soldiers initially blocked emergency workers from accessing the area. By Thursday, hospitals in Mekele were treating at least 73 people, including young children. Victims at the hospital suffered shrapnel wounds and burns, and in some cases doctors were forced to perform amputations to save lives.

Rebels dressed as civilians

The Ethiopian military admitted carrying out the attack but said it targeted rebel fighters, not civilians.

The health officer told AFP at least 64 people had died. — AFP ■

Canada blames Iran's 'disregard for human life' in downing of Boeing



Handout photograph taken and released on 11 January 2020, by The National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, shows people standing and analyzing the fragments and remains of the Ukrainian plane downed by an Iranian missile outside the Tehran on 8 January 2020. **PHOTO: NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE COUNCIL OF UKRAINE/AFP**

THE Iranian missile fire that shot down a Ukrainian Boeing airliner last year stemmed from a mixture of recklessness, incompetence and disregard for human life on the part of

Tehran, an official report by Canadian experts released Thursday said, though it found no evidence the strike was premeditated.

Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) flight PS752, from Tehran to Kiev, crashed on January 8, 2020 shortly after take-off with 176 people on board, including 55 Canadian citizens and 30 permanent residents. Three days later, the Iranian armed forces admitted having shot down the aircraft “by mistake.”

The report acknowledged that the forensic investigators, who examined all the evidence that was available to them, “found no evidence that the downing of Flight PS752 was premeditated.”

“Having said that, Iran does not get off the hook in any way whatsoever,” Foreign

Minister Marc Garneau said at a press briefing.

“It is totally responsible for what happened due to a combination of incompetence, lack of accountability, a total failure of their command and control system, a total failure to properly assess the risk, a total failure to close the airspace and not even bothering to inform the aircraft taking off, that they were in a risk environment because missile batteries had been set up in the vicinity of the airport.”

On the night of the tragedy, Iran's air defences were on high alert, since Iran had just attacked a base used by the US military in Iraq in response to the US drone strike five days earlier in Baghdad that had killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, the architect of Iran's regional strategy. — AFP ■

Crews comb rubble of collapsed Florida condo, 99 unaccounted for

RESCUE teams combed through the rubble of an oceanfront apartment block near Miami Beach that partially collapsed Thursday, killing at least one person and leaving another 99 unaccounted for amid fears of a much higher death toll. An unknown number of residents are feared to have been asleep in the 12-storey building, in the town of Surfside, when the collapse in the wee hours of Thursday morning reduced a large portion of it to a pile of debris, exposing the interiors of gutted apartments.

“One side of the building just fell completely. It doesn't exist anymore,” said Nicolas Fernandez, 29, an Argentinian

resident of Miami who had yet to hear from friends who were staying overnight in his family's unit in the building. “I don't know about them. I don't know if they are alive,” he told AFP.

Authorities said they were still without news of 99 people who may have been inside the building when part of it came crashing down. So far 102 others have been accounted for, Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said. Search and rescue teams with sniffer dogs will work through the night, Levine Cava said. “As the day comes to an end, their day does not,” she said at an evening news conference, the last until Friday morning.



US Search and Rescue personnel work at a partial collapse building in Surfside, Miami Beach. **PHOTO: AFP**

At a Surfside community centre, relatives of the missing cried as they waited for news. Tenants of the ruined building

who were lucky enough to have been away when disaster struck pondered sudden homelessness. — AFP ■

Gibraltar votes 'yes' to easing abortion laws

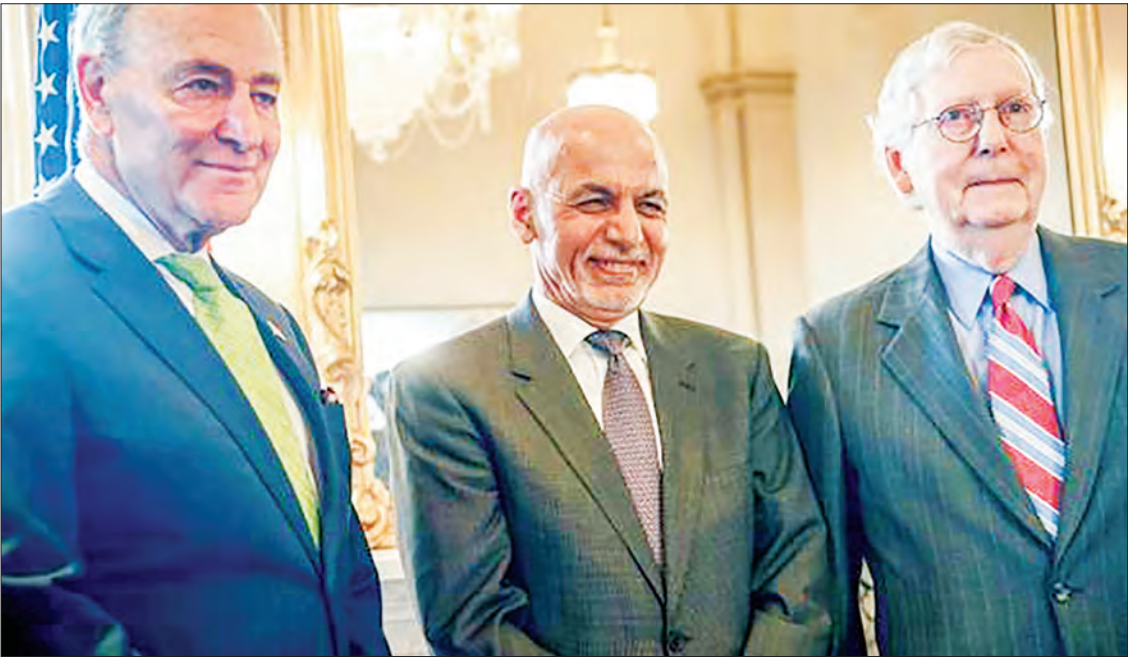
GIBRALTAR voted by a large majority to ease its draconian abortion laws in a referendum delayed for over a year by the coronavirus pandemic, results showed early Friday.

Some 62 per cent of voters cast their ballots in favour of an amended law allowing abortion where a woman's mental or physical health is at risk — such as in cases of rape or incest — or when foetuses have fatal physical defects.



The referendum was slated for March 19, 2020 but postponed as virus cases spiralled at the start of the pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Just over 36 per cent voted against the move in a ballot that exposed sharply opposing views within this normally closely-knit British enclave at the southernmost tip of Spain that is home to some 32,000 people. Turnout was 52.75 percent. At present, abortion is banned in Gibraltar on pain of life imprisonment, although such a penalty has not been applied in modern times. The only exception is where it would save the mother's life. — AFP ■



US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (L) and US Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R) meet with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani (C) at the US Capitol in Washington. PHOTO: AFP

Afghan leader to meet Biden as US exit looms

AFGHAN leader Ashraf Ghani faces the cold reality of the end of US military presence in Afghanistan Friday when he meets with President Joe Biden in the White House.

With his government under increasing threat from an emboldened Taliban insurgency, Ghani will be hoping for a significant commitment of US aid for his government, which will be without the on-the-ground support of US forces for the first time in nearly two decades.

But any hopes for a delay in America's exit from its longest war are likely to be snuffed.

Biden has ordered the departure of all US forces from Afghanistan by this year's 20th

anniversary of the September 11 attacks that triggered the invasion, saying he believes that no more can be achieved.

The final pullout, announced in April, has moved fast and some speculate the exit of some 2,500 US troops and 16,000 civilian contractors could be mostly completed in July.

"This visit is first about our ongoing commitment and support to the Afghan people and to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces," White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said Thursday.

"The president will emphasize the need for unity, cohesion, and for the Afghan

government to focus on key challenges Afghanistan faces." **Deep uncertainty as Taliban gain**

Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, who is in charge of stalled negotiations with the Taliban on a power-sharing deal, arrived in Washington on Thursday as the rebels continued to gain ground in the country, both physically and propaganda-wise.

The looming US exit has left the country in a deep state of uncertainty, with many worried about the return to power of extremists who applied a brutal version of Islam to the population when they ruled from 1996-2001. — AFP ■

Russia summons UK envoy to 'protest' against warship incident

RUSSIA'S Foreign Ministry on Thursday summoned the UK ambassador to "strongly protest" against what it said was a British destroyer's breach of its territory.

The dispute between Moscow and London erupted Wednesday after the HMS Defender passed near Crimea in the Black Sea. Russia said it fired warning shots at the destroyer to ward it off. but Britain denied the claim.

Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and claims the water around the peninsula as part of its territory.

Most countries including Britain did not recognize the takeover and stand behind Ukraine's claims to the water.

On Thursday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said it had summoned UK ambassa-

dor Deborah Bronnert and issued a "strong protest" over the British vessel's breach of Russian territory and its "provocative and dangerous actions".

"In the event of a repetition of such provocations, all responsibility for their possible consequences will rest entirely on the British side," the ministry said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the incident a "deliberate and prepared provocation".

The ministry said warning shots were fired and bombs dropped along HMS Defender's path before the ship left its territory.

Russia's FSB security services provided video of the warning shots that public TV channel Russia 24 broadcast on Thursday evening. — AFP ■



The spat between Moscow and London erupted Wednesday after the HMS Defender passed near Crimea in the Black Sea, with Russia saying it fired warning shots at the destroyer to ward it off. Britain denied the claim. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU leaders rebuff German-French push for Putin summit

EU leaders said Friday the bloc had rejected a push by Germany and France to relaunch meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin after fierce resistance from member states worried about Moscow's aggressions.

Berlin and Paris blindsided EU counterparts by putting forward a last-minute proposal for the bloc to resume meetings with Putin in the wake of US President Joe Biden's sit-down with him in Geneva last week.

But there was opposition from numerous EU member states -- especially in eastern Europe -- which remain deeply wary of rewarding the Kremlin with talks before it changes course.

"It was not possible to agree today that we should meet immediately at the top level," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said after hours of wrangling between the bloc's leaders in Brussels.

The German leader -- attending what could be her last EU summit ahead of elections to choose her successor in September -- said that leaders had agreed to maintain and develop a "dialogue format" with Russia. — AFP ■

Brazil judge annuls all of Moro's cases against ex-president Lula

A magistrate on Brazil's Supreme Court on Thursday annulled two more cases against former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva that had been brought by former judge Sergio Moro, who had previously been deemed by the same court to have been "biased" in convicting and jailing the iconic leftist leader.



Brazil's ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Sao Bernardo do Campo, just outside Sao Paulo, on March 10, 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

The latest ruling invalidates all the evidence collected by Moro, meaning the trial process will have to start again from scratch.

That diminishes the chances of a relatively quick verdict being delivered that would block the 75-year-old Lula, as he is popularly known, from running for president in 2022.

Socialist Lula claimed his conviction was politically motivated in a bid to prevent him from running against President Jair Bolsonaro in the 2018 election that brought the far-right politician to power.

Supreme Court magistrate Gilmar Mendes said there were "factual and legal" links between the case in which Moro was declared "biased" and the other two cases that passed through the judge's court in the southern city of Curitiba during his massive anti-corruption campaign known as "Operation Car Wash." — AFP ■

AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar placed in Group D with UAE

MYANMAR women's national football team is placed in Group D of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers together with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) team, following a draw result announced on 24 June at the AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Myanmar will also face Lebanon and Guam in the same Group. A total of 26 Asian women teams are participating in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers.

Defending champions Japan, 2018 runners-up Australia and third-placed China PR and hosts India have already qualified for the final stages of the tourney.

Group A will have three-time champions China Taipei, Bahrain, Turkmenistan and Laos, while Group B will see Vietnam,



Myanmar women's national football team will face the UAE and two other lower ranked teams in the Group D of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers. **PHOTOS: MFF**

Tajikistan, Maldives and Afghanistan.

Group C consists of three-time winners DPR Korea, Singapore, Iraq and Indonesia with

Myanmar, United Arab Emirates, Guam and Lebanon is running for Group D.

Group E will see 2003 runners-up Korea Republic, Uzbeki-

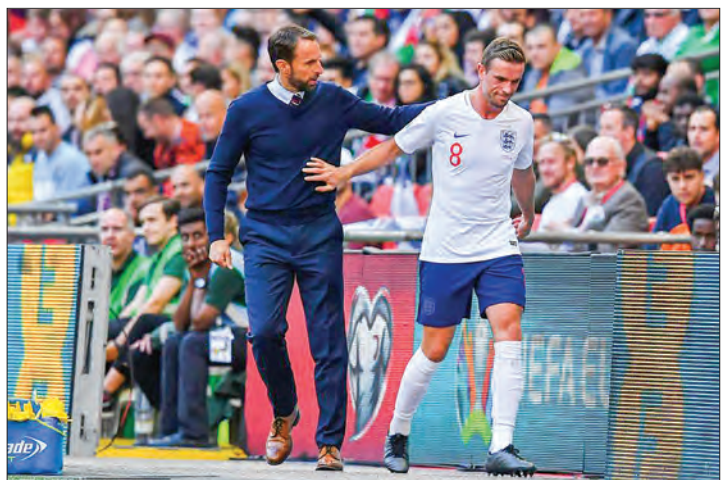
stan and Mongolia, while the Philippines, Hong Kong and Nepal are placed in Group F.

In Group G, Jordan - the 2018 hosts, Iran and Bangladesh will

play for further step while ASEAN star Thailand, Palestine and Malaysia are dreaming for the next stage in the Group H. — GNLM



England can learn from Southgate's Euro 96 heartache: Henderson



Jordan Henderson says Gareth Southgate's response to his costly Euro 96 penalty miss against Germany showed the kind of mental strength that defines the current generation as they prepare for a rematch with their old rivals. **PHOTO: AFP**

JORDAN Henderson says Gareth Southgate's response to his costly Euro 96 penalty miss against Germany showed the kind of mental strength that defines the current generation as they prepare for a rematch with their old rivals. England manager Southgate was a 25-year-old player when he stepped up for the spot-kick that was saved by Andreas Kopke during Germany's shoot-out win in the Euro 96 semi-finals at Wembley. It was a bitter end to a tournament that still holds fond memories for England fans after their dramatic run to the last four.

Southgate recovered from the crushing blow to play for England for another eight years, enjoying a long Premier League career at Aston Villa and Mid-

dlesbrough before going into management.

With Germany set to face England at Wembley in the last 16 of the European Championship on Tuesday, Southgate's perseverance has presented him with a chance for redemption. And England midfielder Henderson believes the example set by his manager is one the players should draw from ahead of the blockbuster clash.

"It's a good example. I can imagine the feeling he had at that moment in time," Henderson told a press conference on Thursday. "Things like that, you have to deal with it, move on and try and be a stronger person. If you speak to the gaffer, I'm sure he will say that for sure. — AFP ■

UEFA launch probe into 'discriminatory incidents' during Germany-Hungary match

UEFA announced on Friday it had launched an investigation into "potential discriminatory incidents" during Germany's 2-2 draw with Hungary which was overshadowed by a row over a new Hungarian anti-LGBTQ law.

European football's governing body did not specify in its statement what incidents were being investigated during the Euro 2020 match in Munich, which finished with the Ger-

mans qualifying for the last 16 and Hungary going out of the competition.

However a UEFA spokesperson told AFP that the probe regards "incidents and behaviour in the stands".

German daily Bild reported that Hungary supporters -- who are already being investigated for monkey chants during their team's 1-1 draw with France in Budapest -- directed anti-gay

chants at Germany fans before kick-off on Wednesday.

An AFP journalist saw fans of both teams, including a German wearing rainbow colours, locked in angry exchanges which led to police intervening. The match build-up had been dominated by UEFA's refusal to allow the city of Munich to light the Allianz Arena in rainbow colours in solidarity with Hungary's LGBTQ community. — AFP ■

Halep withdraws from Wimbledon as Djokovic faces British teen

DEFENDING champion Simona Halep pulled out of Wimbledon with a calf injury as Novak Djokovic learned Friday he will face Britain's Jack Draper at the start of his quest for a 20th Grand Slam title. Romanian Halep, who beat Serena Williams in the final in 2019, tore her left calf muscle in Rome last month and was forced to miss the French Open. She travelled to London earlier this week but announced her withdrawal minutes before the draw for the championships, which return on Monday after they were cancelled last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I can honestly say that I'm really down and upset about having to take this decision," said the world number three. "This period has been difficult but to miss the



2019 Wimbledon champions Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep. **PHOTO: THOMAS LOVELOCK AELTC/AFP/FILE**

last two Majors has made it even more challenging mentally and physically." Halep's withdrawal follows that of four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka, who pulled out of the French Open after citing struggles with depression and anxiety. World number one

Ashleigh Barty, who was forced to retire from her second-round match at Roland Garros with a hip injury, opens her campaign against Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, who is playing her final Wimbledon before retirement after recovering from cancer. — AFP ■