TRUST BASED ON RELIANCE, LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party arrive back from Russian Federation

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is being welcomed back by Vice Chairman of the Council Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Council members at Nay Pyi Taw military airport.

THE delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left Tolmachevo Airport of Novosibirsk in the Russian Federation in the yesterday afternoon for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the special aircraft of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) and were seen off at the airport by Deputy Governor of Siberian Region Mr. Petuhov Yuri Frogravich, the Commandant of Higher Military Command School, the officiating commander of No 41 Division, officials, Charge d' Affaires of the Myanmar Embassy to Russia U Zaw Lin Oo, Military Attaché Commodore Kyaw Soe Moe and officials.

Member of the State Administration Council Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Joint-Secretary of the Council Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor Dr Maung Maung Naing, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Than Aung Kyaw, outstanding award-winning officers from the Myanmar Tatmadaw, and military and civilian officials who accompanied the Senior General also arrived back on the same flight.

During the visit, the Senior General attended and participated in the discussions of the 9th Moscow Conference on International Security-2021 (MCIS-2021), held meetings with military and civilian officials and visited significant places in the Russian Federation, universities and factories to talk about friendly relations between the two governments and two armed forces, and further enhancement of military technology sector, science and technology sector, research sector, human resource development sector and culture sector.

The delegation led by the Senior General arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw military airport at about 11 pm yesterday. They were welcomed back by Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members, Union ministers, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr. Nikolay A. Listopadov and officials.—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 266/2021

3rd Waning of Nayon 1383 ME

27 June 2021

THE Ministry of Health and Sports hereby announced the order by exercising the authority stipulated in Sub-Section (b) of Section 21 of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has taken preventive measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in real-time. Therefore, people from Laukkai Township, Kokang Self-Administered Zone of Shan State need to stay at home due to the number of confirmed patients on the rise in the township.
2. Hence, the people residing in Laukkai Township, Kokang Self-Administered Zone of the Shan State are involved in the Stay-at-Home programme.
3. The people inclusive of the Stay-at-Home programme of the township need to abide by the following disciplines:
   (a) Reside at their homes only (except for the persons going to government departments, organizations, companies, factories and workplaces for serving duties);
   (b) Arrange only one person from each house to go out shopping;
   (c) Arrange only two persons per house to go to hospitals and clinics;
   (d) Wear masks if they go outside the houses;
   (e) Allow ferries and registered vehicles to transport returnees from workplaces to pass the wards;
   (f) Allow one person only in addition to the driver in a vehicle for shopping in the ward and two persons except for the driver to go to hospitals or clinics;
   (g) Abide by the standard operating procedures (SOP) for trucks to ensure smooth flow of commodities in the township;
4. People need to inform the relevant ward administration bodies about seeking approvals to go outside the houses if they have reasons to raise the limited number of participants in the measures and other emergency issues mentioned in sub-paragraph (b), (c) and (f) of Paragraph 3. The relevant administrative bodies need to not allow ingoing and outgoing persons, except officials and those returnees from duty.
5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by the order under the existing laws.
6. The order came into force at 4 am on 28-6-2021.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Novosibirsk, visits Novosibirsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, Higher Military Command School, Russian Science Academy (Siberian Branch)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round statues of heroes at Higher Military Command School in Novosibirsk Academgorodok region.

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 26 June afternoon left Kazan Airport of the Republic of the Tatarstan for Novosibirsk.

On arrival at Tolmachevo airport in Novosibirsk, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Deputy Governor of Siberian Region Mr Petuhov Yuri Frogravich and officials. The Senior General and party went to Polschad Marksa station opened in 1991, one of 13 metro system facilities in Novosibirsk and took the subway to Lenin Square station to view round the subway systems and subway stations.

The Senior General and party visited the ancient Novosibirsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre near Marriott Hotel. Adviser to the theatre administration board Mr Vroskly Valen Arkagievich explained starting construction of the theatre in 1931 and opening of it on 12 May 1945. It was the largest theatre not only across the Russian Federation but in the world. It was opened after the Second World War on 9 May 1945 although it was arranged to be inaugurated in 1941. The adviser also explained facts about the theatre. The Senior General raised questions for further information.

Yesterday morning, the Senior General and party visited Higher Military Command School where Commandant Colonel Markochin Segeri Gregorivich and officials welcomed them. The Senior General and party also laid a wreath to pay tribute to the statues of heroes honoured for securing the gallantry medals in sacrificing their lives for the State.

At the hall of the school, both sides presented their entourages to each other. The commandant clarified brief history of the school, training of subjects, and admission for foreign trainees. The Senior General viewed round the lecture hall for military intelligence and security, school booths, teaching materials, booth of international military equipment, scout equipment created by trainees, training hall of diving, and participants of trainees at shooting range at simulator room. At the small arm shooting range of simulator room, the Senior General, senior military officers, delegation members and female officers participated in the shooting.

The Senior General and party cordially greeted the outstanding trainees from global countries and posed for documentary photos.

The Senior General and party viewed round the school in a motorcade and visited the practical shooting range where the commandant, officials and trainees demonstrated on practical shooting with the use of various small arms and snipers. So, the Senior General, senior military officers, delegation members and female officer also participated in the practical shooting.

The Senior General and the commandant held a discussion in the hall of the school and exchanged emblems and gifts.

The Novosibirsk Higher Military Command School in Novosibirsk Academgorodok region was established as Novosibirsk Higher Military Political School-NVVPOU in 1976. It is Siberia branch of the Academy of Science of the Society Union to give basic physics and mathematics. It was the largest military academic organization in the country in 1980s. It became a branch of military academy of the Russian Federation in 2009. It gives training to trainees for capacity enhancement to be ready to combat, logistics for regiments and units, management of military operations, shooting

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round booths at Novosibirsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits booths at Polschad Marksa Subway Station.

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Novosibirsk, visits ...

FROM PAGE-3

of various arms and driving of military vehicles, training on airborne marching, marching on hilling areas, parachuting, science marching and combating underground and on ground. The school had independent administration for self-training in 2015 and it is famous as the Novosibirsk Higher Military Command School.

At the Russian Academy of Science (Siberian Branch), the Senior General and party were welcomed by Vice-Chairman Academician Dr. Vasily M. Fomin and officials. They explained training for emergence of experts in the science and technological subjects, research works, other academic fields, cooperation in academic measures, joint conduct on science and technology between the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Russian Academy of Science and sending of trainees. The Senior General asked for further information. The Senior General asked for further information and introduced Doctor of Science degree holders and PhD holders who learnt in Russia and graduate officers from the Russian military engineering officer training school.

Then, Vice-Chairman Academician Dr Vasily M Fomin and officials explained booths for research findings on science and technology, creation in Chemistry, Physics, Applied Mathematics, information technology, biology and nano technology, findings in geology, science books compiled by Russian scientists in successive eras.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Russian Academy of Science (Siberian Branch).

A female army officer participates in practical shooting.

A female naval officer takes part in practical shooting.

The Senior General signed the visitors' book and exchanged gifts with Academician Dr Vasily M Fomin.

The Senior General and party had a luncheon hosted by Officiating Commander of No 41 Division Colonel Perepelisa Vladimir Angrevich and the vice mayor of Novosibirsk. During the luncheon, the music band and artistes representing Novosibirsk Station performed songs and dances. The Senior General presented cash award to them.—MNA

Electricity and Energy Union Minister inspects No (1) Oil refinery, Thilawa power station, 230KV Thilawa substation

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo made an inspection tour to No (1) Oil Refinery (Thanlyin), Thilawa Power Station and 230 KV Thilawa Substation yesterday morning in Yangon.

During the inspection tour, officials from the No (1) Oil Refinery reported to the Union Minster on the work process of the oil/lubricant mixing plant and the factory manager of the Thilawa Power Station and 230 KV Thilawa Substation explained the information of the plant and the substation, operation of the generators and electricity supply.

The Union Minister instructed them to regularly inspect the fitness of power plants for the long-term sustainability of power plant and full power operation of substation generators as well as to pay attention to the safety of electricity and prevention of power outages.—MNA

Union Minister U Aung Than Oo views round control room of Thilawa power station

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)

Plan underway to grow trees along both sides of roads in Mandalay Region

Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi explains growing of trees in Mandalay Region at the meeting.

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi inspected 45 acres of 1/2020 village firewood plantations established by the Department of Dry Zone Greening and two acres of firewood plantations established by the Forest Department in Natogyi Township of Mandalay Region on 26 June.

Then, the Union Minister visited the Minsontaung Wildlife Sanctuary and instructed the officials of the sanctuary to manage sustainability and greening of sanctuary, especially for domestic species and endangered animals, natural resources for the local populace and conserve Myanmar star tortoises.

Then, the Union Minister viewed the other tree and firewood plantations established by the Dry Zone Greening Department and Forest Department in Kyaukse Township.

The Union Minister met the Mandalay Region Administration Council members yesterday. During the meeting, he discussed growing of trees along both sides of the roads in Mandalay Region for 2021 monsoon, plans to establish village firewood plantations, environmental conservation activities, mining sectors and other cooperation works between the ministry and region administration council.—MNA

Two dolphins spotted stranded on Gyainggee beach, Shwethaungyan town

TWO dolphins were found stranded on Gyainggee beach in Ward 3 of Shwethaungyan in Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region at 6 am on 27 June morning.

The local residents informed the authorities about this, and an administrator of Ward 3 and the official from Shwethaungyan Fisheries Department checked the dolphins and set them into the sea at 8:45 am in the morning.

One dolphin has 6'1" in length, 2'7" in diameter, 7" long dorsal fin and 9" long pectoral fin and 1'4" long flukes. Another one has 6'3" in length, 2'7" in diameter, 1'9" long flukes, 7" long dorsal fin and 9" long pectoral fin.—Shwethaungyan IPRD/GNLM

Officials measure length of dolphin.

Daily Newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Survival of crocodiles in protected nature reserves

Crocodiles naturally seen in farm.

THERE are almost 100 crocodiles living in and around the protected nature reserve of Mainmahla Island in Bokale Township of Ayeyawady Region, according to the Forest Department. The numbers of crocodile populations are rising every year due to the conservation works of Thaketa Crocodile Farm, but it still needs the nature areas for population growth.

The crocodile breeding farm began in 1968-1969 in Myanmar, and Thaketa Crocodile Farm was launched in May 1978 and operated as a recreation centre to the public since 6 November 1997 to date. Currently, Thaketa crocodile farm was temporarily closed due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The farm accommodates 592 crocodiles and the population increases more than 50 during 3 years.

"There are more than 590 crocodiles at Thaketa crocodile farm. The crocodile population increases over 50 during three years. We have another 10 big crocodiles taken from National Races Village and Zoo. There are over 150 crocodiles that measure 3 feet, nearly 150 measure between 3 feet and 5 feet and almost 300 measure 5 feet from 10 feet and above. We feed the small crocodiles as usual and we feed the big ones once a day according to the budget status. The well-wishers come here and donate the feedstuff. The numbers of crocodile are increasing here. If we can free 10 or 20 crocodiles to Mainmahla Island per year, it can stop them from becoming extinct," said Dr Myo Min Hlaing, in charge of the farm.

The 40 acres Thaketa crocodile farm has more than 590 crocodiles and if another farm is implemented to conserve the crocodile population, the numbers of crocodile will increase again. Crocodiles are ancient creatures, first appearing over 240 million years ago. They are seen in Africa, Austria, the US, Myanmar, India, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Solomon Island, Thailand and Vietnam, and sometimes in Japan.

There are about 27 species of crocodiles but only 23 species are found including 14 kinds of crocodile species, 8 alligator species and one of the gavial species. The Crocodylus palustris, Crocodylus porosus (Nga Moe Yeik), Gavialis gangeticus and Crocodylus siamensis are living in Myanmar and Thaketa crocodile farm has only Crocodylus porosus, Saltwater Crocodile.

The numbers of crocodiles declines in Mainmahla Island and the Discovery Channel from the US had to wait for one month to record an adult crocodile, but they did not find any crocodile. Therefore, they made a documentary on Thaketa crocodile farm. It should conserve the baby crocodiles to increase the population in the protected nature of the reserve of Mainmahla Island. It also becomes rare in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region.
— Nyein Thu/GNLM

COVID-19: start ourselves to take preventive measures

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

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

Health Knowledge Awareness Promoting Department
Ministry of Health and Sports

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

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

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

Agro exports surge to $3.88 bln as of 18 June

THE agricultural exports spiked to US$3.88 billion over the past eight and a half months of the current financial year 2020-2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups amid the tightened coronavirus containment measures in the border areas and increase in container shipping cost.

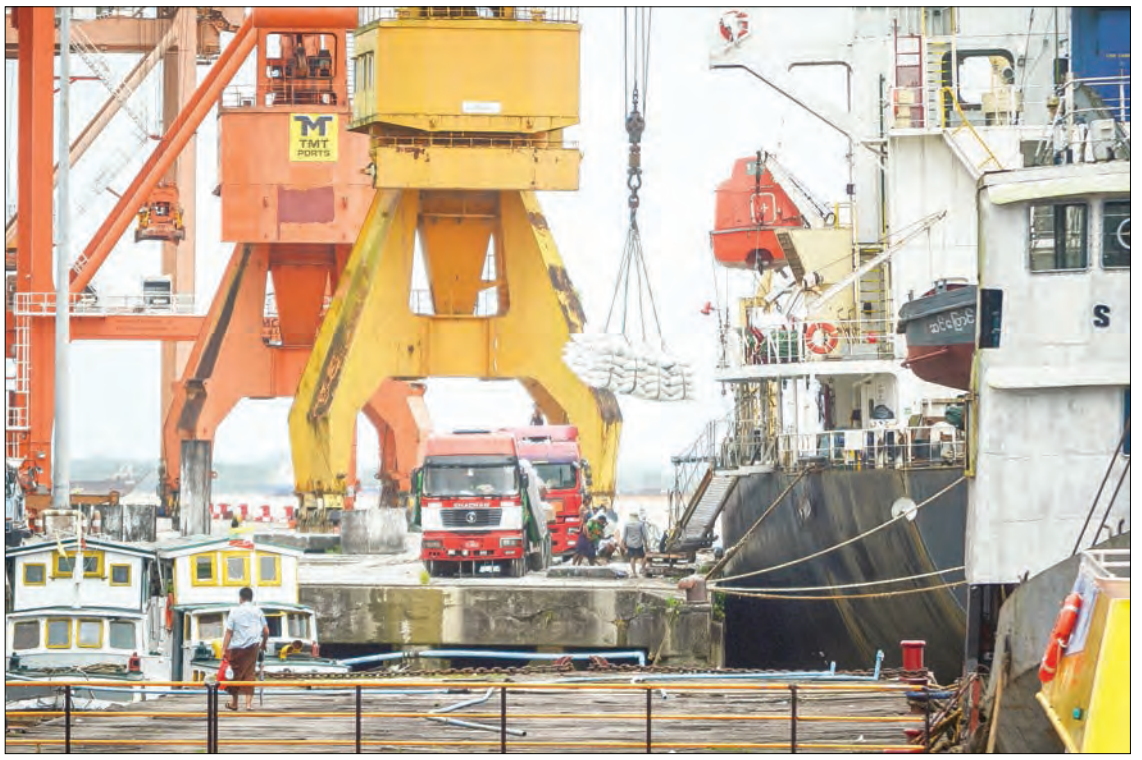
The figures reflect a significant rise of $923.9 million this FY. The agro exports topped $2.95 billion in the corresponding period of the 2019-2020 FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The agricultural exports unexpectedly surge regardless of the impact of the coronavirus on foreign demand for other export groups such as fishery, livestock, mineral, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for 37 per cent of overall exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

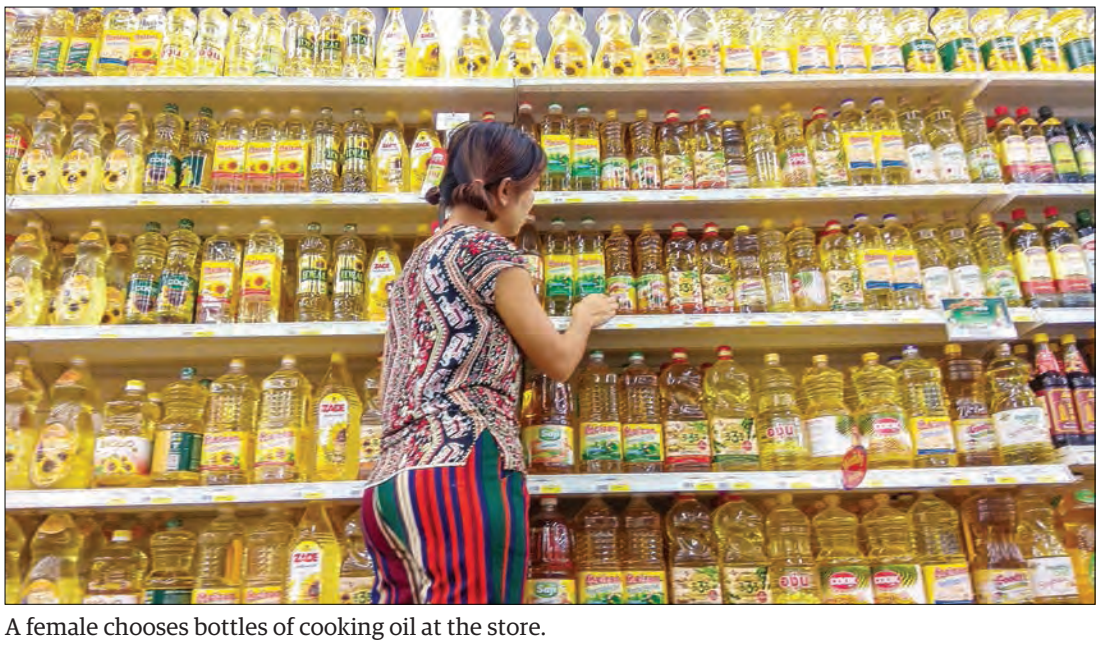
The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. The G to G pact also ensures the strong market for the farmers. Contract farming systems, involvement of region and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to meet production targets, the Agriculture Department stated.



Bags of rice and broken rice are being loaded on vessel at the port.

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. – KK/GNLM

Palm oil imports total $442.98 mln this FY


A female chooses bottles of cooking oil at the store.

MYANMAR imported US$442.98 million worth palm oil in the past seven months (Oct-Apr) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to Myanmar Customs Department.

At present, the price of domestic palm oil has slightly declined, tracking the import price retreat, said U San Lin, chair of Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association.

The palm oil fell to US$995 per tonne in the international market. Consequently, it ranges 2,900 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg) in the domestic wholesale market.

The oil palm trees bear fruits in abundance this time. The price is likely to be in bull market up to October if any trade barrier will not occur, U San Lin said.

"Normally, oil palm plants are plentiful in Malaysia this time. They bear the fruits from June to October," U San Lin added.

In early January 2021, production slump in importing countries Malaysia and Indonesia, caused by erratic weather conditions and the COVID-19 impacts, high imports by certain countries under tax reduction, tax hike on exports in producing countries and the short storage of palm oil in those countries contributed to the rise in edible oil price. The palm oil price stood at $1,055-1,200 per tonne in foreign market.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association issued a notice in January to import the palm oil from foreign countries sustainably for self-sufficiency, distribute the edible oil at fair price to the consumers and ensure that there will be no edible oil shortage in regions and state when there is a rise in imported oil price.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the self-sufficiency in domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported.—GNLM

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade exceeds $6 bln in H1

THE value of Myanmar's trade with China through maritime and border trade channels amounted to over US$6.13 billion in the first half (Oct-Mar) of the 2020-2021 Financial Year, including $3.18 billion worth of exports and $2.95 billion for import, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar primarily exports agro products to China through the border gates. However, trade in agricultural products is frequently halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade in border gates. Furthermore, China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 since April-end, hindering the border trade at the present time.

In a bid to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders through border trade channel, the Ministry of Commerce, the related departments and the stakeholders have been negotiating with China counterparts.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade.

The value of bilateral trade with China stood at $12 billion in the 2019-2020 FY, $11.36 billion in the 2018-2019 FY, $6 billion in the past mini-budget period, $11.78 billion in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and $10.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY respectively.

Rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.—KH/GNLM

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Trust based on reliance, leadership, responsibility and accountability

IT is necessary to enhance friendly relations with one another as the primary initiative to build trust among others.

Anybody holding up the trust can win the overall but they must have various kinds of qualification to become trustworthy persons. It is because trust wins the hearts and souls of others. Those wishing to become trustworthy persons must build up their capacity to win the souls of others and uplift the skills of their leadership, capacity, responsibility and accountability.

The leadership is to express their management and leading skills over the audiences in performing various kinds of deeds. The leadership can persuade of the reliance from the target audience.

> In a Myanmar saying which goes: "The honey tongue successfully persuades of all", you all wishing to win the trust of others need to thoroughly understand the aforesaid points to be applied in friendly relations with others.

The capacity is to show off their qualification to do everything and to overcome all the hindrances to serving the interests of others. Unintentionally, those wishing to grasp the trust of the people can show their responsibility and accountability for doing everything.

In addition, the trustworthy person must have attractive skills such as better spoken qualification to have better awe to persuade of others for following their dialogues and intellectual skills in some subjects and give the promises just they can do.

As a significant point, the trustworthy person is ready to make the sacrifice for the sake of the nation by setting aside his interests. Those persons do not need to intentionally culture such a spirit of making a sacrifice but it is their inborn mindset.

A trustworthy person will have an amazing power to influence over all the persons. However, they need to avoid the personal cult and attachment paid by followers based on too much admiration in overcoming the unseen challenges.

Those wishing to win the trust of all must bear a smile with sweet talks in relations with the audiences without assaulting and condemning others who uphold the different concepts and doctrines.

In a Myanmar saying which goes: "The honey tongue successfully persuades of all", you all wishing to win the trust of others need to thoroughly understand the aforesaid points to be applied in friendly relations with others.

So, we should try to win the trust of others but change our mindsets at first.

■■■

Let's Promote Health Literacy in the fight against COVID-19

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

HEALTH Literacy is one of the essential things for public health professionals because it contributes to the all-health perspectives.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus as a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)" on 30th January 2020 and announced COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11th March 2020. In Myanmar, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed on 23rd March 2020. Ministry of Health and Sports announces that the daily updated COVID-19 information in Myanmar COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard.

In the fight against COVID-19, it is crucial to close the gap between how health information is communicated and what people are able to understand to make good health decisions.
PHOTO: NEWLINK-GROUP/UN

Defining health literacy

Health literacy refers, broadly, to the ability of individuals to "gain access to, understand and use information in ways which promote and maintain good health" for themselves, their families and their communities. While different definitions are used and health literacy is an evolving concept, there is agreement that health literacy means more than simply being able to "read pamphlets", "make appointments", "understand food labels" or "comply with prescribed actions" from a doctor.

An important factor in improving health outcomes

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Ministerial Declaration of 2009 provided a clear mandate for action: "We stress that health literacy is an important factor in ensuring significant health outcomes and in this regard, call for the development of appropriate action plans to promote health literacy."

It is the highest degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. Health literacy is dependent on both individual and systemic factors.

The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the problem of low health literacy. Additionally, populations that have been disproportionately afflicted by the pandemic, such as those: (1) with poor access to education and healthcare; (2) facing cultural barriers; (3) with limited English proficiency; and (4) who have cognitive disabilities, also tend to suffer from inadequate knowledge around their health.

In the fight against COVID-19, it is crucial to close the gap between how health information is communicated and what people are able to understand to make good health decisions. Taking health literacy levels into account when providing information about the virus should be a primary tactic for controlling its spread.

Why is Health Literacy Important?

Health literacy is important because it affects people's ability to; Navigate the healthcare system, including locating providers and services, Engage in self-care and chronic disease management, Adopt health-promoting behaviours, such as exercising and eating a healthy diet, Act on health-related news and announcements (e.g. outbreaks).

Some strategies for improving Health Literacy are Improve the usability of health information, Improve the usability of health services, Build knowledge to improve decision making and Advocate for health literacy improvement.

Example of health literacy principles are Know your audience and what channels of communication they prefer, Identify specific ways to engage the target audience, Keep the message focused and simple, Make sure content is accurate and evidence-based, Include essential information that is relevant and meaningful to your intended audience, Address the language and cultural needs of your audience and ensure you have high-quality translation and cultural interpretation of the content, Create materials that are accessible to individuals with disabilities and prejudice, Ensure the reading level is appropriate, Edit content for bias, Use short sentences and paragraphs, Present information that is logical and easy to follow and Use relevant graphics that are simple in design to engage the audience, etc.

Lastly but not least, we are taking steps to address and promote health literacy is one of the best gears to protect the public against the effect of health misinformation and to help informed decision making during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

References

1. https://www.who.int/healthpromotion/health-literacy/en/9th Global Conference on Health Promotion, Shanghai 2016
2. https:// acpdecisions.org/health-literacy

■■■

Delta Variant Forces New Lockdowns

AUSTRALIA'S largest city Sydney entered a two-week lockdown Saturday to contain a sudden coronavirus surge and Russia's Saint Petersburg announced a record death toll, as several European nations lifted restrictions despite the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant.

Britain's health secretary meanwhile resigned after revelations that he had broken the government's own coronavirus restrictions during an affair with a close aide.

While vaccination drives have brought down infections in wealthy countries, the Delta strain, which first emerged in India, has fuelled fears that the pandemic may be far from over, having already claimed nearly four million lives.

Bangladesh announced that it would impose a new national lockdown from Monday over the variant, with offices shut for a week and only medical-related transport allowed.

Sydney's normally bustling harbourside centre was nearly deserted after people were ordered to stay home except for essential trips to contain an outbreak of the variant.

And New Zealand, citing "multiple outbreaks" in Australia, announced a three-day suspension of its quarantine-free travel arrangement with its larger neighbour.

The Sydney lockdown, affecting more than five million people in the city and nearby towns, was met with dismay after months of very few cases.

"Today just feels like another kick while you're slowly getting up," said Chris Kriketos, 32, who works at a bakery in central Sydney.

The Delta variant has also been fuelling rising case numbers in Russia, where Saint Petersburg on Saturday reported the country's highest daily COVID-19 death toll for a city since the start of the pandemic.

Russia's second city, which has hosted six Euro 2020 matches and is due to host a quarter-final next Friday, recorded 107 virus deaths over the last 24 hours.

Europe Unmasks

Globally the pandemic is still slowing down, with the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting the lowest number of new cases worldwide since February and decreasing deaths attributed to COVID-19.

But there is rising concern over the Delta variant, which has now spread to at least 85 countries and is the most contagious of any COVID-19 strain identified, according to WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. In Britain, Portugal and South Africa, the authorities have said the Delta variant has become the dominant coronavirus strain In their territory.

A man walks along the main road in the central business district of Sydney on 26 June, 2021, as Australia's largest city entered a two-week lockdown to contain an outbreak of the highly contagious Delta variant. **PHOTO: AFP**

Portugal reintroduced restrictions in the worst-hit areas, including the Lisbon region, cutting back the opening hours of shops and restaurants and lowering the maximum numbers permitted there.

Some European countries are nonetheless easing restrictions as mass vaccination campaigns continue.

SOURCE: AFP

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 4:00 pm Sunday 27 June, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 28thJune, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing , Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Taninthayi Region and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago, Ayeyawady Regions and Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak to moderate monsoon.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 June, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm
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Bamboo handicraft course concludes in Kunhing Township

Local youth trainees participate in parctical works of handicraft made of bamboo.

THE closing ceremony of bamboo handicraft course, conducted by Shan State Small-Scale Industry Department and Kyun Ta Htaung Myay Foundation, was organized at Phanlan Development centre in Phanlan Village in Karli of Kunhing Township in Loilem District of Southern Shan State on 25 June.

During the event, Deputy Director-General Daw Nam Lomg Hwan of the Department of Protecting Ethnic Rights firstly made a remark. Then, she presented the certificates to the trainees while the officials of Shan State Small-Scale Industry Department gave the certificates of honour to the instructors and Kyun Ta Htaung Myay Foundation.

Then, one of the trainees expressed words of thanks. The officials also took documentary group photos and viewed the bamboo handicrafts of the trainees.

The Department of Protecting Ethnic Rights conducted such courses based on the report on the needs of community-based vocational training schools conducted in 2019-2020 fiscal year to provide more community-based vocational schools and job opportunities, and creation of job opportunities and enhancement of the socio-economic status in ethnic areas. Although the department limited to admit 20 trainees, it was extended to 32 trainees. Most of the trainees were Shan people and the rest were Lahu and Bamar people. The 15-day course offered 17 subjects like the processes of making various kinds of bamboo furniture. —Taunggyi Sub-Printing House

Water supply project to 34 villages in MraukU completed by 85%

WITH the fund of the Rakhine State Administration Council in 2020-2021 FY, the home water supply project to 34 villages in MruakU Township has been completed by 85 per cent.

A team led by Assistant Director (Technical) for the Department of Rural Development U Tun Yan Naing Thu is conducting field inspections to complete the project meeting set standards on time before the coming fiscal year, according to a departmental officer.

Hsan Myintmo Aung Company, Libra-92 Company and Scarlet Company, which won the tender, have been implementing the project of dredging the earthen lakes, fencing, life straw water purification system and home water supply in 34 villages in the township.

When completed, a total of 33,767 villagers from 6,879 houses, that usually faced a shortage of drinking water in summer, will be able to access safe and clean drinking water. —Tin Win/GNLM

Completion of building water tank is seen with fence.

804 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 June, total figure rises to 153,160

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **153,160** after **804 new cases** were reported on 27 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **135,413** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **3,297** after **7** died. —MNA

Trade flows of Chinshwehaw checkpoint suspended for more than two months

THE Namh Pha Haw bridge, which connects the Chinshwehaw town, Laukkai Township, northern Shan State has been closed since 18 April.

"Chin State has announced that they are going to suspend all incoming and outgoing vehicles and people to and from China through Chinshwehaw (Myanmar-China bilateral trade camp) starting from 18 April. The checkpoints were closed after people have been tested positive with COVID-19 in Chinshwehaw, Kunlong and Laukkai townships, major border towns between Myanmar and China. After the suspension period, some construction-related items and other basic foods loaded small vehicles entered Myanmar as imported cargos to construct new Kunlong bridge," said an official from Chinshwehaw town.

"During these days, the COVID-19 infection was under control in Chinshwehaw, more than 400,000 tonnes of sugarcane, an alternative crop to poppy, were allowed to be imported from 10 May to end-May. The officials are also coordinating for regular shipments of imported vehicles as earlier from Myanmar to China," he added.

However, the trade value through Chinshwehaw border checkpoint soared to $387.036 million between 1 October and 16 April in the current financial year 2020-2021 from $313.306 billion recorded in the corresponding period of last FY, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. The two countries border trading has improved by $73.730 million.

At present, Myanmar carries out border trade with China mainly through Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung border checkpoints. — Zin Zin (IPRD - Chinshwehaw)/GNLM

US in first meeting with Israel's new FM amid Iran moves

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets Israel's new top diplomat Yair Lapid on Sunday, in the United States' first face-to-face meeting with the freshly installed government that seeks a less combative approach with its main ally Washington.

Lapid, a centrist who delayed his own plans to be prime minister as he masterminded a coalition to unseat veteran leader Benjamin Netanyahu, is flying to Rome to see Blinken, who arrives in Italy on Sunday on a three-nation tour of Europe. The meeting comes as President Joe Biden's administration moves ahead with fresh talks on reviving a 2015 accord with Iran -- strongly opposed by Israel -- in which Tehran drastically scaled back nuclear work in return for promises of sanctions relief.

Biden and Blinken are also eager to preserve a fragile ceasefire that took effect on May 21 between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, after the worst fighting since 2014.

The bloodshed triggered some of the strongest criticism of Israel in memory in the US Congress, with some members of Biden's Democratic Party accusing Netanyahu of excessive force and of triggering the crisis by backing far-right Jewish groups that want to change the delicate status quo in the holy city of Jerusalem. Lapid, who took office on June 13 under Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, a nationalist, has accused Netanyahu of jeopardizing Israel's once rock-solid support in the United States by openly rallying behind former president Donald Trump's Republican Party. — AFP ■

Israeli alternate prime minister and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid at the first weekly cabinet meeting of the new government in Jerusalem last week. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bargaining over global tax enters key stage

Nearly 140 countries will haggle over key details of a global corporate tax plan this week, with some concerned about giving up too much and others eager to ensure tech giants pay their fair share. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP**

NEARLY 140 countries will haggle over key details of a global corporate tax plan this week, with some concerned about giving up too much and others eager to ensure tech giants pay their fair share.

The Group of Seven (G7) wealthy democracies approved a proposal to impose a minimum corporate tax rate of at least 15% earlier this month, hoping to stop a "race to the bottom" as nations compete to offer the lowest rates.

It is one of two pillars of reforms that would also allow countries to tax a share of profits of the 100 most profitable companies in the world - such as Google, Facebook and Apple - regardless of where they are based. The deal now goes to the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which is overseeing two days of talks starting Wednesday to find a consensus among 139 countries.

The proposal will then be taken up by the G20 club of wealthy and emerging countries at a meeting of finance ministers in Italy on July 9 and 10.

"I don't think we have ever been so close to an agreement," said Pascal Saint-Amans, director of the OECD tax policy centre.

"I think that everybody has realised that a deal is better than no deal," Saint-Amans told France's BFM Business radio earlier this month, adding that failing to agree would lead to unilateral taxes and US reprisals.

US President Joe Biden has galvanised the issue by backing the global minimum corporate tax, and Europeans want a deal, he said. Negotiations have gained new urgency as governments seek new sources of revenue after spending huge sums on stimulus measures to prevent their economies from collapsing during the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP ■

China seen as top U.S. partner in Asia, Japan more reliable: poll

MORE American opinion leaders view China as the United States' most important partner in Asia given the countries' trade relations, but Japan is considered most trustworthy, a survey by the Japanese Foreign Ministry shows.

Asked to choose "the most important partner of the United States" among Asian and nearby countries, 35 percent of 200 opinion leaders from a range of fields picked China, 33 percent chose Japan and 9 percent Australia. South Korea ranked fourth at 7 percent in the annual survey.

The percentage of respondents selecting China was up significantly from 18 percent in the survey a year earlier, while those picking Japan slipped from 42 percent.

Of those who saw China as the most important partner, almost four out of five cited economic factors, with 56 percent picking trade ties and 23 percent the country's economic strength, according to the survey conducted between December 2020 and January 2021. Japan topped the list of countries in the region seen as reliable for the United States with 36 percent of the respondents naming the country, followed by Australia selected by 30 percent. China gained just 3 percent of the votes, trailing South Korea which ranked third, picked by 17 percent.—Kyodo ■

Tesla to 'recall' over 285,000 cars in China due to faulty software

ELECTRIC car giant Tesla will "recall" over 285,000 cars from the Chinese market after an investigation found issues with its assisted driving software that could cause road collisions, a government regulator announced late Friday.

Tesla would contact affected users to upgrade their vehicle's software remotely for free, a State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) notice said, adding that it affects some imported and domestically manufactured Model 3 and Model Y vehicles.

"The recall plan was filed with the State Administration of Market Regulation, and it was decided to recall the following vehicles from today," SAMR said.

The order is the latest blow to the American self-driving car pioneer, which has come under growing regulatory scrutiny in China due to several deadly collisions involving Tesla vehicles in recent months.

"Due to issues with the cruise control system... the driver can easily activate the cruise control function by mistake," the Chinese government agency said in the notice.—AFP ■

People look at Tesla Model 3 cars in a Tesla showroom in Beijing. **PHOTO: GREG BAKER/AFP**

Belarus IT sector hit by exodus after post-vote crackdown

LIKE thousands of others in Belarus, IT specialist Aliaksandr Charnavoki took to the streets of Minsk last year for unprecedented protests against strongman Alexander Lukashenko's 26-year rule.

Arrested, struck by police and held in detention for four days, Charnavoki eventually fled to neighbouring Ukraine -- joining an exodus of fellow tech workers that has left the future of a booming IT sector in doubt.

It was not the "violence and lawlessness" that made him leave, Charnavoki, 39, told AFP in an interview on messenger Telegram.

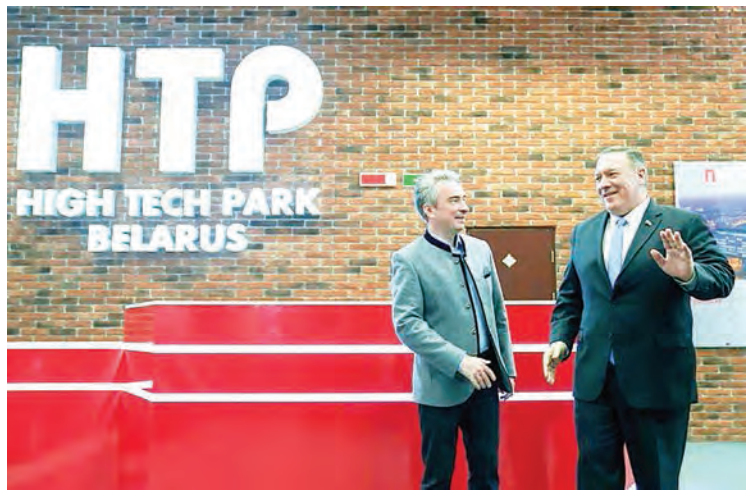
It was the sense that nothing would ever change.

"The fight against the regime has become meaningless," he said.

If ex-Soviet Belarus is known for producing anything, it is more likely to be tractors, fertiliser and oil products than software and tech services.

But in recent years its capital Minsk has become a regional high-tech hub, especially after 2017 when Lukashenko signed a decree allowing tech companies not to pay most taxes, including income tax.

The country's Hi-Tech Park (HTP) scheme has seen more than 1,000 tech companies register to operate in Belarus, with over 70,000 workers.



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Minsk's High Tech Park in February 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Gaming giant Wargaming -- maker of "World of Tanks" and its multiple spin-offs -- was founded in Minsk and maintains its central development studio in the city.

Calling app Viber was another success story from the HTP, with its early development done in offices in Belarus, until the company was bought by Japanese tech giant Rakuten in 2014 for $900 million.

Much of the work is less glamourous -- like outsourced custom software design for corporate clients -- but very profitable. The HTP says the Belarusian tech sector's exports of products and services hit a record $2.7 billion in 2020, up 25 percent from the year before, and accounting for four percent of the country's gross domestic product.—AFP ■

European bank chief eyes transition as world recovers

Odile Renaud-Basso, the first female president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. **PHOTO: EBRD/AFP**

ODILE Renaud-Basso, the first female president at Europe's development bank, hopes to restore the EBRD's green investment targets while addressing workplace equality as Covid-hit economies recover.

Before presiding over her first EBRD annual meeting this week, in an interview with AFP, Renaud-Basso also highlighted the rapid workplace digitalisation that is affecting the bank's regions of investment as well as her own institution.

A former head of the French Treasury, in November Renaud-Basso took the helm at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - founded in 1991 to help former Soviet bloc countries switch to free-market economies.

The lender, whose shareholders comprise almost 70 countries, has grown to invest in 38 emerging economies spanning central and eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

"On average, 2020 was less negative than expected" in the EBRD's countries of investment, Renaud-Basso told AFP.

This year the EBRD foresees "much better than expected" economic growth across its countries of investment, after most economies contracted last year owing to pandemic turmoil, she said. The bank is to publish its latest forecasts on Tuesday.

Renaud-Basso pointed to rebounds in manufacturing and industrial production, as well as the positive impact of higher commodity prices for the better-than-expected outlook.

But "big uncertainties remain", with countries reliant on tourism, notably Tunisia, hit hard by COVID-19 travel restrictions.—AFP ■

Olympics may bring more risks than economic benefits for Japan

FOR organizers and athletes, holding the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics with or without spectators may make a huge difference.

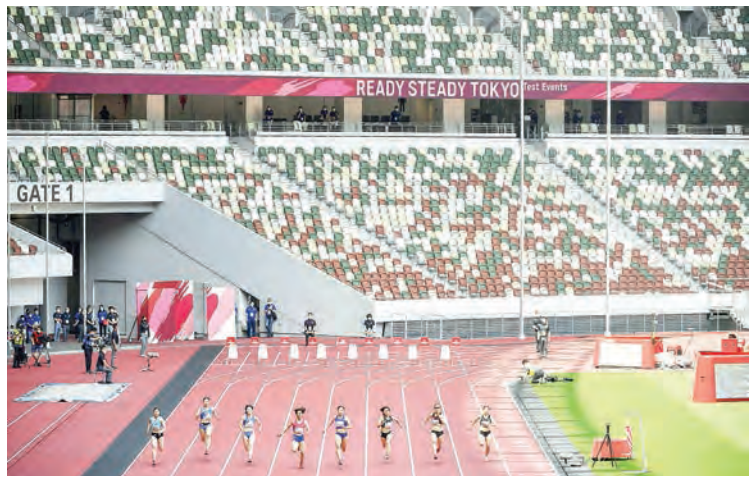
Staging the major sporting event under the coronavirus pandemic, with spectators reduced to a maximum of 10,000 per venue or 50 percent of capacity -- whichever is smaller -- may not in itself mean such a big change in economic benefits.

But some economists have raised a red flag that the economy could receive a heavy blow, rather than a boon, from the once-postponed Olympics depending on whether Japan can keep the spread of the virus in check. The games' organizers have already barred overseas spectators.

Takahide Kiuchi, executive economist at Nomura Research Institute, estimates that the economic benefits of the Tokyo Games will be 1.72 trillion yen ($16 billion) when spectators are allowed at each venue in accordance with the attendance limits.

The figure is 89.4 billion yen smaller, or down 4.9 percent, from the estimated 1.81 trillion yen windfall that a full-scale Olympics would bring to the Japanese economy.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is pinning hopes of success on the positive effects of what will be the second Summer Olympics that Tokyo has hosted, following the first in 1964.—Kyodo



An Olympic test event for athletics is held at an empty National Stadium in Tokyo on May 9, 2021, with spectators not allowed due to the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: KYODO**

EU to allocate 200-bln-euro recovery fund for green projects

THE countries of the European Union (EU) will invest at least 200 billion euros in green projects when they help the economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Friday.

The EU's executive chief has just concluded her first leg of a tour of the 27 member states, endorsing their plans to spend the recovery fund for greener and more digital growth.

With 24 national plans submitted and 12 of them approved by the European Commission, von der Leyen said all plans exceed the target of investing at least 20 percent of the allocated resources in the digital field and 37 percent in the green transition.

"At least they meet it, if not a lot of them overshoot it, and that is good. So we will have an investment of at least 200 billion euros in green measures -- just to name a few topics," she told reporters after a summit of the EU leaders on Friday.

The EU is ready to mobilize 750 billion euros on behalf of the 27 member states for a historic recovery package, known as NextGenerationEU, and it started raising funds on the financial markets last week.—Xinhua ■

China's Tianjin Port reaches 10m TEUs in container throughput this year

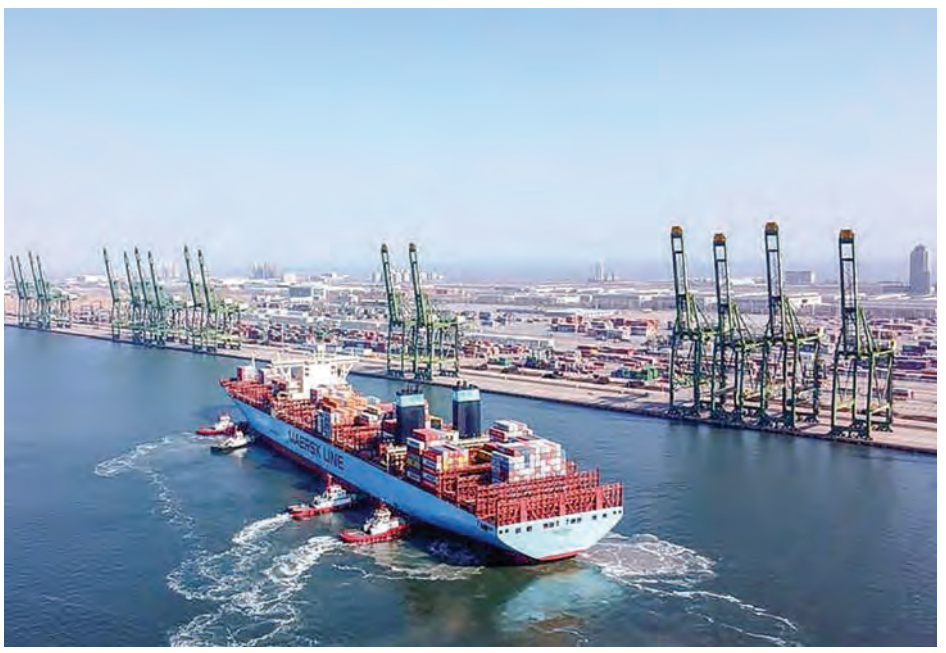
THE container throughput of Tianjin Port in North China's Tianjin municipality exceeded 10 million TEUs this year, an increase of over 20 percent year-on-year, according to the port's operator.

Compared to last year, the throughput reached the number a month earlier, according to Tianjin Port (Group) Co Ltd.

Since the beginning of this year, the container throughput of Tianjin Port has seen continuous growth. It exceeded 1.8 million TEUs in April and 2 million TEUs in May.

Ports are a barometer of economic development, and the increase in container throughput indicates a more dynamic economy in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region as well as North China, said Chu Bin, chairman of the board of the Tianjin Port (Group) Co Ltd.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tianjin Port handled 18.35 million TEUs in 2020, up 6.1 percent from the previous year, ranking among the top 10 in the world. — Xinhua ■



Aerial photo shows a container vessel sailing into Tianjin Port in north China's Tianjin Municipality, Feb. 22, 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA /ZHAO ZISHUO**

Fiber maker Teijin pitches cool casual clothing featuring fans

A man wears a vest with a built-in electric fan developed by Teijin Ltd. and partner companies in Tokyo on June 23, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

MAJOR fiber manufacturer Teijin Ltd. is set to market a new type of casual apparel featuring small fans that allow the wearer to cool off in the heat of summer without the hassle of being blown up like a balloon.

Tenjin partnered with textile trading company Chikuma & Co. and power tool manufacturer Makita Corp. to begin sales of work outfits with built-in fans in 2018.

Targeting young people and expectant mothers in addition to conventional wearers such as construction workers, the three companies plan to test-market everyday apparel with fans including vests and jackets beginning this summer, before officially launching the items next year.

While most clothes incorporating electronic fans require sleeves and hems to be closed to stop cool air from leaking out, Teijin's new vests and jackets, among other items, are made of a synthetic fiber that allows the wearer to enjoy the full use of a fan without being fully zipped up.

The clothes are made of a double-layered material that controls airflow, with an outlet in the inner lining that prevents cool air from escaping. The clothes, including fans and batteries, are expected to cost 20,000 yen to 30,000 yen ($180 to $270) per item.—Kyodo ■

The young Indian chef taking the 'world's best butter chicken' global

THE coal-fired tandoor oven sends a mouth-watering scent wafting through the Mumbai kitchen as celebrity chef Saransh Goila, maker of the world's "best butter chicken" according to MasterChef Australia, takes a break from Covid-19 relief efforts and resumes work.

Although the pandemic has done little to slow the global appetite for his delivery-only signature dish, business has been the last thing on his mind of late with India battling a brutal second wave of infections.

As India battled a devastating Covid-19 wave, chef Saransh Goila also launched a relief effort connecting volunteer home cooks with coronavirus patients. **PHOTO: AFP**

Much to his shock, Goila -- who has over a million Instagram and Twitter followers -- started getting dozens of messages daily from Covid-19 patients and their families, asking for assistance sourcing healthy meals.

"You don't think of people being stuck for home-cooked meals in India," he told AFP. "We are a country where you have your neighbours, friends, family always ready to help". But with the coronavirus forcing people into isolation and making entire families sick, those networks were of little use.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (124S/125N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (124S/125N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HADDOCK VOY.NO. (125W/126E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HADDOCK VOY.NO. (125W/126E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

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

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Luxury in the clouds: Shanghai opens world's highest hotel

THE world's highest luxury hotel, boasting a restaurant on the 120th floor and 24-hour personal butler service, has opened in Shanghai to guests with deep pockets and a head for heights.

Elevators whizz guests up the intimidating spiral-like skyscraper at ear-popping speeds of 18 metres per second to the J Hotel's 165 opulent rooms.

The hotel occupies the top floors of the 632-metre (more than 2,000 feet) Shanghai Tower in the city's financial district, the second-tallest building in the world after Dubai's Burj Khalifa.

The J Hotel occupies the top floors of the 632-metre Shanghai Tower in the city's financial district. **PHOTO: HECTOR RETAMAL/ AFP**

Its opening was delayed partly by the coronavirus pandemic but the hotel has now started receiving well-heeled guests who can call on the services of a dedicated butler at any hour, day or night.

Patrons can also enjoy one of the hotel's seven restaurants, bars, spa, 84th-floor swimming pool, and all the other usual trappings of a top-notch hotel.

It does not come cheap. To celebrate its opening J Hotel is offering a "special experience rate" of 3,088 yuan ($450) a night, but prices for its 34 suites sky-rocket. A night in a "J Suite", complete with crystal chandeliers and sauna, this Saturday costs over 67,000 yuan.—AFP ■

Turkish resort frets over second lost summer

The Turkish city of Bodrum has been hit hard by tourists staying away due to the pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Russians are finally coming but the mayor of this empty Turkish resort doubts their converted rubles will save what looks to be another lost summer. "We closed the last tourism season down 75 percent," Bodrum mayor Ahmet Aras told AFP in a lavish library overlooking the Aegean Sea.

"We expect a recovery from July with the start of flights from Russia and Europe," but for the sector overall, "that will not happen for a few more years," he said.

Pandemic curbs on travel wrecked Turkey's economy by depriving it of foreign revenue to finance debt and support the lira.

The lack of tourists played a large part in the lira's slide from six to the dollar in March 2020 to around 8.7 now. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government needed an urgent fix therefore to quell public discontent.

He tried to coax tourists to Turkish beaches with exemptions from weekend curfews and other coronavirus rules.

But quarantines placed on travellers returning from Turkey laid the government's plans to waste.—AFP ■

California's famed Venice Beach grapples with homeless problem

AH yes, Venice Beach in California: synonymous with sun, surf, palm trees and, now, homeless people. As many as 200 tents line the oceanfront in this Los Angeles-area town that for decades has been a lure for surfers and tourists.

The area is a chaotic jumble of any material that can create shelter, and of waste and detritus, amid appalling hygiene conditions. The smell of urine competes with that of suntan lotion.

"I didn't expect to see so many homeless people here in Venice. Already in Hollywood a few days ago, I was a bit surprised, but here, all these tents touching each other, these shacks, these tarpaulins, it's almost like a village," said John Jackson, who was visiting from the southern US state of Alabama. Before the coronavirus pandemic, authorities made homeless people living on the beach take down their tents during the day. But city hall suspended that rule to limit the risk of contagion among people who are already vulnerable to illness.

Homeless people in the Venice area, many of whom lost places in shelters and free meals because of the pandemic, have used the health crisis to converge on the city's beach.—AFP ■

Los Angeles police inspect an encampment at Venice Beach on June 16, 2021 where Rodrick Mims, 50, (R) who has been homeless off and on over the last 15 years, is living by the Pacific Ocean. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

With Ohio rally, Trump kicks off MAGA campaign slog

DONALD Trump held his first big campaign-style rally since leaving the White House, giving a vintage, rambling speech Saturday to an adoring audience as he launched a series of appearances ahead of next year's midterm elections.

The former president, who has been booted from social media platforms and faces multiple legal woes, has flirted with his own potential candidacy in 2024, but in the 90-minute address at a fair grounds in Ohio he made no clear mention of his political future, even when the crowd chanted "four more years! four more years!"

Trump did tease them at one point by alluding to the possibility of another stab at the White House.

"We may have to win it a third time. It is possible," he said, showing yet again he thinks he won in November. The crowd cheered wildly. – AFP ■

Thousands displaced by fighting around northern Afghan city

About 5,000 Afghan families have fled their homes in Kunduz after days of fighting between the Taliban and government forces, officials said Saturday, with the insurgents continuing to surround the key northern city.

The Taliban briefly seized the city twice in recent years but have now captured the surrounding districts and a nearby border crossing with Tajikistan.

"About 5,000 families have been displaced by the fighting," Ghulam Sakhi Rasouli, director of the Kunduz Refugees and Repatriation Department, told AFP.

He said up to 2,000 of those families had fled to Kabul and other provinces.

Many people took refuge in a school in the city and had been provided with food and other relief items, Kunduz provincial council member Ghulam Rabbani Rabbani said.–AFP ■

Turkey's Erdogan launches work on controversial Black Sea canal

Erdogan says the controversial Black Sea canal has been planned 'in accordance with science'. PHOTO: TURKISH

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday launched the start of construction on a controversial canal aimed at easing congestion on the Bosphorus but which critics say courts environmental disaster.

The "Canal Istanbul" is a gigantic waterway running parallel to the Bosphorus Strait connecting the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara and the Mediterranean.

"Today we are opening a new page in the history of Turkish development," Erdogan said during the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of a bridge forming part of the project.

The 45 kilometre (28 mile) long waterway will connect the Black Sea to global maritime networks, a strategically important issue at the heart of European geopolitics and conflicts for centuries.

Erdogan's detractors accuse him of clinging to a project that will lead Turkey to ecological disaster and debt as massive as it is unnecessary.

Erdogan devoted almost all of his speech to defending the project.

Citing the risks posed by the rising number of ships passing through the Bosphorus, Erdogan said the project was mostly aimed at "ensuring the safety of (Turkey's) citizens in Istanbul" and allowing the country to take "a more important place" in international trade.

Dismissing critics, he said: "All stages of the project have been designed in accordance with science."— AFP ■

Macron and Le Pen face new test in French regional vote

FRANCE votes in the second round of regional elections on Sunday after a first round that saw a drubbing for President Emmanuel Macron's ruling party, disappointment for Marine Le Pen's far-right and record low turnout.

For some observers, the outcome of the June 20 first round raised doubts over whether the 2022 presidential election would come down to a duel between Macron and Le Pen in a run-off long seen as the most likely scenario.

The first-round results marked a boost for the traditional right-wing The Republicans as well as the Socialist Party, who have been squeezed after the centrist Macron surged into power in 2017 with his brand-new Republic on the Move (LREM) party.

Analysts warn against too much extrapolation onto a nationwide scale from the results of the regional elections, which choose the heads of France's 13 mainland regions from Brittany in the northwest to the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur (PACA) region in the southeast.

But there was cross-party concern over the turnout for last week's polls, which were shunned by 66.72 percent of voters -- a record in modern France.

"What we are seeing is the culmination of a disconnection between voters and the political class," said Jessica Sainty, politics lecturer at Avignon University, while acknowledging the Covid-19 crisis also played a role in high abstention rate. — AFP ■

The first round of France's regional elections were shunned by

Peru vote review resumes as new judge sworn in

A panel overseeing challenges to Peru's messy presidential election three weeks ago and declaring a winner got back to work Saturday after a pause forced by the departure of one of its members.

Indeed, Peruvians are still waiting for a new president to be proclaimed from the June 6 election.

Leftist Pedro Castillo took a majority of votes, according to the unconfirmed count, in an election his right-wing rival Keiko Fujimori -- charged with corruption in an unrelated scandal -- claims was riddled with fraud.

The election has not been called due to the fraud claims from the Fujimori camp, which asked the National Jury of Elections (JNE), the final vote arbiter, to review thousands of votes.

If she loses, Fujimori risks an imminent graft trial that would otherwise be delayed until after her presidential term.

One of four JNE judges, Luis Arce, announced Wednesday that he "declined" to continue his duties, from which he cannot resign under law until the job at hand is done.

On Saturday Victor Raul Rodriguez was sworn in as Arce's replacement.

"Electoral justice cannot remain paralyzed or blocked," said Jorge Luis Salas, the top JNE official, as the new panel got back to working reviewing disputed ballots.

Salas has endured fierce criticism from Fujimori supporters and even demonstrations outside his home. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

In Europe, US allies gush over friendly new administration

GERMANY'S top diplomat could barely stop smiling as he had a beer with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Berlin. Not so long ago, he acknowledged bluntly, he had less fun talking to American leaders.

"I still have to get used to the fact that I can speak to the American secretary of state and always be of the same view because that used to be different," Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said, recounting his first conversations with Blinken.

If anyone was uncertain that he was referring to tensions with former president Donald Trump, he quickly made it explicit with a mordant analogy.

"We had President Trump, then we had the virus. It has made matters extremely complicated. I now hope that we will overcome the virus, too," Maas said over beers as he invited Blinken to a conversation with young Germans on Thursday at a historic ball house.

It may not all be plain sailing: the positive mood music may conceal closed-door tensions on issues ranging from China and Russia to trade. But the change in atmosphere is startling.

One day later, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian offered Blinken a similar message, albeit in the more formal setting of the Quai d'Orsay, the ornate foreign ministry in Paris.—AFP ■

Colombia offers $800,000 reward in attack on leader's copter

The Colombian government said Saturday it is offering a reward of nearly $800,000 for information leading to the capture of those behind an attack Friday on a helicopter carrying President Ivan Duque near the Venezuela border.

"A reward of up to 3 billion pesos is being offered" for information leading to "those responsible for this terrorist attack," Defense Minister Diego Molano said in a video posted to social media from the northern city of Cucuta.

The president's helicopter was approaching the Cucuta airport on a flight from Sardinata when several shots -- apparently from rifles -- were fired at it.

Duque was flying with Molano, Interior Minister Daniel Palacios and other officials at the time.

No one on board was injured, but photos released by the president's office showed the tail and main blade had been hit.

General Jorge Vargas, the national police chief, said a search team sent to a nearby Cucuta neighborhood had found two rifles: an AK-47, whose owner was not yet known, and a 7.62-caliber rifle "bearing the mark of the Venezuelan armed forces."—AFP ■

Third round qualifiers for Asian Cup set to hold in February 2022

THE third round qualifiers for the 2023 Asian Cup tournament, which will be played by the Myanmar men's national football team, is scheduled to launch in February 2022.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will host the 2022 World Cup (Asian Zone) third round, which will be held separately after the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 Asian Cup Second Round Qualifiers and Play-offs.

The Myanmar national team will not be able to play in the third round qualifiers for the World Cup, but will be able to play in the third round of the Asian Cup.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will host the third round of the Asian Cup from February to September 2022 with home and away system in line with COVID-19 safety measures.

The third round qualifiers for the Asian Cup will be played with 24 teams in total, 22 teams of which have already competed. The two winning teams from the play-off matches will join for the next stage.

The 22 teams that have qualified for the third round of the Asian Cup are Tajikistan, Myanmar, Uzbekistan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkmenistan, Jordan, Palestine, Malaysia, the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, India, Thailand, Singapore, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Yemen and Bangladesh.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Czechs upset 10-man Netherlands to reach Euro 2020 quarter-finals

THE Czech Republic reached the Euro 2020 quarter-finals Sunday after shocking 10-man Netherlands 2-0 in their last-16 tie in Budapest thanks to second-half strikes by Tomas Holes and Patrik Schick.

A header by Holes and clinical finish by Schick came after Matthijs de Ligt was sent off in the 55th minute, securing the efficient Czechs a deserved berth in the last eight against Denmark in Baku on July 3.

Having emerged as Group C winners with a 100 percent record after playing all three of their games in Amsterdam, Frank de Boer's fancied Netherlands were on the road for the first time in the tournament.

Roared on by boisterous ranks of orange-clad fans in a packed Puskas Arena, the only Euro 2020 venue not to limit stadium capacity as an anti-coronavirus precaution, it was the livelier Dutch who dominated the opening exchanges.

On eight minutes a floated cross by Danny Blind evaded Tomas Vaclik in the Czech goal but De Ligt's header across the goalmouth was sliced well wide by Memphis Depay. Then Denzel Dumfries, raiding on both wings, was released on the left soon after but, with Vaclik again flailing, couldn't direct his header into the open goal.

But after soaking up the early pressure Jaroslav Silhavy's well-organised side, who qualified as one of the four best third-placed sides, began posing threats of their own with a series of dangerous counter-attacks. — AFP ■

Czech Republic's players celebrate at the end of the UEFA EURO 2020 round of 16 football match between the Netherlands and the Czech Republic at Puskas Arena in Budapest on 27 June 2021. **PHOTO : AFP**

Italy and Denmark cruise through to the quarter finals

Italy's players celebrate after extra-time in the UEFA EURO 2020 round of 16 football match between Italy and Austria at Wembley Stadium in London on June 26, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

ITALY defeated stubborn Austria 2-1 in extra time in Wales on Saturday, while Denmark beat Wales 4-0 to advance to the Euro 2020 quarterfinals.

After going through the group phase, the acclaimed Roberto Mancini team worked hard to win and thanked supersubs Federico Chiesa and Matteo Pessina.

This victory means Italy has set a new record for 31 undefeated games, surpassing the mark set under coach Vittorio Pozzo, who won the World Cup twice in the 1930s.

Italian fans were excited about the national anthem, with a more enterprising team in the first half, but Austria returned strongly after the break, cursing VAR's decision to rule out Marko Arnautović's goal in the 20th minute of the second half. ..

Despite multiple attempts to reach goals from both sides, they were locked 0-0 in London 90 minutes later.

However, Chiesa made a decisive breakthrough in the 5th minute, and Pessina's other goal gave Italy a two-goal cushion.

Although there was still time for the late drama when Austria's Sasa Kalajdic scored a goal, Italy progressed and played the Thai winner between Belgium and its holder Portugal on Sunday.

Mancini, who rebuilt Azuri after failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, said his team was "worthy" of the result.

Wave of emotion

Meanwhile, Denmark advanced to the quarter-finals by beating Wales 4-0 at the Johan Cruijff Arena in Amsterdam, thanks to Kasper Dolberg's two goals and Johan Cruijff's and Martin Brightwait's second half goals.

Carried on a wave of emotions, the Danes are a neutral favorite after overcoming Christian Eriksen's cardiac arrest trauma in the opening game. — AFP ■

Calvert-Lewin backs Kane to come good against Germany

ENGLAND striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin has backed his captain Harry Kane's "undeniable quality" to shine through at Euro 2020 despite a sluggish start to the tournament. Kane has not scored and had just one shot on target in three games so far ahead of Tuesday's huge last-16 clash with Germany.

Everton's Calvert-Lewin has been given only one minute on the field despite Kane's struggles, but insisted he is happy to play a supporting role. "You know he's got undeniable quality and I think he leads the line, he's the captain, so he's probably the first person people look at to kind of criticise," said Calvert-Lewin on Saturday.

"He's done it consistently for a few seasons now so I've got no doubt that he'll perform on the big stage."

England have not conceded a goal, but their two goals scored was the lowest by a side to ever top a group at the European Championship. "I think from a creative perspective there's a lot more to come from us," added Calvert-Lewin, who was part of England's Under-20 World Cup winning side in 2017. — AFP ■