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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 75, 9th Waning of Nayon 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Saturday, 3 July 2021

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.

State Administration Council is systematically taking measures to soonest cease third wave of the pandemic: Vice-Senior General

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the coordination meeting of the Leading Committee on Organizing the SAC Waso Robe-Offering Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 July 2021.

AS now is the time of breaking out the variant COVID-19 pandemic, arrangements should be made for attendee venerable monks and laypersons to strictly abide by the orders, directives, guidelines for COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, said Patron of the Leading Committee on Organizing the State Administration Council Waso Robe-Offering Ceremony of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the coordination meeting of the leading committee at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said the leading committee was formed with 13 members including the patron and the chairman and the working committee with 13 members led by the deputy minister, and 10 sub-committees were also formed. Although the Waso robe-offering ceremony is held yearly, this year's ceremony coincides with the outbreak of variant COVID-19. The State Administration Council is systematically taking the measures to soonest cease the third wave of the pandemic. Hence, the ceremony must be held in line with orders and directives issued by the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment national-level central committee and the Ministry of Health and Sports. SEE PAGE-3

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Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order No 273/2021

8th Waning of Nayon 1383 ME

2 July 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 some townships of the Bago and Mandalay regions need to stay at home due to the number of confirmed patients on the rise in these townships.
2. Hence, the people residing in the following townships in Sagaing and Mandalay regions and Shan State are involved in the Stay-at-Home programme.
   (a) Sagaing Region
      (1) Homalin Township
   (b) Mandalay Region
      (1) PyinOoLwin Township
   (c) Shan State
      (1) Nawnghkio Township
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
      (1) except for service personnel serving at government department;
      (2) except for those serving at private firms such as banks and monetary services, filling stations, foodstuffs and livestock and fishery, cold storage, medicine and medical equipment production and distribution, purified water production and sales, factories of manufacturing daily personal goods and related industries;
      (3) except for staff from airlines, such as relief flights, cargo flights and specially chartered flights, general aviation transport services, ground services, fuel services, aviation export and import services, international freight forwarder companies, customer service companies and agencies, boarding foodstuff production and transport services and aircraft maintenance;
      (4) except for staff from private ports, shipping agencies offices, international freight forwarder companies, customer service companies and agencies, container truck services, port export and import cargo trucks and watercraft, inland container depot and dry ports;
      (5) except for staff from communication service providers such as post services, line phones and mobile phone communication services, internet services (exclusive of sales of telephone and data at shops), tower and fibre maintenance services;
   (b) relevant region and state administration councils to issue necessary orders and directives and supervision for prevention of COVID-19 infection at CMP factories and workshops;
   (c) organizations and companies to perform their works from homes;
   (d) one person from each house to go out shopping;
   (e) only two persons per house to go to hospitals and clinics;
   (f) wear masks if they go outside the houses;
   (g) allow ferries and registered vehicles only to transport returnees from workplaces to pass the wards;
   (h) 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;
   (i) abide by the standard operating procedures (SOP) for trucks to ensure smooth flow of commodities in the township;
4. People need to inform relevant ward/village 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 subparagraphs (d), (e) and (h) of Paragraph 2. The relevant administrative bodies need not allow ingoing and outgoing persons, except for 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 3-7-2021.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister

Announcement

1. It is found that some foreign correspondents based in Myanmar express the current government of the State Administration Council as military council or military junta or junta in their news stories and exaggerate their news quoting rootless sources and false news related to Myanmar.
2. The State Administration Council just controls various State duties in line with the provisions of the state of emergency under the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and it has been clearly announced that the government is not a coup d'état government.
3. The United Nations and global countries have recognized the State Administration Council as the legal government of Myanmar.
4. Especially, some foreign news agencies need to express news in line with news media ethics instead of quoting and exaggerating inaccurate and uncertain news and undermining the country by disseminating false news to global people.
5. The government emphasizes the holding of press conferences and the correct and quick replies to queries so as to ensure the correct and swift flow of information.
6. The announcement was hereby issued that some foreign news agencies were warned not to further apply the usage of military council/military junta/junta for the government in the future and not to quote and exaggerate the false news, and action will be taken against them under the existing laws if they apply wrong usages, quote and exaggerate fake news and disseminate false information.

Ministry of Information

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

They need to carry out politics in unison without diverse concepts

THE Tatmadaw did not commit the coup d'état but manages the State responsibilities to guarantee democracy. There are more than 90 parties in the country based on politics, regions and ethnic nationals. They need to carry out politics in unison without diverse concepts.

(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)

State Administration Council is systematically taking measures to soonest cease third wave of the pandemic: Vice-Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

It is a noble ceremony in which the governments in successive eras offered Waso robes to venerable members of the Sangha. This year, two venerable members of the Sangha from the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, nine Ovadacariya Sayadaws from Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees, four Sayadaws from Nay Pyi Taw Sangha Nayaka Committee and those from Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and presiding Nayaka Sayadaws from Buddhist learning centres totalling 27 will be invited to the ceremony.

It is necessary to take special care of holding the ceremony, not to break out diseases related to the monsoon. As now is the time of breaking out the variant COVID-19 pandemic, arrangements should be made for attendee venerable monks and laypersons to strictly abide by the orders, directives and guidelines for COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Chairman of the leading committee Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and Deputy Minister U Aye Tun reported on preparations to hold the ceremony. Officials from the respective subcommittees participated in the discussions.

The Vice-Senior General gave a concluding remark. Then, the Vice-Senior General viewed offerings to be donated at the 2021 Waso robe offering ceremony of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. — MNA

Press Statement
Myanmar rejected one-sided remarks and statements based on Inaccurate Information

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly objects to one-sided remarks on the numbers of detainees and deaths of protesters by the spokeperson of the Secretary-General who quoted the unverifiable facts received from the UN Country Team of Myanmar during the noon briefings to the Press on 29 June 2021.

The Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with the official concerned of the UN Country Team in Yangon on 2 July 2021 and made objection to the said matter. Moreover, the Director-General rejects the information uploaded on the website of the United Nations as it is linked to the website of the so-called National Unity Government (NUG) which was declared as terrorist group and asked the verification on the said linkage at the earliest possible.

The United Nations is requested not to release one-sided remarks without verification and to verify sensitive information with relevant focal ministries before its release in the press and briefings.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated: 2 July 2021

Myanmar, Laos hold coordination meeting on electricity, energy cooperation

ACCORDING to the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC), a coordination meeting on Electricity and Energy Cooperation between Myanmar and Laos was held virtually yesterday at the Office of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in line with the COVID-19 safety measures.

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo, Deputy Minister U Thant Sin, Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw, Heads of Departments, Minister of Energy and Mines of Laos Dr Dabong Phonekeo, Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office/MEM Mr Phetsavanh Rattanathongxay, and department heads of the Lao People's Democratic Republic attended the meeting.—MNA

MSWRR holds virtual meeting with volunteers and philanthropic organizations

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine presided over a virtual coordination meeting with volunteers and philanthropic organizations in regions and states with high infection rates yesterday.

The Union Minister said the meeting was held to boost cooperation with the volunteers and charitable organizations in conducting COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities in the third wave in addition to the difficulties to resolve.

She also appreciated efforts exerted by volunteers and Parahitas for carrying out the needed measures for COVID-19 suspected patients, cured patients including funeral services and other preventive measures in line with the health rules of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Then, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing highlighted the efforts of Parahitas for many sectors although they are not organized under the 2014 Law for Registration of Organizations and assistance by volunteers for the sake of the country and public during the pandemic.

Deputy Minister for MSWRR U Aung Tun Khine also discussed the COVID-19 economic relief plans and other work plans to be conducted together with the government and volunteers.

Then, the other attendees to the meeting coordinated the meeting before the Union Minister concluded it.—MNA

Irrigation water provided to 2,974-acre monsoon paddy in Ngaphe, Magway

IRRIGATION water has been provided to 2,974 acres of monsoon paddy in the Manchaung Dam irrigated area this year's monsoon paddy planting season since yesterday in Ngaphe Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, according to U Aung Ko Oo, head of the Irrigation and Water Resources Management Department in Ngaphe Township.

In the 2021-2022 monsoon paddy cultivation season, a total of 3,259 acres in 33 fields in 15 village-tracts have been earmarked for cultivation with irrigation from the Manchaung Dam.

The dam has a capacity of 120,000 acre-feet of water at full brim and the current water level is more than 35,000 acre-feet which is enough to irrigate 2,974 acres of monsoon paddy in the area. It is also reported that irrigation water from the Yin Shay Dam irrigated area will be provided starting from 20 July. – Ma Yu (Ngaphe)/GNLM

1,863 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 July, total figure rises to 161,210

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **161,210 after 1,863 new cases** were reported on 2 July 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **137,415** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **3,364** after **17** died. —MNA

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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.

Manufacturing exports down by $1.86 bln in nearly nine months

EXPORTS of finished industrial goods drastically plummeted to US$5.14 billion in nearly nine months (1 October-25 June) of the current financial year 2020-2021, an extreme drop of $1.86 billion compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As per figures provided by the ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods exceeded $7 billion during the same period in the 2019-2020FY.

The IHS Markit Myanmar Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, a composite single-figure indicator of manufacturing performance, signalled the sharpest deterioration in manufacturing business conditions in the previous months. The higher material costs and unfavourable exchange rate movements contributed to a sharp increase in cost burdens, causing constraints to complete the order. It can do more harm to the foreign investment sector if the problem is still not resolved. The PMI measures the output, new orders, performance, delays in the manufacturing process and stocks of both inputs and finished goods, according to HIS Markit's statement.

Myanmar's garment exports witnessed a decline of over 20 per cent in the past eight months (October-May) of the current financial year 2020-2021 compared with a year-ago period on the back of a slump in demand by the European Union market.

The layoff is extended and the workers are forced to return to their hometowns amid the political instability and the COVID-19 resurgences.

Nevertheless, the Swedish fashion retailer H&M is gradually placing orders from Myanmar again after it paused in March. Then, more international fashion retailers such as Primark and Bestseller starts to resume new orders. Additionally, Germany will also continue its support for Myanmar garment businesses so that Myanmar women can continue their livings, Germany Embassy Yangon's Facebook posted.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

Myanmar's garment exports witnessed a decline of over 20 per cent in the past eight months (October-May) of the current financial year 2020-2021 compared with a year-ago period on the back of a slump in demand by the European Union market, the Ministry of Commerce stated. Myanmar's garment industry has been facing challenges such as raw material supply disruption and cancellation of orders amid the pandemic. Additionally, the surging COVID-19 cases posed impediments to the industry, a market observer shared his opinion. Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US.

The garment sector is among the prioritized sectors driving up exports. The CMP garment industry has emerged as a promising one, with preferential trade from Western countries. Yet, the current political changes in the country are likely to aggravate the garment industry, traders stressed.

Myanmar's garment factories operate under the CMP system, and those engaged in this industry are striving to transform CMP into a free-on-board (FoB) system. As the factories cannot enter into a contract for FoB, Own Design Manufacturing (ODM) and Own Business Manufacturing (OBM), the income is limited, according to the MGMA.

Exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued at US$4.798 billion in the last financial year2019-2020, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Although the sector is struggling due to the cancellation of the order from the European countries and suspension of trading by western countries during the pandemic, export values rose in the previous FY (1 October 2019-30 September 2020).

More than 500 members and over 700 garment factories in Myanmar are listed on the MGMA, with an employment of over 400,000 workers. However, a third of garment industry workers are out of jobs in difficult times. — KK/GNLM

Rice export to China through Muse border checkpoint plummets

MYANMAR'S rice export to China through the Muse border checkpoint has plummeted recently, said U Min Thein, the vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

The drop was due to the closure of the Man Wein checkpoint, which is the major place for the trading of rice and broken rice between Myanmar and China following the outbreak of COVID-19 positive cases. With the closing of the Man Wein land border crossing, the export stuff including rice and broken rice are being traded through China via the Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint.

Earlier, Myanmar exported about 30,000 bags of rice and broken rice to China daily. But now, only about 10,000 bags have been exported, he added.

"Previously, about 70 truckloads of rice and broken rice were traded daily through the Man Wein post. Now, only 24 truckloads are being traded. The export has dropped one third. If three truckloads were used to go earlier, only one truckload will go now. Earlier, about 30,000 bags of rice and broken rice were traded through the Man Wein crossing whereas now only 10,000 bags are being traded through Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint," U Min Thein explained.

Currently, the price of the Muse market is 117 Yuans for a bag of broken rice, 128 Yuans for Nga Sein, 129 Yuans for Thuka and 137 Yuans for Shin Tone, according to the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre. The Man Wein land border has been closed for over one month because of the outbreak of COVID-19 and it has not been planned to reopen yet, according to Muse 105th Trade Zone, the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

With the declining number of COVID-19 positive patients in the Kyalgaung area, the lockdown restrictions imposed on the Kyalgaung area were lifted starting from 4 May. But, the observation is still going on for another three more months. As a result, the Man Wein border post has not been planned to reopen, according to the announcement of the Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone, the Trade Department on 5 May.

In addition, in coordination with the Shweli Foreign Relations Department, the Man Wein crossing has not been reopened yet and it will be reopened only after having the detailed plan, according to the statement.

The relevant traders will also be informed if there is an official notification from China to reopen the land border crossing.

Moreover, China's customs authorities granted rice export licences to 47 Myanmar companies on 26 February 2021, according to the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

This year, China government has allowed more rice export licences to more companies. So, the volume of rice export will increase this year compared to that of the previous year, according to the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

During the first three months of the current financial year, Myanmar exported over 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth over US$275 million, according to Myanmar Rice Federation. However, Myanmar has expected to export only 2 million tonnes of rice this FY because the weather changes have affected irrigation water and consequently, summer paddy cultivation will have to be reduced, President U Ye Min Aung of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) said.

Myanmar generated over US$800 million from rice export in the previous FY–2019-2020 ending 30 September with an estimated volume of over 2.5 million tonnes. — NN/GNLM

During the first three months of the current financial year, Myanmar exported over 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth over US$275 million.

The Fourth Month of the State Administration Council

By Kanaung

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

The peace process and ethnic nationalities

The Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services released an announcement on 30 May that the Tatmadaw's military activities would be halted, and the ceasefire period extended from 1 to 30 June, except for groups committing attacks against national security and administrative machinery. June is also the period for the reopening of basic education schools all over the country and the ceasefire extension should be seen as an opportunity for the peace process.

The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) held a coordination meeting on 13 May at the NSPNC's office. Committee Chairman Lieutenant-General Yar Pyae and members, and the ALP Vice-Chair (No. 3) Daw Saw Mra Razar Lin and her team attended the meeting. The Committee Secretary explained the work of peacemaking committees formed by the State Administration Council, while ALP members put forward issues related to the peace and regional development in Rakhine State. It was reported that the NSPNC would cooperate and conduct the necessary coordination and negotiations in this regard.

Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs met the Mro ethnic delegation led by U San Tha Aung on 12 May. They held talks on the matter of the teaching of Mro language and literature in basic education schools, the appointment of teaching assistants and language teachers on a daily-wage and monthly-pay basis. Among others, the meeting also discussed the promotion of Mro literature and ethnic affairs.

Security and the rule of law

Since 14 February, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Fire Brigade members have jointly conducted security duties to counter terrorist acts supported by the illegitimate NUG and CRPH and aimed at destroying the country's stability, security, and the rule of law. During May, security forces have dealt with these terrorist acts. In addition, actions under Section 505-A of the Penal Code were taken against certain education and health staff, film and music artists, those supporting unlawful associations and those instigating and intimidating others to wreck the state administrative machinery through the so-called civil disobedience movement.

On 13 May, Martial Law Orders 4/2021 and 5/2021 were issued by the State Administration Council to enable the Commander of the North-West Command to better administer security, the rule of law and community peace in Mindat Township of the Chin State.

The Union Election Commission and political parties held a coordination meeting on 21 May. The meeting discussed the support that the Commission would provide for political parties in matters of security and the rule of law; the change in the electoral system to a system more suitable for Myanmar, among others, proportional representation (PR) system; and actions to be taken against any party committing electoral fraud and breaking existing laws.

Invitation for Myanmar citizens

Throughout May, the State Administration Council continued issuing its invitation to Myanmar citizens who had left Myanmar for various reasons. The invitation noted that certain citizens, including students, youth, and civil servants had fled to areas dominated by ethnic armed organizations or to other countries, due to fear fuelled by falsehoods produced from local and foreign organizations. Those who have fled are now suffering in terms of personal safety, risk to their lives and poor living conditions. Therefore, with the exception of those who had committed crimes, the State Administration Council now invites these citizens home: if within Myanmar they are to report to the nearest local authorities and if in foreign countries, to report to the nearest Myanmar embassy, consulates office, or military attaché's office.

On 8 May, the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee released Notification (No. 2/2021) which released by on 8 May, declaring the CRPH (Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw), the NUG (National Unity Government) and the People's Defence Force (PDF) formed by the NUG to be terrorist groups. The reason is that these groups issued threats against those not joining the civil disobedience movement, threats to students and teachers not to go to schools, and they are supporting and perpetrating terrorist acts against the public.

Good news for farmers

The government announced on 20 May that Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank and its branches would disburse agricultural loans to farmers for the 2021 monsoon season, effective from 26 May to 30 September. Thanks to the government, farmers an extension for repayment of their 2020 loans from 15 April to 31 July 2021, recognizing the hardships they faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the previous 2020 monsoon season.

> In the interests of efficiency, the government divided the previous Ministry of Planning, Finance, and Industry into two ministries on 3 May -- the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Industry. On the same date, reviewing teams were formed to relax lengthy procedures in issuing permits, licences, and certificates.

Developments in economy, investment, and banking

At the meeting with officials from the Customs and Internal Revenue Departments on 1 May, Union Minister U Win Shein highlighted the fact that the online payment system can now be used for tax payments. In addition, after a temporary halt, mobile banking and online monetary services are returning to normal due to the restoration of internet access from mobile phones.

In the interests of efficiency, the government divided the previous Ministry of Planning, Finance, and Industry into two ministries on 3 May -- the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Industry. On the same date, reviewing teams were formed to relax lengthy procedures in issuing permits, licences, and certificates.

External trade value has registered at more than US$17.58 billion for the 2020-2021 financial year (up to end-April), according to the provisional data from the Ministry of Commerce.

On 7 May, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) authorized 15 new investment projects, including an electricity generation project worth US$2.5 billion.

On 17 May, the Central Bank of Myanmar announced measures to ease the cash liquidity issue. Those who opened new accounts would face no limitations on withdrawal amount.

The committee on mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy met on 12 May. The State Administration Council amended standard operating procedures to enable businesses to run smoothly, through relaxed procedures and cooperation among the ministries concerned.

Public infrastructure

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has formally unveiled Yadanabon Hall in Mandalay on 17 May. The Hall is meant to promote the socio-economic and cultural development of ethnic national people residing in Mandalay and its environs. It can provide quality services and accommodate up to 1,200 people in seminars, workshops, meetings, religious and cultural events, dinners, and exhibitions.

Public health and sports

To protect the public against new waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health and Sports held multiple coordination meetings on prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 and the new virus variants. Preventive measures will be accelerated, including through mask campaigns, distribution of health education materials and medical post-graduate courses.

One significant point is that public, station, and district hospitals, including the Yangon General Hospital, Mandalay General Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital among others, were able to reopen at the beginning of May.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army provided a total of 500,000 COVID vaccines — the SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine. (Vero Cell) — which arrived in Myanmar via air on 2 May. During May, people over age 65 years, departmental personnel, venerable monks, and the public were vaccinated, with the help of the Tatmadaw's military planes, which transported the vaccines and other equipment all over the country.

Myanmar itself has donated medical supplies to India where the COVID-19 infection rate is increasing during May. Two flights of Myanmar Airways International transported the donations through Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon international airports to India on 18 May. Those flights also carried 25 Indians stranded in Myanmar for various reasons, and on their return, brought back 128 Myanmar returnees.

Tatmadaw medical professors, doctors, nurses, and medics have provided healthcare services to the local population at the respective military station hospitals. They have provided testing and quarantine services as necessary to the Myanmar returnees in Mon and Kayin states. A total of 226,666 outpatients and 68,188 inpatients have already received medical treatment services from 5 February to May.

Sports events such as football and others were held during May. The Ministry of Health and Sports will send the Myanmar national sports team to the 31st South-East Asia Games, which will be held in Viet Nam. Myanmar national team members are now under training in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

Religious and cultural affairs

The written examination for the 73rd Tipitaka Dhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection was held from 17 to 21 May at the Maha Pasana Cave in the precinct of Kaba Aye Hill. Pagodas, temples, and other religious buildings of all faiths, including Hindu, Christian and Islam, have reopened and are now seeing many devotees. Parks, sports grounds, markets, hospitals, airlines, trains, long-distance express buses, and vessels continued their normal operations during May.

News and information

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ms Fu Xiao Tian, senior political reporter of and presenter of Talk with World Leaders Programme of the Phoenix news agency of China via videoconferencing. During the interview, he replied to questions raised Ms Fu Xiao Tian on the political issues of Myanmar, the voting frauds that occurred in the 2020 General Election, the peace process in Myanmar, the outcomes of the ASEAN leaders meeting on Myanmar, Rakhine State issues, peace and stability of border areas between China and Myanmar and further cooperation between the two countries.

The Information Team of the State Administration Council organized its 5/2021 press conference on 15 May. The team leader Major-General Zaw Min Tun, Union Election Commission member U Khin Maung Oo, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Win Thaw and other departmental representatives replied to questions raised by the journalists.

Union Minister for Information U Chitt Naing met with the Myanmar Press Council members and Press Council's Selection Committee members on 1 May on issues regarding the development of the media sector, the issue of media ethics and the need for media to remain fair and impartial and not take sides.

The Information Team of the State Administration Council continued with its virtual weekly press briefings. On 7 May, Major Kaung Htet San briefed the public on the media being the fourth pillar of democracy, and issues related to education, public health, financial and banking services.

Some illegal organizations and media outlets are broadcasting fake information, which could affect state security, the rule of law and community peace and stability. They are also exhorting and supporting actions of high treason against the state on TV channels via satellite dishes. Accordingly, the Ministry of Information announced a ban on non-registered satellite TV dishes on 4 May; those who use such restricted satellite dishes will face action under existing laws.

At the request of the Japanese special envoy for National Reconciliation in Myanmar, the State Administration Council withdrew the legal case against the Japanese journalist Mr Yuki Kitazumi on 13 May and released him in the interests of bilateral relations between Myanmar and Japan. The Japanese journalist had been prosecuted on 18 April as he was found guilty of supporting the protests and civil disobedience movement.

The Selection Committee of the Press Council elected the Council Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor transparently and in line with the News Media Law and Rules.

Transport

In May, Myanma Railways resumed the train services operating on the Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Bago and Pyinmana-Taungdwingyi-Pyinmana routes.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism explored new tourist destinations in the Myeik archipelago of Kawthoung District, which would include opportunities for scuba diving, exploration of coastal and tidal forests and coastal recreation activities.

Under the auspices of the present Ministry of Construction, road and bridge construction in Kayin and Mon states are being continued and accelerated. Similarly, the Ministry of Border Affairs is coordinating the implementation of regional development programmes to construct roads, bridges, housing, and water access infrastructure.

Human resources development

Under the Department of Basic Education, the government launched school enrolment week for high, middle, and primary schools for the 2021-2022 academic year from 24 to 31 May. In line with the country's free and compulsory basic education policy, the Ministry of Education provided stationery, textbooks, and COVID-19 protective equipment for the students. Moreover, the respective military commands in regions and states provided a crucial service in disinfecting the schools that had been used as quarantine facilities and in general, cleaning up school grounds.

On 5 May, the Education Ministry reopened Ph.D. courses, master's courses (written test) and final year undergraduate classes in universities, degree colleges, colleges, and institutes across the country. Moreover, it reopened a total of 134 institutions of higher education, comprising 49 arts and science universities, degree colleges and colleges, 60 technological and computer universities, and 25 education degree colleges. Similarly, 70 Government Technological Colleges, Technical Institutes and Government Technical High Schools under the Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training were also reopened, with classes for the final year of three-year diploma courses for Associate of Government Technical Institute (AGTI), second-year courses of the two years' Government Technical High Schools following the COVID-19 health rules.

The swift decisive action by the government to reopen schools and universities will mean the resumption of learning and the reversal of the learning losses suffered by all students during 2020 due largely to the COVID-19 crisis, eventually leading to enhanced job opportunities for the students.

■

3 JULY 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Let's join hands to fight against COVID-19 pandemic

EVERYBODY knows COVID-19 as a pandemic that imposes a threat to the world. But, all the Myanmar people should not be in fear of such disease by adopting a comprehensive plan to conduct prevention, containment and treatment for the people under the leadership of the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee.

Nowadays, as the number of COVID-19 confirmed patients is remarkably rising on a daily basis, the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee emphasizes prevention, control and treatment of the pandemic because variant COVID-19 virus is found not only in neighbouring countries but in Myanmar.

All the entire people need to overcome such challenges without fail. Individual preventive measures must be taken and vaccination must be given for rapid mitigation of the infection rate of the pandemic.

> Now is time not to fear the pandemic. We must strictly abide by the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. So, we must conquer the pandemic. Let's join hands to fight against it!

Authorities must provide treatment to the confirmed patients at the hospitals as well as extend more quarantine centres. Preventive measures of the disease must be taken at schools for disinfection over the students. In this regard, the schools and students must be provided facilities to wash hands under restrict supervision.

Moreover, the campaign of wearing facemasks should be staged in various areas so as to raise public awareness for the prevention and control of the disease. With the aim of wearing facemasks at markets, factories and offices, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Tatmadaw are striving for abundant production of facemasks for the people. As such, all the people need to join the facemask wearing campaigns in all townships of the nation including stay-at-home townships.

Although the pandemic has been breaking out throughout the world including Myanmar since December 2019, global people could overcome all the challenges in the waves of disease one after another. Hence, the global people need to have the confidence to overcome the impacts of the disease's third wave. Naturally, every battle in the wars can face casualties in both rivals. Likewise, some of the people may sacrifice their lives in the battle of COVID-19 while striving for the survival of all.

Now is time not to fear the pandemic. We must strictly abide by the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports. So, we must conquer the pandemic. Let's join hands to fight against it!

■■■

People should take care of solving minor problems before accumulation

By Aung Kyaw Thant

TODAY'S society in Myanmar needs flourishing of sympathy, honesty and compassion among the people. Those holding up the sympathy are able to forget the misdeeds of others. Otherwise, the dissatisfactions would blast in the society, causing sufferings to the people. Such dissatisfactions may be the root causes of problems in society.

It is necessary to solve the minor problems based on public dissatisfactions which always happen in the society one after another. As society is formed with people from all walks of life, minds in different forms of the people will not coincide with each other. It is the basic need for the appearance of different opinions and attitudes. Some people can be tolerant of different opinions and attitudes due to a wider scope of knowledge but some cannot be tolerated because of lesser knowledge. As such, different outlooks trigger the blasts of dissatisfaction. That is why the authorized persons should not accept the accumulation of minor problems based on public dissatisfactions without exception.

Various countries across the world have been shaping the images of the best authorities which place emphasis on solving minor and major problems based on public dissatisfactions since yore. These countries created stories and histories for minor problems of dissatisfactions based on religious, political and social fields. Whatever it may be, minor problems of the people will come out one after another on a daily basis depending on the measures they took. If the authorized persons emphasize the solving of such problems, the country will be on the best way to the goal.

With regard to minor problems based on dissatisfactions of the people, an eastern Indian folk-tale with the title of "the Sissa and the Troublesome Trifles" mentioned Brahmin Sissa was ordered by the king to invent a way to fight against others without any death. Sissa promised the king to do so and left the royal palace. In fact, the king unavoidably ordered Brahmin Sissa to do the invention due to the calumny of other ministers despite paying respect to his brahmin minister.

Actually, Sissa could make an invention on the game of chess successfully. It was played on a chessboard. The king asked Sissa what reward he wanted for his great invention after playing it on the test. Sissa answered that he didn't want any reward, but the king insisted.

According to the legend, the game of chess was invented by the Brahmin Sissa to amuse and teach his king. The wise man requested that the king place one grain of rice on the first square of the chessboard, two on the second, four on the third, and so on, doubling the amount of rice up to the 64th square. The king agreed on the spot, and as a result, he was the first person to learn the valuable—albeit humbling—lesson of exponential growth. Sissa's request amounted to 18,446,744,073,709,551,615 grains of rice.

Such a number of grains proved the minor problems which became a large one when these were combined. Practically, the people from the society are trying to overcome such kinds of difficulties on a daily basis. Hence, they are keen to disclose their dissatisfactions to someone. If someone accepts to listen to the talks about dissatisfactions given by the people, it is sure that they would thank those persons even their problems are yet to be solved.

In this regard, wise man Sissa supplicated his king why he listened to the dissatisfactions of villagers. He wanted to note that these dissatisfactions meant minor problems. The king should solve the problems of the country without discrimination of minor and major problems. Not only the major problems can destroy the State but also the minor problems can spark terrible issues of major problems. However, the king can manage the issues how to solve the problems. For example, he can assign duties to the officers as authorized persons to solve minor problems by listening to the dissatisfactions from locals and disorders of issues at the grassroots level.

Everybody can take invaluable lessons from the story of Sissa that the people face many minor problems in society. Anybody should not set them aside as these are not important. In fact, when these unimportant things or problems are combined with one another, it becomes a gigantic problem that cannot be solved easily. Sometimes, the people may face the situation to give up the solving of these gigantic problems unavoidably. It is because those who are responsible for solving these gigantic problems are late to do their works. The delayed preparations to solve the problems are uneasy to have the accomplishment. If so, anybody including the authorized persons cannot enjoy good results from the efforts to solve the problems.

In fact, the minor problems based on public dissatisfactions are sparks to cause the fueling the anger of the people. The authorized persons need to solve the problems by seeking the main point of dissatisfaction. Primarily, the people need to have the action of authorized persons to solve their problems. In fact, solving the problems of the people is the duty of authorized persons. The authorized persons are assigned duties to do so. It is because the people are always seeking the best way and mean to submit their complaints to the authorized persons. The authorized persons who try hard to solve the problems of the people are the cleverest.

In the modern administration, it is necessary to establish the complaint centres with the invitation to the complaints on dissatisfactions from the people whenever they face minor problems on a daily basis. The smooth flow of filing the complaints to the centres should be prepared. Moreover, the authorized persons need to give promise that names of the complainants who send their complaints against those at any high levels if they face dissatisfactions for those highly qualified persons will not be mentioned to the public, and responsibility will be taken for them not to face action taken for the real complaints. In addition, the process of taking necessary measures against the persons who committed misdeeds but the punishment must be deserved ones for those offenders. If the complaints are based on misunderstanding the root causes, the authorized persons should make comprehensive clarifications what is the misunderstanding for the issues or what plans will be implemented for undertaking the issues related to the complaints.

Even comprehensive clarification on reasons why the complaints could not be solved may console the complainants for easing tension. If so, misdeeds and wrongdoings may decline in society. As such, the authorized persons need to take care of their acts. They have to solve the minor problems with sympathy over the people. So also, they should make clarifications for the people why they failed to accomplish the solving the problems, why they could not solve these problems with showing the reasons, why they delayed the process of solving the problems and how they faced the difficulties in solving the problems. Actually, the clarification of the authorized persons for the people shows mutual respect which can win the trust of the people.

All in all, solving the problems of people is the daily duty of all the global countries. By taking lessons from Sissa's story, the authorized persons of the country have to solve the minor and major problems as part of serving the interests of the people. Likewise, the people should submit their problems to the authorized persons in a respectful way. If both sides hold up the mutual respect, the country they reside in will be peaceful and prosperous forever.

J&J says its Covid vaccine effectively combats the Delta variant

Johnson and Johnson's single-shot Covid-19 vaccine is effective against the highly contagious Delta variant, with an immune response lasting at least eight months, the company said Thursday (1 June).

THE antibodies and immune system cells in the blood of eight people vaccinated with the J&J jab effectively neutralized the Delta strain, which was first identified in India, researchers found.

A second study with 20 vaccinated patients at Boston's Beth Israel Medical Centre had similar results.

The data was sent to bioRxiv, a free online site for unpublished scientific preprints where authors "are able to make their findings immediately available to the scientific community and receive feedback on draft manuscripts before they are submitted to journals," according to the site.

"We believe that our vaccine offers durable protection against COVID-19 and elicits neutralizing activity against the Delta variant," said Paul Stoffels, J&J's chief scientific officer, in a company statement.

Mathai Mammen, head of Janssen Research & Development at Johnson & Johnson, said that data "for the eight months studied so far" shows that J&J's single-shot vaccine "generates a strong neutralizing antibody response that does not wane; rather, we observe an improvement over time."

The Delta variant tore through in India in April and May and has since spread around the world. A report by the European Union's disease control agency ECDC estimated the more contagious strain could account for 90 per cent of new cases in the EU by the end of August.

Source : AFP

People get a Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine at a pop-up vaccination centre in South Beach, Florida on 26 June. **PHOTO: AFP**

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Myanmar National Committee on Women
မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့ အထိမ်းအမှတ်အခမ်းအနား
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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 2 July, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon ismoderateover the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 3 July, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Taninthayi Regions and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 July, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 July, 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 July, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

The Global New Light of Myanmar
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52 Myanmar fishermen quarantined in Kawthoung city

IN a bid to contain the spread of COVID-19, 52 Myanmar fishers who signed off on 1 July in China are now staying self-isolated at a quarantined hotel for two weeks in Kawthoung.

Those fishermen have accomplished their jobs in Han Rong 368 fishing vessel from China and disembarked in Kawthoung city on 1 July.

The fishers are spending mandatory hotel quarantine in Kawthoung city, under the medical care of Kawthoung Township Public Health Department.

The coronavirus cases are resurging these days in Kawthoung. Some fishers have been previously tested for COVID-19.

Thus, the health officials and the township organizations are taking strict containment measures. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)/GNLM

About 160 killed in road accidents in Yangon in first four months of 2021

A total of 333 car accidents happened in the Yangon region in the first four months of 2021, killing about 160 people, according to the Yangon Region Traffic Police Force.

Although motorbikes have been banned and prohibited in 33 townships administered by Yangon City Development Committee, people do not comply with the traffic rules. Therefore, the No.2 traffic police force (Yangon) has taken legal action against disobedient motorcyclists under Vehicle Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law 2020 to follow the traffic rules and regulations and to reduce road accidents.

Deaths and injuries related to traffic accidents remain a major concern in Myanmar and they were mostly caused by human error – overspeeding, negligent driving and drowsy driving and others which include defective vehicles and severe weather. From January to April 2021, a total of 6,366 vehicles and 3,048 motorbikes were seized, according to the Yangon Region Traffic Police Force. — Aye Maung/ GNLM

Graduation Ceremony held for Teacher Training Course on Drug Addicts Rehabilitation (1/2021)

WITH the supervision of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, a graduation ceremony for the Teacher Training Course on Drug Addiction Rehabilitation No. (1/2021) was held yesterday at the Drug Addiction Rehabilitation Centre in Wet Htee Kan, Pyay Township, Bago Region.

During the ceremony, Director U Khin Tun of the Department of Rehabilitation delivered a speech at the end of the training and presented certificates and prizes to the trainees. Then, on behalf of the trainee, one of the trainees expressed words of thanks.

Pricipal of the training school Police Colonel San Ko, Assistant Director of the Department of Prisons U Maung Maung Aye, Wet Htee Kan Station Doctor Dr Tin Htay Htay Ei, Assistant Director of the Wet Htee Kan Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Addicts Daw Aye Aye Lwin and 60 staff and trainees attended the ceremony.

The training course was held for 12 days from 21June to 2 July and was attended by officers and staff from various rehabilitation centres in Myanmar.

The course aims to provide practical staff training. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/ GNLM

COVID-19: start ourselves to take preventive measures

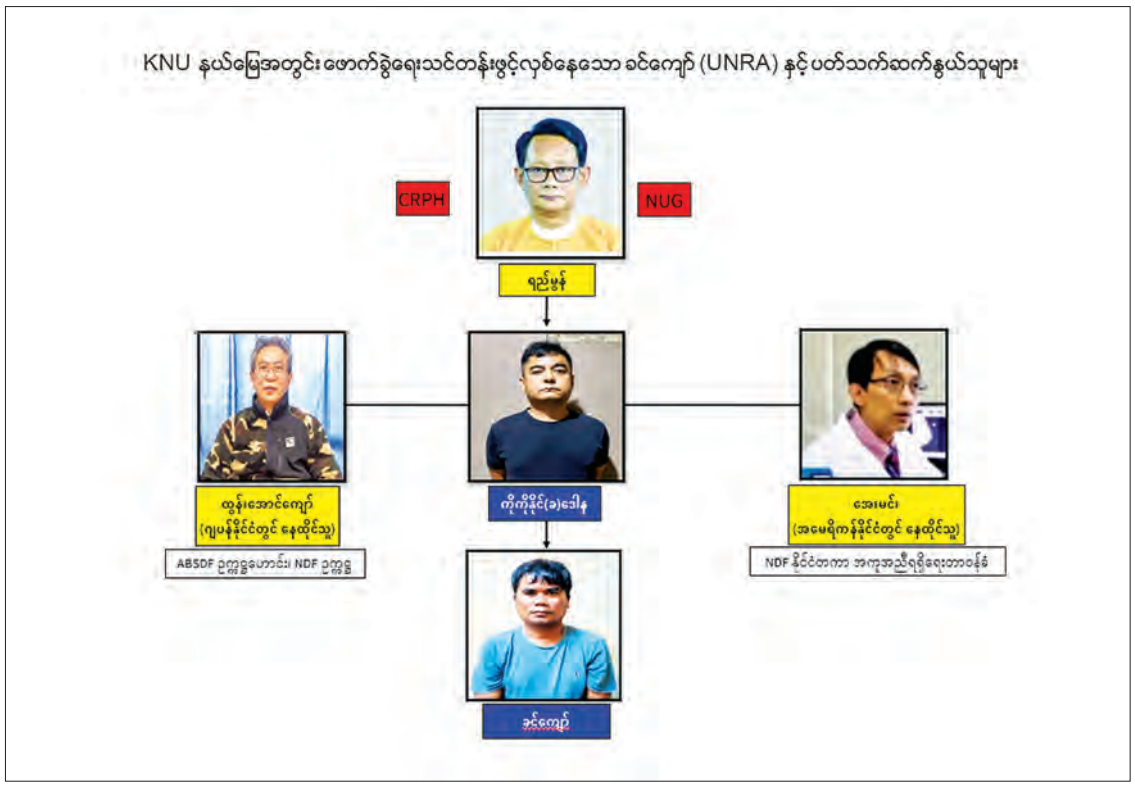
ALL people are urged to abide by the following ways of prevention against COVID-19 without fail in line with the motto: "COVID-19: start ourselves to take preventive measures" not to violently infect COVID-19 as next wave and not to be infected of variant COVID-19 virus.

(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

PDF explosive trainer Khin Kyaw, PDF int'l relations officer Ko Ko Naing (a) Dawna, related suspects arrested

AFTER arresting the PDF bombing trainer Khin Kyaw (UNRA) and PDF International Relations Officer Ko Ko Naing (a) Dawna, the State Administration Council has urged the public to report any information on the terrorists, NLD members Thein Naing, Nyi Nyi, Myo Zaw Aung, Kyaw Soe Lin, Khin Maung Myint, Maung Di, Khin Soe, Ye Yint Aung and Daw Hnin Kyi who have been cooperating to carry out terror attacks in the country under the leadership of Yi Mon from illegal CRPH and NUG.



Khin Kyaw has been conducting sabotage training since March 2021 by working with the leaders of the illegal organization NUG. He joined the ABSDF in 1988 and split from it in 2014 to the UNRA with seven members in Papun Township. Ko Ko Naing (a) Dawna (PDF International Relations Officer) has been liaising with Yi Mon from NUG, former Chairman of ABSDF Tun Aung Kyaw from Japan, NLD supporters in abroad and international organizations for necessary military equipment and funds for the PDF training.

According to two of them, Tun Aung Kyaw (former Chairman of ABSDF) who lives in Japan and Aye Min who lives in the USA collected funds from the NLD supporters and NLD party members, under the guidance of CRPH and NUG member Yi Mon, to conduct military and bomb disposal training as well as to purchase ammunition and carry out terrorist bombings.

It is reported that Tun Aung Kyaw has formed and chaired the NDF (National Defence Force) by linking NUG members to get support from NLD members from abroad and international organizations in inciting violence in the country.

A total of 173 terrorists including Khin Kyaw and Ko Ko Naing have been arrested with 131 varieties of arms, 37 homemade guns, 559 grenades, 2,251 homemade bombs, 1,473 40MM bombs, 14 RPGs, 1 mine, 269 magazines, 10,515 assorted bullets and related materials.

They are responsible for the death of 189 civilians, arson attacks to 60 schools, 74 administrative offices and 35 police stations in the country as well as 480 bomb explosions in schools, administration offices and police stations.

As they have accelerated killing innocent people, setting fire to schools, government and public buildings and bombings to undermine the government, security forces took necessary security measures and arrested the suspects.

It is reported that supporting and encouraging the internationally published terrorist organizations PDF, CRPH and NUG is punishable by up to 20 years in prison in violation of Section 123 of the Penal Code.

The State Administration Council has called for public cooperation to arrest the terrorists and members of illegal organizations including Ye Mon and to report any information about them secretly to the relevant authorities. People are urged to work together for peace and stability in the towns and villages as soon as possible.—MNA

Insurgents attack security members with homemade bombs, small weapons

THE insurgents attacked the security forces in some townships of regions and states with homemade bombs and small arms.

The security members conducted security measures at Sagar Inn roundabout on Sagar Inn-Paleik road in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region yesterday. Meanwhile, they stopped two motorcycles driven by Zin Maung Maung Kyaw from Myauk Pyin Ward of Aungmyaythazan with another two men (under scrutiny) leading from Sagar Inn to Paleik to inspect. But they ran away. The security forces chased them and they threw a bomb at the security members. One security member got an injury in the bomb blast. The officials arrested Zin Maung Maung Kyaw and seized two China-made grenades, one homemade bomb and one knife from the motorcycle toolbox.

The suspects will face legal actions under the law. — MNA

Armed terrorists kill innocent township administrators, people

THE armed extremists brutally killed the township administrative officials and innocent people in some townships.

On 1 July, about 16 villagers including U Kyaw Oo and U Win Paw from Kabaryat village in Pale Township of Sagaing Region granted loans from Sathapana Company in Monywa and returned home. Meanwhile, about 40 insurgents holding percussion rifles and wearing masks stopped their vehicle near Dam channel (5) between Poppa Village of Pale Township and Tamabin Khwa Village of Yinmabin Township. They tied 14 villagers and shot U Kyaw Oo and U Win Paw and took their money and mobile phones. U Win Paw died on the spot and U Kyaw Oo got a gunshot wound.

Similarly, two insurgents riding motorcycles shot U Aung Myint, village head of Nwe Yone Village in Singu Township of Mandalay Region yesterday at the betel shop beside Mandalay-Mogok road. U Aung Myint died on the spot and U Than Aye, an owner of the betel shop was injured. They were taken to Singu General Hospital. The security members found five 9mm shells near the incident place.

The officials will investigate to arrest the insurgents and take action under the law. – MNA

Man shot dead while trying to grab gun from security forces in Myeik

THE insurgent who tried to snatch a firearm from the security members in Myeik Township of Taninthayi Region was shot dead during the clash.

When the security forces conducted a patrol in front of "U Myat Lay" park on 1 July, an insurgent tried to snatch a gun from a security member. Therefore, the security member opened fire at him. But the suspects tried again to grab the gun. Therefore, the security forces shot again to threaten him. He then fell onto the tar road with gunshot wounds. He died on the way to Myeik General Hospital.

Therefore, the officials opened a case against the suspect. —MNA

Global tax deal backed by 130 nations

A total of 130 countries have agreed a global tax reform ensuring that multinationals pay their fair share wherever they operate, the OECD said on Thursday, but some EU states refused to sign up. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP**

A total of 130 countries have agreed a global tax reform ensuring that multinationals pay their fair share wherever they operate, the OECD said on Thursday, but some EU states refused to sign up. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in a statement that global companies, including US behemoths Google, Amazon, Facebook, and Apple would be taxed at a rate of at least 15% once the deal is implemented.

The new tax regime will add some $150 billion to government coffers globally once it comes into force, which the OECD said it hoped would be in 2023.

"The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalised and digitalised 21st century economy," the OECD said.

The formal agreement follows an endorsement by the G7 group of wealthy nations last month, and negotiations now move to a meeting of the G20 group of developed and emerging economies on July 9-10 in Venice, Italy.

US President Joe Biden said the latest deal "puts us in striking distance of full global agreement to halt the race to the bottom for corporate taxes." Germany, another backer of the tax reform, hailed it as a "colossal step towards tax justice", and France said it was "the most important tax agreement in a century".

British finance minister Rishi Sunak, whose country holds the G7 presidency, said "the fact that 130 countries across the world, including all of the G20, are now on board, marks a further step in our mission to reform global tax". — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nissan to make new EV, step up factory's emission cut in Britain

NISSAN Motor Co. said Thursday it will produce a new crossover electric vehicle at its plant in Britain, with a battery-making partner company building a new factory nearby, as part of a drive to boost its EV output and achieve carbon neutrality in its European operations.

A total of 1 billion pounds ($1.4 billion) will be invested in the Japanese automaker's new model production, Envision AESC Group Ltd.'s new factory capable of making batteries for 100,000 EVs annually and expanded use of renewable energy at the site in the northeastern city of Sunderland, it said.

The project including Nissan's investment of up to 423 million pounds and Envision AESC's 450-million-pound plant construction is expected to create 6,200 jobs in Britain, the company said. Envision AESC, a unit of China's Envision Group, may invest an additional 1.8 billion pounds by 2030 to raise its output and create 4,500 more jobs, it said.

Sunderland, which receives part of the electricity generated by the Nissan factory's wind and solar power facilities, is in talks with private investors to increase the city's power generation using renewable energy, aiming to cut 55,000 tons a year of carbon emissions, Nissan said. — AFP ■

In Lagos, families struggle to survive as food prices soar

NIGERIAN nutritionist Emiolo Ogunsola stands in front of a dozen new mothers in a Lagos public hospital, listing the basic foods they need to keep their children well nourished: Eggs, vegetables and beans among them.

Her pitch is abruptly interrupted. For the mothers listening, even those essentials are increasingly beyond their reach.

"Ma, how can you expect us to buy that, everything is so expensive, there is no money to buy all that," says one young mother with a child cradled in her arms.

Inflation is rising around the world as the global economy recovers from the coronavirus pandemic, and while Western central bankers say it is only temporary, the soaring prices are having dramatic consequences in countries like Nigeria.

Africa's most populous nation with 210 million inhabitants, Nigeria competes with India for the largest number of poor in the world.

But battered by the double economic impact of low global oil prices and the pandemic, the World Bank estimates Nigeria's soaring inflation and food prices pushed another seven million people into poverty in 2020. — AFP ■

Japan 2021 1st-half new car sales up 11.6%, below pre-pandemic level

NEW car sales in Japan increased 11.6 percent in the first half of 2021 from a year earlier, but fell short of a rebound from the pre-coronavirus pandemic level in 2019 due to a global shortage of semiconductors, industry body data showed Thursday.

Automakers sold a total of 2,464,586 units including minivehicles from the January to June period. Nagoya-based electronic parts maker has become an auto manufacturer in 2015 with its release of Big Force, a one-person mini car that resembles a jeep. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

Automakers sold a total of 2,464,586 units including minivehicles from the January to June period, rising for the first time in two years following the steep pandemic-induced fall in 2020, according to the Japan Automobile Dealers Association and the Japan Mini Vehicles Association.

However, compared to the same period in 2019, sales fell 10.5 percent as the supply of chips was disrupted by the pandemic. Semiconductors are used in everything from smartphones and laptops to cars.

Excluding minivehicles, powered by engines no larger than 660 cc, sales rose 8.7 percent to 1,521,878 vehicles.

By brand, Toyota Motor Corp. saw sales up 14.1 percent due to high demand for its Yaris Cross SUV, which rolled out in August 2020, while those of Honda Motor Co. declined 10.7 percent, partially because the automaker had to temporarily halt some of its factories as it struggled to procure enough chips. — AFP ■

IMF sees much stronger US growth, 2021 GDP +7.0%

THE IMF is bullish on the US economic recovery, predicting growth will hit 7 percent this year — much stronger than previously forecast and "the fastest pace in a generation," the Fund said in a report Thursday. The cheery analysis is a boon to President Joe Biden's administration and comes amid data showing an improving job market and on the eve of the all-important official employment report.

The International Monetary Fund's annual review of the US economy put growth at its fastest rate since 1984, and also boosted the 2022 GDP forecast to 4.9 percent, 1.4 percentage points higher than the April estimate. But while the IMF mostly cheered Biden's policies to support the economy, the report flagged "significant concern" over the fact he has not pulled back on tariffs on goods like steel and aluminum imposed by his predecessor. The United States has seen a "remarkable recovery," the Fund said, helped by "unprecedented" support from government spending and the Federal Reserve's "highly effective" stimulus measures. The report notes the potential for growth to be even higher than forecast, but the outlook assumes $4.3 trillion in spending over the next decade from Biden's proposed American Jobs Plan (AJP) and American Families Plan (AFP). — AFP ■

Nissan announces UK battery gigafactory, new electric car

JAPANESE car giant Nissan on Thursday announced plans to build the UK's first car-battery "gigafactory", where it will build a new electric vehicle.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the post-Brexit investment totalling £1 billion (€1.2bn), which is set to create 6,200 jobs, as "a major vote of confidence in the UK".

Nissan's Chinese battery supplier Envision AESC will invest £450 million to build the battery plant that will be run on renewable energy and power up to 100,000 Nissan electric vehicles per year.

The facility, which will be built next to Nissan's largest European factory in Sunderland, was hailed as key to the UK's transition away from fossil fuel vehicles.

The news comes just days after Nissan's French partner Renault unveiled plans for a Chinese-owned battery factory in France on Monday, as global carmakers race to meet booming demand for greener transport and governments target net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Nissan is to spend up to £423 million on an all-electric vehicle, while Sunderland City Council will help to bring the total amount of investment up to £1.0 billion.

"This is a landmark day for Nissan, our partners, the UK and the automotive industry as a whole," Nissan's chief operating officer Ashwani Gupta said at the unveiling of the EV36Zero project in Sunderland.

Nissan, which had warned that a no-deal Brexit would threaten its 35-year-old Sunderland factory, said the new investment represents 6,200 jobs at the Japanese group and its UK suppliers. There will be 900 new Nissan jobs and 750 new Envision AESC jobs.

"This is a huge step forward in our ambition to put the UK at the front of the global electric vehicle race," said UK Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng.

"The cars made in this plant, using batteries made just down the road at the UK's first at scale gigafactory, will have a huge role to play as we transition away from petrol and diesel cars," he added. — AFP ■

Nissan chief operating officer Ashwani Gupta announcing the construction of the gigafactory at Nissan's plant in Sunderland. **PHOTO: OLI SCARFF / AFP**

Richard Branson planning trip to space ahead of rival Bezos

BRITISH billionaire Richard Branson one-upped his rival Jeff Bezos on Thursday, announcing that he too will travel to space -- as many as nine days ahead of the Amazon founder.

Branson's company Virgin Galactic said in a statement that he would be a "mission specialist" aboard the SpaceShipTwo Unity, which will go to space as early as July 11, "pending weather and technical checks."

If the schedule holds, Branson would make it to the cosmos before Bezos, who said he would travel to space aboard the New Shepard launch vehicle belonging to his company Blue Origin on July 20.

The two billionaires have founded rival companies to take tourists on short flights to suborbital space.

Branson "will evaluate the private astronaut experience and will undergo the same training, preparation and flight as Virgin Galactic's future astronauts. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (125W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (125W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-7-2021** 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.

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Dated **3 July 2021**

This undated handout photo obtained on July 1, 2021 courtesy of Blue Origin shows pilot Wally Funk, who at age 82 will become the oldest person ever to fly to space. **PHOTO: HANDOUT/ BLUE ORIGIN/AFP**

Trailblazing woman pilot to fly into space with Bezos

BARRIER-BREAKING woman aviator Wally Funk, 82, will join Jeff Bezos this month on the first crewed spaceflight for the billionaire's company Blue Origin, the firm announced on Thursday.

The trip is 60 years overdue for Funk, who was one of the Mercury 13 - the first women trained to fly to space from 1960-1961, but excluded because of their gender.

On July 20, she will become the oldest person ever to go to space when she takes part in the journey aboard the New Shepard launch vehicle along with Bezos, his brother Mark and one other traveller who paid US$28 million at auction for the seat.

"I can hardly wait," Funk says in a video posted on Bezos's Instagram account.

The video shows Bezos describing the trip to Funk, and then asking her what would be the first thing she said after landing.

"I would say, 'Honey, that was the best thing that ever happened to me!'" replies an exuberant Funk, throwing her arms around the laughing tech mogul.

Funk recalled her time in the Mercury 13 programme - an unofficial, privately funded programme which put women through the same training and tests as the male astronauts undergoing the official Nasa programme.

"They told me that I had done better and completed the work faster than any of the guys," Funk, the youngest woman to pass the programme, says in the video.

"So I got ahold of Nasa, four times. I said I want to become an astronaut, but nobody would take me. I didn't think that I would ever get to go up."

She said people told her "Wally, you're a girl, you can't do that." — AFP ■

Japan prosecutors seek nearly 3 years jail for Ghosn escape accomplices

JAPANESE prosecutors said Friday they are seeking jail sentences of nearly three years for an American father-son duo who admit helping former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn jump bail and flee Japan.

The prosecutors told a Tokyo court they are seeking a sentence of two years, 10 months for former special forces operative Michael Taylor, and two years, six months for his son Peter.

"Michael Taylor... played a leading role. His responsibility is extremely grave," one of the prosecutors said, calling Ghosn's "unprecedented" December 2019 escape a "sophisticated and bold crime".

"The case considerably infringed upon our country's criminal justice," he added.

The Taylors have been in custody since their arrest in May 2020 in the United States for helping smuggle Ghosn onto a private jet in an audio equipment case so he could fly to Lebanon, which has no extradition agreement with Japan.

Ghosn had led Nissan for nearly two decades, earning celebrity status as a rare foreign executive to thrive in Japan -- until he was arrested in 2018 on allegations of financial crimes, which he denies.

The Taylors, who had faced a maximum of three years in jail each, were extradited to Japan earlier this year. — AFP ■

The Taylors, who had faced a maximum of three years in jail each, were extradited to Japan earlier this year. **PHOTO: FAMILY HANDOUT/AFP**

From London to Saint Petersburg, Euro 2020 raises fears of new virus spread

England supporters celebrate their team's win over Germany at Wembley. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

AS Euro 2020 heads towards its conclusion, and ever larger crowds flock to matches, there are increasing concerns about games becoming super-spreader events as the Delta variant of coronavirus fuels a rise in infections around Europe.

With vaccination progressing fast across the continent and people eagerly anticipating the holiday season, it is tempting to view large crowds at European Championship matches and gathering in cities as a sign of life returning to normal.

However there are particular concerns about upcoming games in London and Saint Petersburg, two cities particularly affected by the Delta variant.

"If we want to spread the Delta variant around Europe then this is the way to do it," epidemiologist Antoine Flahault told AFP.

Friday's quarter-final between Spain and Switzerland will go ahead in Saint Petersburg, despite Russia dealing with a surge in virus cases and record daily deaths.

Both semi-finals and the final will be played in London, with more than 60,000 fans allowed to attend the games at Wembley. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pelosi picks Republican Trump critic for Jan 6 panel

HOUSE Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday appointed a fierce critic of Donald Trump from within his party to a select committee investigating the January 6 US Capitol insurrection, in a move challenging other Republicans to join the fact-finding probe.

Congresswoman Liz Cheney – recently booted from Republican leadership because she refused to tone down her public criticism of Trump – said she was honoured to have been picked to serve on the panel. "What happened on January 6th can never happen again," Cheney said in a statement, referring to the deadly riot that occurred when a pro-Trump mob broke through police lines, threatened lawmakers and ransacked parts of the Capitol.

"Those who are responsible for the attack need to be held accountable and this select committee will fulfil that responsibility in a professional, expeditious and non-partisan manner," she said.

Cheney was one of two Republicans who voted Wednesday to establish the panel, complete with subpoena power, weeks after Senate Republicans blocked an independent and bipartisan 9/11-style national commission.

The House's top Republican Kevin McCarthy said it was "shocking" and "unprecedented" for Cheney to accept the committee post from the Democratic speaker. — AFP ■

Report that China building new ICBM silos 'concerning': US

THE United States expressed concern on Thursday over a report that China is building more than 100 new silos for intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Washington Post, citing a study of commercial satellite images by a California-based group, reported on Thursday that the silos were being built in a desert near the northwestern city of Yumen.

The James Martin Centre for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey said the 119 construction sites in Gansu province were similar to existing Chinese launch facilities for nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles.

State Department spokesman Ned Price was asked about the report on Thursday.

"I think what is fair to say is that these reports and other developments suggest that the PRC's (People's Republic of China) nuclear arsenal will grow more quickly, and to a higher level, than perhaps previously anticipated," he said.

"This buildup, it is concerning," Price said. "It raises questions about the PRC's intent.

"And for us it reinforces the importance of pursuing practical measures to reduce nuclear risks," he added.

"Despite what appears to be PRC obfuscation, this rapid buildup has become more difficult to hide," Price said. "And it highlights how the PRC appears again to be deviating from decades of nuclear strategy based around minimum deterrence."

A study cited by The Washington Post suggests China is building more than 100 new sites suitable for launching its IBCMs. **PHOTO:: AFP**

Price was also asked whether the United States had a reaction to bellicose remarks by Chinese President Xi Jinping. — AFP ■

Biden offers comfort as rescue suspended at Florida building collapse

US President Joe Biden hailed the "resilience" Thursday of families of people killed or missing in a collapsed Florida beachfront apartment building, spending hours comforting grieving relatives as rescuers suspended their work for much of the day due to dangerous conditions.

Biden said there was still hope that some survivors could be found in the rubble, and while "the families are very realistic," the president said he believed after talking with them that the rescue and recovery operations should continue.

"What amazed me about this group of people was their resilience, their absolute commitment... to do whatever it takes to find an answer," he said.

Rescuers have dwindling hopes of finding survivors in the partially collapsed 12-story Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside, Florida. **PHOTO: AFP**

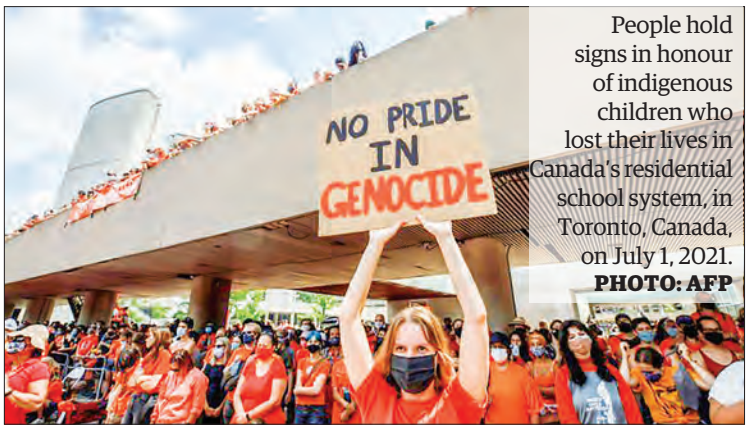
"Our message today is that we're here for you, as one nation."

The search at the Surfside condominium building near Miami took a grim turn when authorities paused work amid fears the rest of the structure could also collapse.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Chief Alan Cominsky warned that there was "a large column hanging from the structure that could fall" and that movements in the ruins "could cause additional failure of the building."

The search resumed in the late afternoon after a review by structural engineers, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said. — AFP ■

Canada Day eclipsed by graves found at indigenous schools



People hold signs in honour of indigenous children who lost their lives in Canada's residential school system, in Toronto, Canada, on July 1, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

CANADA'S national holiday Thursday was marked by a grim reckoning over its colonial history, after more than 1,000 unmarked graves were found near former boarding schools for indigenous children.

Several cities across the country cancelled their traditional Canada Day celebrations, usually marked by fireworks and barbecues. The hashtag #CancelCanadaDay was trending on social media, and rallies in support of the indigenous community were held around the country.

The 154th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation came one day after 182 unmarked graves were found near a former boarding school in British Columbia where indigenous children were forcibly assimilated.

The discovery was the latest in a series that have outraged the country, with 751 similar graves found near a school in Marieval in western Saskatchewan province last week, and 215 found at the end of May at another school in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Until the 1990s, some 150,000 indigenous, Inuit and Metis youngsters were forcibly enrolled in the 139 schools, where students were physically and sexually abused by headmasters and teachers who stripped them of their culture and language.

More than 4,000 died of disease and neglect in the schools, according to a commission of inquiry that concluded Canada had committed "cultural genocide." — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fugitive Greek neo-Nazi deputy leader caught

POLICE in Greece on Thursday arrested the deputy leader of neo-Nazi group Golden Dawn who had evaded justice since he was sentenced to over 13 years in jail in October, a police source said.

Christos Pappas had been on the run since a landmark trial handed down sentences to more than 50 Golden Dawn defendants on charges including running a criminal organization, murder, assault and illegal weapons possession.

Sentenced to prison for his leading role in running the outfit, the 59-year-old Pappas was arrested at a home in the Athens district of Zografou, a police source told AFP.

A police statement said Pappas would be taken to a prosecutor on Friday.

A 52-year-old woman allegedly hiding him in her home was also arrested, the statement said. — AFP ■

Israel and UAE to sign more deals, Lapid says

ISRAEL'S top diplomat Yair Lapid said Wednesday that more cooperation deals with the UAE were on the horizon, during a landmark visit to the Gulf nation.

The United Arab Emirates and Israel normalized ties in September, paving the way for a raft of deals ranging from tourism and aviation to financial services.

"We're going sign more agreements in July... in Israel. So it's going to expand," he told journalists. "The vision is (that) it moves from governments to business to people."

Lapid was speaking as he opened an Israeli consulate in the commercial hub of Dubai, a day after opening the country's first Gulf embassy in UAE capital Abu Dhabi.

"What we are opening here today isn't only a consulate. It's a centre of cooperation. A place that symbolizes our ability to think together, to develop together, to change the world together," he said. — AFP ■

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.

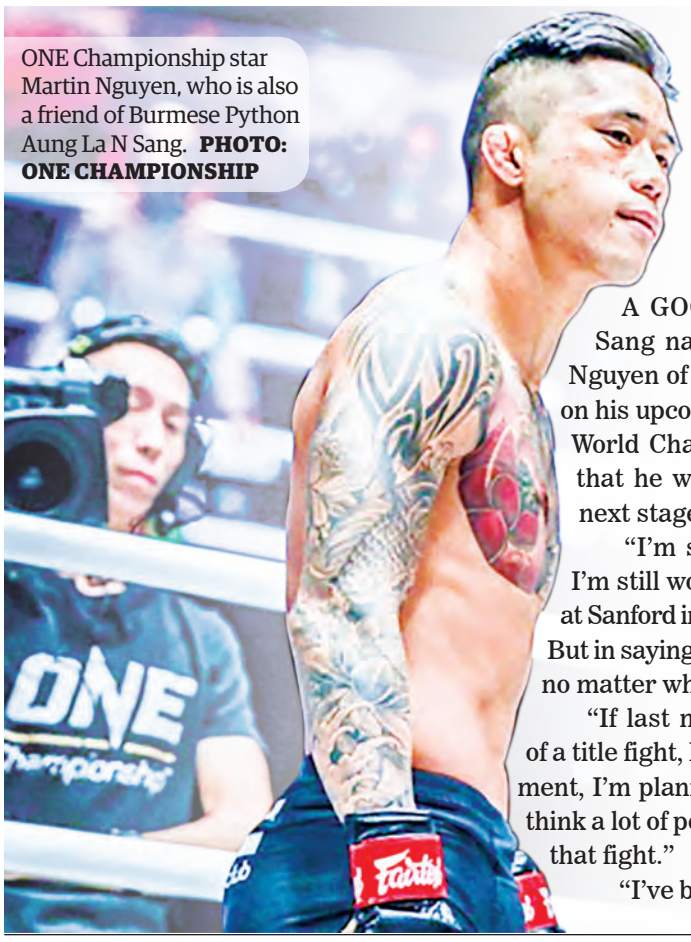
(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

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.



ONE Championship star Martin Nguyen, who is also a friend of Burmese Python Aung La N Sang. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

I'm still staying in shape: Sithu Asian Martin Nguyen

A GOOD friend of Aung La N Sang named Sithu Asian Martin Nguyen of Viet Nam is now focusing on his upcoming ONE Featherweight World Championship bout and said that he was in a good shape to go next stage.

"I'm still staying in shape and I'm still working on what we worked at Sanford in order to be ready for Kim. But in saying that, I'm going to be ready no matter who it is," Martin said.

"If last minute, someone falls out of a title fight, I'll step up. But at this moment, I'm planning for me versus Kim. I think a lot of people would want to watch that fight."

"I've been M.I.A lately & I apologize for that, but rest assure we've still been working behind the scenes.

"To say I was ready for my fights is an understatement. I was in the best shape of my life physically and mentally on my journey back to the top. Only to be stopped TWICE by proximity COVID cases.

"I thank God that I'm safe and able to return to my family healthy.

"Being away from my family for almost 4 months was the hardest thing I've ever done.

"What's next? I'm going to keep working, I'm going to keep grinding, I'm going to keep being the best athlete, father and husband until it's my time to shine again. Then I'll be able to show the world that I'm still one of the very best," the ONE Championship star added. —GNLM

Switzerland 'not satisfied' with France scalp, eyeing Euro 2020 semi-finals

SWITZERLAND coach Vladimir Petkovic said Thursday that he is not "satisfied" with taking his side past France and into a first major tournament quarter-final since 1954, as they prepare to face Spain in the last eight. The Swiss have never reached the semi-finals of the World Cup or European Championship, but a stunning victory over world champions France has put them on the brink of making history.

"We need to be hungry to make it to the next round," Petkovic said ahead of his team's match against Spain in Saint Petersburg on Friday."From this point on I can't say I'm satisfied—because, for me, the next step is always the most important."We want to make it to the next round, even if we're facing one of the favourites in Spain."

Switzerland led, missed a penalty, fell 3-1 down and then fought back for a dramatic 3-3 draw before beating France on penalties in the last 16 on Monday. Their captain Granit Xhaka was man-of-the-match after an excellent display in midfield, but he will be suspended against Spain after picking up his second yellow card of the tournament against the French.— AFP ■

Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic said Thursday that he is not "satisfied" with taking his side past France and into a first major tournament quarter-final since 1954, as they prepare to face Spain in the last eight. **PHOTO: AFP**

Belgium fret over Hazard, De Bruyne for Italy quarter-final

BELGIUM are anxiously waiting on the fitness of stars Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard for their Euro 2020 quarter-final showdown against Italy on Friday.

Thorgan Hazard fired Belgium into the last eight with the goal that knocked out holders Portugal, but the fitness of his brother Eden and De Bruyne is Belgium's main concern before facing the Azzurri in Munich.

De Bruyne came off early in the second half against Portugal with an ankle knock, while Belgian captain Hazard injured a hamstring late in the game.

Neither trained Wednesday with Belgium's medical staff working around the clock to get them fit to face Italy.

Coach Roberto Martinez admits neither player will probably be 100 per cent in Munich, "but we will use every day to get them as fit as possible".

Manchester City midfielder De Bruyne is central to Belgium's hopes of reaching the semi-finals, where Spain or Switzerland would await next Tuesday.

Martinez is assessing his alternative options in attacking midfield. — AFP ■