

NATIONAL

Myanmar celebrates 99th International Day of Cooperatives in Nay Pyi Taw

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USD vs Kyat up by over K380 in first six months

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 4 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.

Myanmar Women's Day celebrated

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a ceremony to mark the 2021 Myanmar Women's Day in line with COVID-19 health rules yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by the State Administration Council Members, Union Minister, Union Attorney-General, Union Supreme Court Justice, Constitutional Tribunal members, Deputy Ministers, Union Civil Service Board member, CBM Deputy-Governor, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission member, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, Chairperson of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Chairperson of the Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation and officials.

Moreover, the wives of Union Ministers, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, CBM



The ceremony to mark the 2021 Myanmar Women's Day is held in line with COVID-19 health protocols in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Governor, Chairman of the Tatmadaw Peacemaking Committee, members, and Deputy Ministers, Committee Chairpersons of Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states, the secretaries and officials among others joined the meeting online. **SEE PAGE-4**

There are 8 colors to choose from, including a "Maroon Color Mask" specially designed for monks.

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09-671443555
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Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports

Order No 274/2021
9th Waning of Nayon 1383 ME
3 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 Ayeyawady Region 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 Pathein, Myaungmya and Thabaung townships in Ayeyawady Region are involved in the Stay-at-Home programme.

3. The people inclusive of the Stay-at-Home programme of the townships 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 special-

ly 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 the prevention of COVID-19 infection at CMP factories and workplaces;

(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 3. 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 4-7-2021.

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 (3) 067-3411144 (5) 09-882557992
(2) 067-3411509 (4) 09-882557991 (6) 09-882557993

Politicians and media should not commit incitements and spread fake news

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

(Excerpt from the speech to the State Administration Council meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 25 May 2021)

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sends Message of Greeting to Myanmar Women’s Day celebrations

MINGALA to all.

I convey auspiciousness for all the dignitaries attending this 2021 Myanmar Women’s Day. I wish you all health and happiness.

I would express great honour to all Myanmar women on this significant Myanmar Women’s Day, which falls on 3 July (today) 2021.

Like other countries, Myanmar recently observed International Women’s Day, which falls on 8 March annually. Following the demands for women’s rights in the early 20th century, the UN officially declared the Day in honour of women who represent more than half of the world’s population.

The State proclaimed 3 July, on which Myanmar National Committee on Women Affairs was established, as the Myanmar Women’s Day. History bears witness to fine traditions and the role of women in actively and independently protecting and promoting the interest of their families, community and the nation and the people while standing shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts. Women leaders who played the principal roles in the national movement throughout the independence struggle taking arms in tandem with men are the honourable milestones of history for the entire Myanmar women.

Throughout the later periods, women have been playing the leading roles in the nation-

al reforms while shouldering high-level duties in the legislative, administrative and judicial pillars of the State. The involvement of women in the commissions and committees representing the political, economic and social sectors and the national defence duties can also be found.

As a gesture of hailing performances of the entire Myanmar womenfolk, including outstanding women, who emerged in various fields such as political, economic and social affairs, skills and knowledge, art, defence and security, Myanmar Women’s Day has been designated, and is held as a national event.

According to the latest estimated population census till 1 April 2021 based on the national census taken in 2014, Myanmar has about 55.1 million people—about 26.4 million males and about 28.7 million females. So, the female population represents 52.13 per cent covering over half of the total population. Therefore, women’s force and strength play a crucial role in the efforts to fully implement the political, economic and social objectives of the State, ensure balanced development across the nation and fully carry out tasks for the development of human society. That is why measures are being taken to enable women to participate in various sectors and enjoy equal rights.

To promote the role of Myanmar women, the major force of the State, and enable



them to enjoy equal rights they deserve, Myanmar is also realizing the 12-sector Beijing Declaration and project approved by the fourth Global Women’s Conference held in Beijing of the People’s Republic of China in 1995, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women-CEDAW adopted by the United Nations and Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs adopted by the UN in 2015 in accord with the provisions of the Constitution (2008).

At this juncture, Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs, the national-level mechanism, and regional committees are being formed, which are essential for improving the capacity and lives of Myanmar women.

For the equitable advancement of women in respective fields, the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of

Women (2013-2022) is being implemented based on 12 priority areas in conjunction with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP).

Efforts are being made to enact the draft of the Prevention of Violence against Women Law to prevent all forms of violence against women and offer protection for them.

In addition to the above-mention regular measures for the advancement of all women, the government has taken gender equality and the development of capabilities of women including young ones into consideration in developing and implementing COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan-CERP so that their roles will not be left behind at a time when recovery efforts from the impacts of the global outbreak of COVID-19 are being accelerated.

Therefore, it is necessary

to continue to implement social protection systems, social services and rules and regulations that will enhance the capabilities of women while promoting gender equality and narrowing the development gap between rural and urban areas.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all

- to cooperate in the implementation of programmes, plans and projects in respective sectors related to the social and economic development of women,
- to promote the cooperation among the government, civil society, private sector, the public and women so that no one is left behind in implementing them,
- to exert efforts to enhance the literacy, intellectual, knowledge and personality development of all women to enable them to stand shoulder to shoulder with men
- and to make efforts to enhance the life security and capabilities of new generation Myanmar women by inspiring them to take pride in and emulate the excellent performance of capable Myanmar women in successive eras.

May all be able to carry out tasks to advance the interest of the country and the people further by nurturing more and more competent Myanmar women.

Thank you all.



Myanmar Women's Day celebrated

FROM PAGE-1

During the meeting, State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an opening speech via video message.

(The opening speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Senior

General Min Aung Hlaing is separately covered on page-3)

Then, Chairman of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine discussed matters pertaining to the work plans for women empowerment, international and regional-level pledges,

the celebration of International Women's Day, formation of working mechanism, implementation of National-level Strategic (2013-2022), preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence, enactment of law for the prevention of violence against women, domestic violence, violence against women and set up of Helpline Services

for child rape.

She then clarified the responses to gender-based terrorism, financial assistance for these victims, one-stop service centre for women, victims of violence, educating programmes, the opening of women's vocational training courses in Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states, implementation of the UN

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, SDG-Goal 5 and activities of ASEAN Committee on Women.

Then, the video clips of women's empowerment were played.

After that, the officials awarded outstanding women in the respective sectors.—MNA



MoEA Union Minister gives COVID-19 instructions to staff officers of Union Minister Office, departments concerned

UNION MINISTER for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint presided over a COVID-19-related meeting with staff officers of the Union Minister Office and relevant departments on 2 July.

The Union Minister said the government employees should not travel except for on-duty trips. They should seek the permission of the officials concerned if they want to travel for their family issues. He then stressed the need to use an online platform for holding meetings, maintain 6 feet physical distancing without over 50 people at 36 square feet per



person for emergency meetings, conduct regular disinfection practices, zig-zag seating on office buses including wearing masks and washing hands frequently.

He also highlighted the main duty of the ministry like national unity and prosperity of the country.

The Union Minister finally urged the attendees to cooperate for the development of the socio-economic status of the entire people.

Then, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung instructed the staff to scan the QR-code of Version 3.0 of COVID-19 health guidelines launched by the Ministry of Health and Sports and take care of all necessary measures to prevent the infection.—MNA

Over 260, 000 outpatients reached Tamadaw hospitals as of 3 July

MILITARY hospitals and temporary hospitals in the townships of regions and states keep providing medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of

265,100 outpatients and 77,022 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 12,316 major op-

erations and 6,487 minor operations, and the serious cases are treated by the senior doctors. These hospitals managed for the birth of 15,080 babies, while 15,080 pregnant women were taken to the re-

spective military hospitals.

It is reported that Tatmadaw will continue to accelerate the cooperation for the development of the public health sector.—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.

Myanmar celebrates 99th International Day of Cooperatives in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 99th International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated as per the COVID-19 guidelines yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo and Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi, permanent secretaries and officials from the Cooperatives Department. The Patron and Chairman of the Central Cooperative Society Limited, Rectors from Cooperative Universities and officials from the State/Region Cooperative Departments joined the ceremony via video-conferencing.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Hla Moe said agriculture and livestock cooperatives must strive to create market demands for their products while cooperative associations are working hard in line with the economic



objective “to enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy”, which has been implemented by the State.

He added the support of cooperative associations in the agriculture sector. A total of 89,633.60 acres of farmland was rehabilitated on time with

K26,330.573 million for the upgrading of cooperatives' farmland. In terms of input supply, 143,685 bags of fertilizer and 565 bags of seeds and 29,512 bags of pesticides which worth K4,708.603 million were provided. A total of 162 Agricultural Support Services Cooperative Societies also provided 114 threshers, 452 tractors and 64 other equipment for agricultural production.

More than 39,000 cooperative societies formed with 4.2 million members and the Union Minister encouraged the members to come up with new ideas and innovations that are in line with modern systems.

U Aung Phyu, Chairman of Central Cooperative Society Limited delivered a speech in commemoration of International Day of Cooperatives and a message from the International Cooperative Federation was read out by Dr Toe Nandar Tin, Member of Central Cooperative Association Limited. – MNA

1,877 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 July, total figure rises to 163,087

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **163,087** after **1,877 new cases** were reported on 3 July 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **138,026** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **3,384** after **20** died. —MNA

Daily Newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

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

Tatmadaw medical team continue providing healthcare in township hospitals in Mandalay Region

THE Tatmadaw medical corps has been providing necessary medical treatment to the patients in the respective area according to the request of the residents and staff.

The Tatmadaw medical team continued to provide healthcare-related to surgery, dental and oral healthcare,

osteoporosis, obstetrics, gynaecology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in Thazi Township Hospital, Hanza hospital, Yinmabin hospital, Nyaung Yan hospital, Dagaung hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Sintgaing hospital in Kyaukse Township, Madaya Township Hospital, Yindaw

hospital, Kume hospital and Shwe Nyaung Phoo hospital in Pyawbwe Township, Pintale hospital in Wundwin Township, Myittha Township Hospital, Wailaung hospital in Taungtha Township, Kyaukpadaung Township Hospital and NyaungU District Public Hospital in Mandalay Region. —MNA

Armed terrorists ambush security forces in townships of Sagaing Region



ARMED terrorists ambushed security forces patrolling and investigating crimes in Dabayin Township, Mingin Township, Kawlin Township, Htigyaing Township in Sagaing Region on 2 July, killing one member of the security forces and six injured.

Despite the five attempts to kill members of the security forces in the ambush attacks, armed terrorists had to retreat after retaliated by the security forces. A total of 4 mortars and 6 percussion lock firearms were confiscated during the clash in Dabayin Township.

Security forces were attacked on the way to investigate the murder case in South

Ywashay village, Kawlin Township. Armed terrorists exploded mines on the road and attacked them with firearms. Two members of the security forces were injured due to the attack and one of three vehicles was destroyed. In the afternoon, Kawlin township police station was under terrorist attack and one galvanized roof of the women's cell was slightly damaged.

On the same day, one member of the security forces was killed and four were injured in a terrorist ambush while patrolling the area in Htigyaing around midnight. It is reported that security forces are working to stabilize the area. —MNA

Terrorists destroy bridge in Naung Po Aung village in Homalin

TERRORISTS committed an arson attack at a wooden bridge in Naung Po Aung village, Homalin Township, Sagaing Region yesterday morning.

A 10-foot-long wooden bridge with a wide of 15 feet built on the road to Kinzedi pagoda from Naung Po Aung village was destroyed by the fire when the security forces arrived at the scene.

Security forces are investigating to arrest the arsonists and officials are planning to rebuild the bridge. —MNA



State Administration Council
Press Release

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

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.

2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.

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

4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.

5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

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

Mon rubber growers face big challenges on top of skillful labour shortage

THE rubber growers from Mon state, which account for nearly half of Myanmar's production of rubber acres, are being faced with many challenges in addition to the shortage of skillful labour, according to National Enlightenment Institute (NEI).

Although Mon State-owned more than half of the land that can grow well the rubber plants, they are still being faced with many challenges such as lack of skilled labourers, difficulty to purchase equipment and acid couldn't be purchased easily. There are difficulties to access the good rubber seeds and it will take time to apply to the authorities for the farmlands to be used for other purposes besides many procedures to follow through. Consequently, the rubber growers are faced with unequal quality of rubber, inconvenience in hiring the labour from remote areas and inability to access the loans.

Because of the political changes in Myanmar since February 2021, there are restrictions on nighttime tapping of rubber latex activities.

Besides, the new banking system has made it difficult for rubber traders to pay cash to the rubber growers. As a



At present, Myanmar natural rubber fetched K910 per pound (0.45 kilogrammes) while the price of the ribbed smoked sheet (RSS) hit K920 per pound. According to a rubber price analysis by National Enlightenment Institute (NEI), the prices of rubber are likely to stay high in the next two months, July and August.

result, the local growers are struggling with financial difficulties and lower profitability because of declining rubber latex production and having external loans.

At present, Myanmar natural rubber fetched K910 per pound (0.45 kilogrammes) while the price of the ribbed smoked sheet (RSS) hit K920 per pound. According to a rubber price analysis by Na-

tional Enlightenment Institute (NEI), the prices of rubber are likely to stay high in the next two months, July and August.

The price of rubber has risen as rubber production has declined in the off-season in June, July and August, according to last year's rubber price data analysis. Hence, the rubber prices are likely to rise in this years' rubber off-season, NEI reviewed.

Mon State has the largest acreage of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with 498,312 acres of rubber plantations in 2019-2020. It also produces approximately about 240 million pounds of rubber annually. Rubber cultivation is one of the main businesses of the Mon state with 53,370 rubber growers, according to the Mon State Agriculture Department's 2020 data. — NN/GNLM

USD vs Kyat up by over K380 in first six months

THE US dollar exchange rate against Myanmar Kyat has risen by over K380 per dollar in the first six months of 2021, the local foreign exchange market's data showed.

Although the dollar exchange rate stood only around at K1,330 per dollar in the local foreign exchange market in January, the rate skipped to K1,620 per dollar on 30 June with a rise of over K380 per dollar in six months.

This is the reason why the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been purchasing and selling the US dollar in the auction market to reduce the fluctuation of foreign exchange rates in a short-term period and fulfil the needs of foreign exchange reserves.

The CBM purchased US\$1.8 million in January this year and it then sold \$6.8 million in February. Likewise, the bank also sold \$12 million in April, \$24 million in May and \$12 million in June.

At present, the dollar exchange rate hit K1,620 per dollar in the local exchange market. But the rate does not touch the rate that hit a high of K1,730 per dollar in May.

In the first six months of 2021, the highest and lowest exchange rate is currently fixed around K1,327-1,345 in January, K1,335-1,465 in February, K1,420-1,550 in March, K1,550-1,610 in April, K1,585-1,730 in May and K1,595-1,620 in June.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December. In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

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

Truck rental charges to export rice to China via Muse border hike over double

THE truck rental charges to export rice to China through Muse border checkpoint hiked over double, said U Min Thein, Vice-Chairman of Muse Rice Depot.

Earlier, the truck rental charges to export rice to China from Mandalay hit only K100 or K110 per viss. Now, the rental charges have risen to K240 per viss, it is learnt.

Yet, the rice traders are convenient for the soaring price of rice despite the rental charges jumping to export rice to China, he added.

"Although the truck rental charges are costly, it is profitable for the rice traders. Because of the high costs in Myanmar, China is offering higher prices to buy rice to fulfil the need for rice in their country. Previously, the low-quality rice in China was

priced at only 130 Yuan. Now, it has jumped to 150 Yuan. Consequently, the price of rice is much higher despite the increase in truck rental charges," U Min Thein explained.

Currently, the price of rice in China is 150 Yuan for a 50-kg bag of broken rice, 170 Yuan for Thuka, 190 Yuan for Shin Tone, 170 Yuan for Nga Sein and 170 Yuan for Yadana Toe.

China's Customs authorities granted rice export licenses to 47 Myanmar companies on 26 February 2021 to enable the latter to export rice to China this year through the Muse border checkpoint.

This year, the Chinese government has granted more rice export licenses to more companies. But it is not yet known how many tonnes of rice was permitted. Now, the new permitted rice

has started importing to China through the Muse border trade checkpoint.

Nevertheless, there are some difficulties to export new permitted rice to China because the private banks imposed restrictions on cash withdrawals in Myanmar.

During the first three months of the current financial year, Myanmar exported over 720,000 tonnes of rice and low-quality rice, generating over US\$275 million, according to Myanmar Rice Federation.

The country sent over 308,000 tonnes to neighbouring countries via border trade, whereas the maritime trade saw over 418,000 tonnes.

Further, Myanmar has exported rice to 31 foreign markets so far. China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice with over 340,000

tonnes, followed by the Philippines (36,000 tonnes) and Poland (14,000 tonnes).

Meanwhile, low-quality rice was placed in 16 foreign markets. The country sent low-quality rice mostly to China (over 210,000 tonnes), followed by Belgium (46,000 tonnes) and Thailand (over 6,300 tonnes).

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, said U Ye Min Aung, the Chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

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

Workplaces need sympathized participants but essential ones

THE workplace is a family of employers and employees, overseers and labours, officers and staff members as well as bosses and workers. There are many workplaces in respective ministries or businesses across the nation. These are separate societies within human society.

Such societies are similar to units of living creatures. Each workplace can do nothing for any movement but the human society combined with small workplaces dubbed as families can operate something to meet the target. Each workplace has lesser

strength but they combined with all workplaces would be powerful for doing anything.

Actually, each workplace is formed with individual workers or staff members led by officers or bosses. Each workplace can be driven by the strength of individual workers or staff members. Each of the participants plays a minor role in the workplace but the combined strength of all individuals become powerful.

In this regard, individual workers or staff members are the most basic ones in respective workplaces. Their participation in society is of importance to operating the workplaces. Those individuals are very important in the workplace but they are not essential.

If one of them is absent, its position will be filled with a new one in operating the workplaces. Hence, they should consider that they are not essential for operating the workplaces. But, they must keep a concept in mind that they must work compulsorily without fail. So, anybody should not take pride in their role in the workplace.

Every workplace does not have essential persons but those persons need to work without fail. It is because, if a worker is absent in the workplace, remaining

persons will serve an extra duty for such worker in addition to existing assigned ones. That is why every worker should take care of the workplace unity not to be ruined. Several problems in the absence of anyone may be a spark in society.

Workplace participants should culture the sympathy among them not to transfer their burdens to others. The satisfaction based on sympathy among the workers can create a happy and pleasant society. Consequently, the workplace can be driven by the powerful strength of workers based on happiness. If so, society will develop with pleasantness and prosperity.



Consequently, the workplace can be driven by the powerful strength of workers based on happiness. If so, society will develop with pleasantness and prosperity.

Indonesia rolls out tougher curbs as virus cases skyrocket

Indonesia imposed a partial lockdown Saturday in the capital Jakarta, across the main island of Java and on Bali as the Southeast Asian nation grappled with an unprecedented wave of coronavirus infections.

MOSQUES, restaurants and shopping malls were shuttered in virus hotspots around the Muslim-majority country, which recorded more than 25,000 new cases and 539 deaths on Friday, both new daily records.

Indonesia's daily caseload has more than quadrupled in less than a month. But the country's official tally to date, which stands at 2.2 million cases and 59,534 deaths, is widely believed to be a severe undercount due to low testing.

"The stricter restrictions came too late," said Jakarta resident Maya Puspita Sari.

"Before, people who got Covid-19 were strangers, but now it's also the people closest to me who are infected... The virus is getting so much closer and it's terrifying."

The crisis has pushed Indonesia's creaky healthcare system to the brink of collapse with tents set up in parking lots to handle patients at jammed medical facilities.

Hospital corridors are overflowing with the sick lying on gurneys, and infected patients have been turned away from facilities unable to cope with the influx.

An increasing number of patients are dying at home.

The highly infectious Delta variant of the virus, first identified in India and now present in at least 85 countries, has been driving the recent wave, accounting for more than 80 percent of new cases in some areas, the health ministry has said.

Experts previously warned that millions travelling nationwide at the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in May would trigger an explosion of cases.

The streets of Jakarta were largely deserted Saturday with shops closed as officials turned back non-essential traffic flowing in from the capital's satellite cities — a massive urban area of some 30 million people.

Race to vaccinate

The new measures announced by Indonesian President Joko Widodo this week are set to last until July 20 in hope of bringing daily infections below 10,000.

Widodo, better known as Jokowi, had long resisted the strict lockdowns seen in other virus-racked nations, saying they



Health workers disinfect a street in Solo on June 25, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

could tank Southeast Asia's biggest economy where millions live hand-to-mouth.

But all non-essential employees are now being ordered to work from home, while classes will only be held online.

The curbs will also apply to holiday island Bali, hit by a recent jump in cases that has delayed plans to reopen to international tourists.

On Saturday, Bali police patrolled beachside eateries to enforce the lockdown.

Underscoring the increasingly desperate situation for hospitals in Java, independent virus data initiative Lapor Covid said it could no longer help families find beds for sick relatives.

"Our volunteers are having trouble finding health facilities" that can take patients, it said on

its website.

Health experts warned that the tougher measures may not be enough.

The restrictions still allow for often-jammed public transport to continue operating at a reduced capacity, while domestic sea, air and bus travel will be available for people who have received at least one vaccine dose.

"How do you do physical dis-

tancing on public transportation?" said Indonesian epidemiologist Windhu Purnomo.

"The government is still prioritizing the economy by letting people move around."

Serious virus cases among young children, including deaths, were rising steadily while over a dozen fully vaccinated doctors have succumbed to Covid-19 — among nearly 1,000 medical workers who have died since the pandemic began.

Severe cases in inoculated medical workers has raised questions about the China-produced Sinovac jab, which Indonesia is heavily relying on to vaccinate more than 180 million people by early next year.

Only about five percent of Indonesia's population of nearly 270 million has been fully vaccinated with two jabs so far.

On Friday, the government said it was to receive some four million doses of the Moderna vaccine as well as Pfizer jabs to ramp up inoculation efforts, while it was also starting to vaccinate teenagers to halt the spread.

SOURCE: AFP

Esports drawing corporate attention as benefit programme amid pandemic

As the rise in telework amid the COVID-19 pandemic curtails interactions among employees, a growing number of Japanese companies are considering an inexpensive solution to the loss of workforce camaraderie — esports tournaments.

ON a weekday night in June, 40 people from 17 companies had gathered to observe an esports event organized by a group of employees at Net One Systems Co., a To-

kyo-based IT service provider, at eXeField Akiba, a venue for esports activities in Akihabara, Tokyo's electronics hub.

It was the third esports competition conducted by the

firm's employees, 90 per cent of whom are currently working from home. New employees in particular have found it hard to get acquainted with colleagues, even in the sections they have been assigned to.

The group, an informal association of employees, proposed the esports activity to meet calls from fellow workers for opportunities to develop more "lateral relationships."

The first event was conducted from 5 pm on a weekday in December, with eight employees gathering at eXeField. Kazuhei Seki, 32, head of the group, and a few other members served as facilitators and broadcasters of the event.

The contest started after players introduced themselves

and were streamed to other employees on YouTube. Messages could be posted to root for players, and some 100 employees viewed the competition.

"No event held by the association in the past had been simultaneously attended by 100 employees," Seki said.

Encouraged by the favourable in-house response, the group held an online team competition in March to get more employees involved. Nine teams — well exceeding what was expected — attended, including those formed by employees who joined the company in the same year but were assigned to different regions of Japan as well as employees and their families. There have also been more in-house observers.

"The comments rooting for

players are amusing and improve the atmosphere among employees. We now promote the event as a company," Takuya Tanaka, a director at Net One, said. "We will expand the base of participation by dividing participants into classes in accordance with their skills."

As a morale-building employee benefits program, esports events are a lot cheaper to arrange than regular company sports events, with employees able to join online from anywhere, even from their homes right after work.

The low cost is something Tanaka said he appreciates. Before the emergence of the pandemic, Net One used to spend nearly 10 million yen (\$89,600) in total to hold annual futsal events

for employees and their families on Saturday and Sunday, in both Tokyo and Osaka. In contrast, for an esports event, less than 1 million yen is required to reserve all of eXeField.

"Participation by young people was encouraging and depending on games, people of any generation can enjoy," an official from a major Japanese electronics manufacturer said after observing Net One's event in June.

"Neither the general affairs department nor the labor union can organize events amid the COVID-19 pandemic, so both are considering this. It's recommendable as an opportunity to interact, and an option for recreation as well as in terms of cost."

SOURCE: KYODO

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Kyaw Lwin as Director-General of the Information and Security Department, the Office of State Administration Council, on expiry of the one-year probation period.
2. The State Administration Council has appointed Professor Dr Htay Htay Tin, Deputy Director-General (Laboratory) from Medical Services Department under the Ministry of Health and Sports as Rector of the University of Medical Technology, Yangon, Department of Human Resources for Health on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

I say what I see:

By Oung Mounng Mounng

I was perusing one interesting story of the foreign news items on the Global New Light of Myanmar English daily the other day. It read that Mr Emilio Flores Marquez from Puerto Rico has become the world's oldest living man at an age of 112 years and 326 days accordingly to the announcement by the Guinness World Records on 30 June 2021.

Mr Marquez — known as "Don Milo" to his friends — disclosed the secret to his longevity: love and compassion. "My dad raised me with love and taught me to love everyone," Guinness quoted him as saying. Surely, his life is pretty simple just working on the family's sugarcane farm. He got and loved to work his farm job happily right after only three years of formal schooling.

Myanmar's current life expectancy stands at 67.37 in 2021. It's an upturn of 0.3 per cent from the previous year. Comparatively, ours is just over ten years than half of his longevity the world's oldest man has already enjoyed. For the people of Myanmar whose majority is Buddhist, alas, love and compassion might be no longer part of our everyday life. Regretfully, we rather see more and more hate speeches and negative attitudes in our society.

What I see or learn from the world's oldest man is we all should love and sympathize with others or show our compassion to one another.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 3 July 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 4 July 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Taninthayi Region and Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 July 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 July 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 04 July 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

A successful journey

By **RONNIE LINS** | China Daily

100th anniversary of Communist Party of China offers wealth of experience for developing countries to reflect on

THIS year marks the centenary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. The country has undergone profound political, ideological, philosophical and economic changes over the past 100 years.

Regarding economic development, there are three periods that are particularly notable. The first period starts from the foundation of the People's Republic of China in 1949, which stands out for the construction of China's industrial base, with the emphasis on the extraction of coal and the creation of industries such as steel and materials, construction, heavy engineering, chemistry, power generation, among other things.

The second period is the structural reforms starting from the late 1970s when the country introduced special economic zones, attracted foreign investment, developed foreign trade and generated great employment.

Since 2013, the country has embraced a new era that stands out for the pursuit of systemic development based on a modern governance model for China. This model is composed of themes, objectives and actions. Its basic premises are "focus on the well-being" of the Chinese people and realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. In other words, it aims to erad-

icate poverty, reduce social inequalities and create better living conditions for all Chinese people.

Although this model is not formally known, the consistency and effectiveness of its objectives and actions have been verified.

The pillars of current Chinese governance are national sovereignty, reforms, education and culture, economy and the environment, foreign policy, institutional standards and monitoring.

The reforms are an important governance issue. They are generally not easy to implement, as changes will not appeal to some segments of the population. However, they are essential for the development of any developing country. The Chinese government and the CPC have worked hard to deepen reforms in the tax, security, and judicial system, humanitarian assistance, housing, healthcare, intellectual property, and the energy matrix, State-owned companies, agriculture and regional planning, among other areas.

Educational institutions must produce talent that meets the changing needs of society.

The economy and the environment are vital issues for the country's development. The approach determined by the following issues: macroeconomic policies, infrastructure development, markets, investments, innovation and technology.



JIN DING/CHINA DAILY

Regarding foreign relations, the government and the CPC seek to establish multilateral relations and encourage global structuring projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative.

In short, this is how the CPC has managed to lead the country to become what it is today.

Unfortunately, the world has suffered heavily from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has shown the world how well-structured plans and the unity of the whole of society can successfully control the novel coronavirus, protect people and revive the economy.

This success corroborates the importance of the CPC, as its leaders have united the country and determined the actions appropriate to overcome this public health threat.

The experience and knowl-

edge of the Party's 100 years of existence serve as a precious source of Chinese wisdom, where developing countries can be inspired and adapt successful experiences to the characteristics of their countries.

For example, the adoption of global planning with technical consistency for developing countries is fundamental. This planning must be independent of political, ideological, ethnic, religious, or other characteristics. The main problems facing developing countries are the same everywhere. However, to carry out this planning, it will be essential to customize objectives and actions according to the characteristics of each country.

The logistics of developing countries has always had an inadequate systemic structure to optimize the flow of trade and people. China's experience is

fundamental to understanding how to connect locations with the most appropriate logistical modalities to obtain better results.

China's experience in poverty eradication is also essential because the concept of poverty eradication is not simply to increase per capita income but to create better living conditions through improved healthcare, sanitation, housing, education, and income-generating jobs, among other needs. All developing countries are in great need of improving these policies.

The author is president of the Centre China Brazil: Research & Business. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

■

20 people missing in large mudslide southwest of Tokyo

ABOUT 20 people are missing and at least 10 houses were destroyed Saturday after torrential rain triggered a large mudslide southwest of Tokyo, local authorities said.

Firefighters are conducting a search and rescue mission in the slide-hit area in Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture, for those missing as heavy rainfall swept areas

along the Pacific coast in central and eastern Japan.

The Shizuoka prefectural government called for help from the Self-Defence Forces in dealing with the disaster, which occurred at about 10:30 am in Atami, home to hot spa resorts.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held

talks with disaster minister Yasufumi Tanahashi over the mudslide and other calamities associated with the rain.

Due to rising rivers in Hiratsuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, south of Tokyo, the city government ordered local residents to ensure their safety immediately, issuing the highest level of evacuation alert

under the revised basic counter disaster law for the first time in the country. Torrential rain disrupted the public transport system, as well. Shinkansen bullet train runs were briefly suspended in sections between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka, according to operator Central Japan Railway Co. — Kyodo News ■

Italian snowmaking company enjoys dividends of Beijing 2022

IT has been three years since Italian snowmaking company TechnoAlpin settled in Zhangjiakou, the co-host city for the 2022 Winter Olympics. Not long ago, the ice rink enclosure made in Zhangjiakou was exported to Thailand.

TechnoAlpin group, headquartered in Bolzanoin, Italy, is a global leader in snowmaking, with a 60 per cent market share in the snowmaking equipment market. The company has served six of the last eight Winter Olympics and will provide snowmaking equipment and automation systems for Beijing 2022.

“We have benefited enor-

mously from the Olympic Games,” said Pierpaolo Salusso, general manager of TechnoAlpin’s Zhangjiakou offshoot.

The 37-year-old Turin native was assigned to China in 2016. TechnoAlpin established its Chinese branch in Sanhe, Hebei Province in February 2014, and settled in Zhangjiakou in July 2018.

“When I first came to China, Beijing had just successfully applied for the Olympic Games and China’s skiing market was still in its infancy. But now China’s skiing atmosphere is very strong,” said Salusso.

He added that Zhangjiakou has become the spearhead of



TechnoAlpin group, headquartered in Bolzanoin, Italy, is a global leader in snowmaking, with a 60 per cent market share in the snowmaking equipment market. **PHOTO: DANFOSS/XINHUA**

China’s ice and snow equipment industry, and Chongli is the larg-

est area for high-end skiing in China. — Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hurricane Elsa threatens Caribbean

HURRICANE Elsa churned through the Caribbean Friday, bringing powerful winds and the potential for storm surges and heavy rain.

The category 1 storm packed maximum sustained winds of 75 miles (120 kilometres) per hour as it moved northwest near St Vincent and the Grenadines in the eastern Caribbean around midday, the US National Hurricane Centre (NHC) said.

The centre said Elsa could bring a tidal surge of as much as three feet above normal in the Windward Islands – the far eastern chain that includes Barbados and St. Lucia – and up to four feet further west on the southern coast of Hispaniola, which is made of up Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Rainfall, storm surges and strong winds from Elsa could affect the Florida Keys and parts of the Florida peninsula early next week but this depends on how the storm behaves this weekend when it hits large Caribbean islands, the NHC said.

Hurricane-related weather would be bad news for the Florida town of Surfside, near Miami, as it tries to dig out a collapsed condo building in search of survivors and bodies. — AFP ■

Czech villagers rail against giant Polish coal mine

FOR the past 18 years, Czech physics teacher Karel Rehak has seen the water level in his well drop steadily, a phenomenon he attributes to a nearby sprawling Polish brown-coal mine.

The open-cast Turow lignite mine spans 28 square kilometres (11 square miles) and supplies a power station that accounts for some seven percent of Poland’s electricity consumption.

Located in the middle of Europe where the borders of Poland, Czech Republic and Germany intersect, the mine is now at the centre of a bitter dispute between Prague and Warsaw. — AFP ■

At mobile show, techies enjoy face-to-face socializing



The Mobile World Congress took place both in-person at Barcelona’s main conference centre as well as in digital form, with a live performance by US rock legend Jon Bon Jovi and an online appearance by tech billionaire Elon Musk. **PHOTO: JOSEF LAGO / AFP/FILE**

ON a luxury yacht moored at Barcelona port, dozens of tech and telecoms executives from around the world are busy sipping cocktails and nibbling on petit fours as the sun sets.

For many, it’s been a long time since they’ve been able to enjoy such face-to-face contact since the start of the pandemic, with the event held on the sidelines of Mobile World Congress.

The congress is the telecom industry’s largest annual gathering and one of the first big conferences to be staged in Europe since the health crisis took hold.

“We may all work in digital, but face-to-face contact is essential. This kind of event is so much richer here than through a screen,” said Mikael Schachne, a marketing director with Belgian telecom firm Bics as he breathes in the sea breeze.

“It’s the beginning of a recovery. Given the context, it’s very exciting.” Cancelled last year as the pandemic gathered pace, MWC went ahead this year at Barcelona’s main conference centre, both in-person and online.

The event is usually an opportunity for firms to unveil new products and for their executives

- who pay hefty entrance fees—to network and make deals.

But this year many major firms such as Samsung stayed away citing virus concerns—although some took part virtually—and there were far fewer social events like the gathering on the yacht.

And visitor numbers were also significantly lower, with organizers setting a 50,000 cap compared with more than 100,000 who visited the 2019 show.

Virus measures

And that meant participating companies got less exposure.

Waiting by his company’s deserted stand, Huan Xiao, who runs the French subsidiary of TVCMall, a Chinese wholesaler of smartphone accessories, had a long face. — AFP ■

Worst June for Brazil Amazon forest fires since 2007: data

THE Brazilian Amazon has suffered its worst June for forest fires since 2007, official data showed Thursday, indicating another devastating dry season for the world’s largest rainforest.

The INPE research institute said its satellites detected 2,308 fires last month, an increase of 2.3 per cent from June 2020.

The previous record for the month of June was in 2007 with 3,519 fires.

The grim statistic comes after May this year saw the most number of fires -- 1,166 -- since the worst May on record in 2007.



Protesters hold placards during a demonstration against the deforestation in the Amazon and the government’s environmental policies outside the Brazilian embassy in Berlin on 23 August, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Environmental groups blame the trend on the government of President Jair Bolsonaro, who has promoted commercialization of the Amazon since coming to power in 2019 and described NGOs trying to protect the jungle as a “cancer”.

“The increase in fires in the Amazon is not a surprise; it is the result of direct actions that encourage illegality and weaken control bodies, such as the 60-per cent cut in the 2021 budget for fire surveillance,” said the Social and Environmental Institute, which monitors forest trends. — AFP ■

Biden hails 'historic' rebound as US adds 850,000 jobs in June

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Friday cheered the "historic" US rebound from the Covid-19 crisis as the economy gained 850,000 new jobs in June, cementing the evidence of a broad recovery.

The uptick was better than expected and came after two months of disappointing results, buoyed by big increases in the hard-hit leisure and hospitality sector, the Labour Department said in its closely watched monthly report.

With the latest gains, the world's largest economy has added 3.3 million jobs in the first six months of the year.

"This is historic progress, pulling our economy out of the worst crisis in 100 years," Biden said at the White House. The Democratic president credited the massive American Rescue Plan approved in March and the rapid acceleration of vaccinations as factors fuelling the economic revival.

"Our economy is on the move and we have Covid-19 on the run," Biden said, though he acknowledged there is more work to do. — AFP ■

Broadcom settles US antitrust case on chip market

US regulators on Friday announced an antitrust settlement with Silicon Valley chip maker Broadcom, accused of abusing its clout in the market for set-top boxes for internet or streaming television services.

Broadcom pressured AT&T, Charter, and Comcast and other service providers into agreements that precluded them from buying chips from its competitors, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

"America has a monopoly problem," FTC Bureau of Competition acting director Holly Vedova said in a release.

"Today's action is a step toward addressing that problem by pushing back against strong-arm tactics by a monopolist in important markets for key broadband components." A consent order approved by the FTC to settle the complain requires Broadcom to no longer make customers source components exclusively from the company. No monetary penalty was announced. — AFP ■

Airlines eye shift to greener fuels with carbon neutrality in sight



File photo taken April 2020 shows passenger planes at Haneda airport in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

GOING electric may be one solution for automakers to ride a global decarbonization trend,

but for airlines, it is greener fuels that are grabbing their attention. Japan has joined a group of

nations in pledging to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 but still lags behind Europe and the United States where more companies put biofuels from materials like waste cooking oil into commercial use for airlines. Hydrogen is also seen as an alternative source to fly aircraft. Major aircraft manufacturer Airbus SAS has unveiled concepts for zero-emission aircraft powered by hydrogen that it hopes will enter into service by 2035.

Japan's Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. has also unveiled its plan to enter the hydrogen-pow-

ered aircraft business, aiming to take the lead in core technologies for hydrogen engines and liquefied hydrogen fuel tanks.

In late June, a private business jet developed by Honda Motor Co. flew from Kagoshima Prefecture in southwestern Japan to Tokyo's Haneda airport, the first such flight using a biofuel produced from euglena, a type of algae. About 10 per cent of the biofuel used for the flight came from euglena and the rest from waste oil, according to Euglena Co., the Japanese provider of the fuel. — Kyodo News ■

Ireland's low-tax economy can survive OECD reform: experts

FAR-REACHING global tax reforms are reaching fruition and on the face of it, Ireland has most to lose after the small European economy threw open its doors to US multinationals.

On Thursday, 130 countries endorsed an outline agreement by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which groups 38 wealthy nations, to level up global corporation tax.

"Pillar one" would re-allocate tax jurisdiction from

where multinationals are headquartered to where they make profits, while the second pillar would establish a global minimum rate of 15 per cent.

The OECD says the deal will generate an estimated \$150 billion in extra revenues globally, adapt the tax system to the modern digitalised economy and support state finances battered by the coronavirus crisis.

The pact came after the G7 group of leading economies

-- the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan -- last month agreed on the minimum rate of 15 per cent for corporation tax.

Ireland has maintained a 12.5 per cent rate since 2003, and has become the European base for a raft of US companies, especially technology and pharmaceutical giants whose profits have rocketed during the pandemic.

It was one of only nine nations that refused to sign up

despite expressing "broad support", owing to the 15-per cent proposal. "I have expressed Ireland's reservation, but remain committed to the process and aim to find an outcome that Ireland can yet support," Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe said.

'Writing on the wall'

Some analysts believe Ireland's economy is over-dependent on multinationals like Facebook, Apple and Google. — AFP ■

US trade deficit widens in May on rising imports

THE US trade gap widened again in May after narrowing in the prior month, according to government data released Friday, as imports increased amid surging consumer demand.

The trade deficit in goods and services rose \$2.2 billion to \$71.2 billion, as the \$3.5 billion jump in imports was nearly triple the rise in exports in the month, the Commerce Department reported.

As the world's largest economy has reopened and recovered faster than other regions, Americans have come out to spend on homes, travel and other goods, and the data showed the trade gap in the first five months of the year far outpaced the same period of 2020 or 2019.

"The trade deficit is poised to remain wide as the fiscally powered, consumer driven recovery in the US runs ahead of the global economic rebound," Kathy Bostjancic of Oxford



As the world's largest economy has reopened, Americans have spent with abandon, which contributed to rising imports. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Economics said in an analysis of the report.

The report showed big gains in imports of oil, lumber, computers and telecommuni-

cations equipment.

The trade deficit with China in goods alone narrowed for the second month in a row, dropping more than \$5 billion to

\$27.2 billion. But the gap with the European Union jumped on a \$2.3 billion increase in imports from the region, the data showed. — AFP ■

Cyberattack hits hundreds of US businesses

A US IT company urged customers to shut down their servers Friday after cyberattackers smuggled ransomware onto its network platform.

Kaseya said Friday evening that it had limited the attack to “a very small percentage of our customers” who use its signature VSA software, “currently estimated at fewer than 40 worldwide.”

Cybersecurity firm Huntress Labs had earlier said in a Reddit forum that it was working with

partners targeted in the attack, and that some 200 businesses “have been encrypted.”

Ransomware attacks typically involve locking away data in systems using encryption, making companies pay to regain access.

Kaseya describes itself as a leading provider of IT and security management services to small and medium-sized businesses.

VSA, the company’s flagship offering, is de-

signed to let companies manage networks of computers and printers from a single point.

The company became aware of a possible incident with VSA at midday on the US east coast and “immediately shut down” its servers as a “precautionary measure,” it said.

Kaseya also “immediately notified our on-premises customers via email, in-product notes, and phone to shut down their VSA servers to



American IT firm Kaseya says it has been hit by a cyberattack. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

prevent them from being compromised.”

“We believe that we

have identified the source of the vulnerability and are preparing a patch to

mitigate it,” the company said in a statement.

According to the New Zealand government’s Computer Emergency Response Team, the attackers were from a hacking group known as REvil. REvil was also, according to the FBI, behind last month’s attack on JBS, one of the world’s biggest meat processors, which ended with the Brazil-based company paying bitcoin worth \$11 million to the hackers. — **AFP ■**

M’bishi Electric chief to resign over systemic inspection misconduct



Mitsubishi Electric is one of Japan’s largest general electric manufacturers, producing a wide range of products from home appliances to heavy machinery and defence equipment. **PHOTO: YOSHIKAZU TSUNO / AFP**

MITSUBISHI Electric Corp. President Takeshi Sugiyama said Friday

he will resign to take the blame for decades of “organizational miscon-

duct” after the Japanese electronics conglomerate found it had cheated on

inspections for air conditioners and compressors for train use.

Speaking at a press conference, Sugiyama apologized for the company’s failure to address its misconduct that may have lasted over three decades since around 1985, saying that the latest fiasco had caused great problems and concerns.

“I reached the conclusion that it is necessary for me to step down so the company can work to regain trust under a new leadership,” Sugiyama said. “We have to say it is organizational misconduct.” — **Kyodo News ■**

TikTok back in Pakistan after court revokes ban

TIKTOK was running again in Pakistan Saturday after a provincial court lifted suspension of the popular social media service but ordered it to address complaints that it hosted objectionable content.

The Pakistan Telecoms Authority (PTA) blocked access Thursday for a third time after a ruling by a Sindh court hearing a private citizen’s petition against the Chinese-owned app.

Freedom of speech advocates have long criticized creeping govern-

ment censorship and control of Pakistan’s internet and media.

TikTok’s suspension was slammed by the video sharing platform’s huge fan base in Pakistan, many of whom use it to market and sell goods online.

But its critics in the deeply conservative Muslim nation say it promotes vulgarity and LBGQT content.

TikTok has been shut down twice before in Pakistan because of alleged “indecent” videos – most recently in March, after which the platform



TikTok’s critics in the deeply conservative Muslim nation say it promotes vulgarity and LBGQT content. **PHOTO: AFP**

pledged better moderation.

It said Wednesday it had removed more than six million videos from its

Pakistan service in the past three months alone —around 15 per cent featuring “adult nudity and sexual activities”. — **AFP ■**

NEWS

IN BRIEF

US regulators probe ‘spontaneous’ fire of top-end Tesla

US transportation safety regulators said Friday they are probing an incident in which a brand-new Tesla apparently burst into flames, temporarily trapping the driver, with firefighters needing more than two hours to extinguish the blaze.

The cause of the fire that scorched the Model S Plaid on Tuesday remained undetermined, and a lawyer representing the car’s owner called for the vehicle to be taken off roads. “This is a harrowing and frightening situation and an obvious major problem,” attorney Mark Geragos told AFP. — **AFP ■**

German auto industry continues to improve: ifo Institute

THE German ifo Institute’s indicator for the business situation of German car manufacturers and their suppliers climbed to 44.2 points in June from 37.8 points in May, the highest level in almost three years.

Expectations in the German automobile industry stood at 3.2 points in June after minus 1.6 points in May, the ifo institute announced on Friday.

The labour market around Germany’s important automobile sector was still impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as the ifo indicator for employment only improved slightly to minus 23.4 points. — **Xinhua ■**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN TRADE

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN TRADE VOY.NO. (2105)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-7-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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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**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

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Israeli settlers leave West Bank outpost after govt deal



Palestinian protesters run for cover from tear gas fired by Israeli security forces amid clashes at East Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque complex, occupied Palestine, 10 May, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAELI settlers were leaving a West Bank wildcat outpost Friday in adherence to an agreement struck with nationalist premier Naftali Bennett's new government, an AFP reporter

said.

The last cars were streaming out of Eviatar in compliance with the 4:00 pm (1300 GMT) deadline to leave the outpost.

Dozens of settler families several weeks ago started to build the settlement in defiance of both international and Israeli law, sparking fierce protests from Palestinians in nearby villages.

"I hope we'll be back here very soon," Sarah Lisson, a mother of six, told AFP before driving off. "We can build a big house."

The hilltop area where the settlers established a settlement of trailer homes, shacks and tents lies near Nablus in the northern West Bank, Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967.

Under the terms of the deal

published by the Israeli government on Thursday, the settlers had to leave by Friday afternoon.

However, their temporary homes will remain, and the Israeli army will establish a presence in the area.

As settlers departed, soldiers were at the site, an AFP reporter said.

The defence ministry will then assess the area to possibly declare it as state land, where Israel allows settlers to build.

Should this happen, the military would then allow a community with a religious school to be built. The Palestinians, who claim the land as their own, had harassed the settlers by burning car tyres, sounding horns and pointing laser beams at them, leading to deadly clashes with Israeli security forces. — AFP ■

Cannes' green push faces industry's rubbish record

THE Cannes Film Festival has vowed to go green, even trimming its red carpet in half – but can it make any difference to an industry built around private jets and rampant consumption?

Movie stars from Leonardo DiCaprio to Juliette Binoche have made environmental campaigning a central part of their image in recent years, fronting movies about climate change and using their soap boxes to call for action.

Keen to show support, the organizers of Cannes, which runs from July 6 to 17, have said the environmental "emergency is at the heart of its concerns" this year.

They have banned plastic bottles, deployed a fleet of electric cars, and organized a special programme of climate-focused films.

Perhaps most symbolic of all, the festival is cutting the volume of its red carpet by 50 per cent, and making it from recycled materials rather than the usual PVC.

But the film industry, with its non-stop, continent-skipping circus of premieres and parties, is far from getting any gold stars from Greta.

DiCaprio, for instance, famously pulled off an 8,000-mile round trip in a private jet in 2016 to pick up an environmental award.

Cannes finds itself in an awkward position – hosting movies about climate change followed by massive parties that generate tonnes of waste and relying heavily on people flying in from all over the world.

This year, it hopes to offset some of that carbon footprint with a 20-euro contribution from each participant to be disbursed by "a scientific committee of experts". — AFP ■



As part of the festival's efforts to go green, this year's Cannes red carpet will be half the size of that last seen in 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Military put on standby to evacuate fire-threatened towns in western Canada

OTTAWA prepared Friday to send military aircraft and other help to evacuate towns and fight more than 100 wildfires in western Canada fuelled by a record-smashing heat wave.

According to wildfire officials, at least 152 fires were active in British Columbia, 89 of them sparked in the last two days. Most were caused by lightning strikes.



This handout photo courtesy of BC Wildfire Service shows the Sparks Lake wildfire, British Columbia, seen from the air on June 29, 2021. **PHOTO: BC WILDFIRE SERVICE/AFP/FILE**

The fires were located north of the city of Kamloops, 350 kilometres (217 miles) north-east of Vancouver.

Experts believe the heat wave, which has triggered extreme heat alerts in areas where millions of people live, is caused by global warming. The heat has killed more than 700 people in Canada and at least 16 in the United States.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met Friday afternoon with an incident response group that included several ministers. He said he had already spoken with British Columbia's premier, as well as local mayors and indigenous chiefs in communities under threat. "We will be there to help," he told a news conference. — AFP ■

Facebook tests alerting users to extremist posts

A Facebook test of pop-up boxes asking people whether they think friends are becoming extremists raised concerns Friday among US conservatives who felt their voices might be stifled. Facebook spokesman Andy Stone said in a Twitter exchange that the alerts sprang from an initiative at the social network to combat violent extremism and dangerous organizations.

"Redirect Initiative" features are intended to route people using hate- or violence-related search

terms toward resources, education or outreach groups aimed at more harmonious outcomes, according to Facebook.

For example, Facebook said that searches related to white supremacy in the United States get directed to a Life After Hate group that provides crisis intervention. Images of the alerts shared on Twitter showed messages asking whether users were worried someone they knew was becoming an extremist or if they had been exposed to extremist

content. People could opt to click on a link to "get support" or simply close the pop-up box.

Virginia state politician Nicholas Freitas, a Republican, was among those who shared an image of the Facebook alert on Twitter. "I have a real concern that some leftist technocrats are creating an Orwellian environment where people are being arbitrarily silenced or banned for saying something the 'thought police' doesn't like," Freitas said in the post. — AFP ■

In Poland, ex-EU chief Tusk set for return to frontline politics

FORMER EU chief Donald Tusk was poised to announce his candidacy to lead Poland's opposition Civic Platform party on Saturday, signalling a return to the political frontline.

The 64-year-old co-founded Civic Platform (PO) two decades ago and served as prime minister of Poland between 2007 and 2014.

He is currently chairman of the centre-right European People's Party and a frequent acerbic commentator from the sidelines of Polish politics.

"Donald Tusk will return," Tomasz Siemoniak, the party's deputy chairman, said on Friday on the eve of the party congress.

Malgorzata Kidawa-Blon-



European Council President Donald Tusk poses for a picture prior to the start of a European union summit in Brussels, on December 14, 2017. Tusk was president of the European Council from 2014-2019. PHOTO: AFP/LUDOVIC MARIN/FILE

ska, another party MP and the deputy speaker of parliament, said Tusk's return would "solve

many of our problems" and was "the way we are all waiting for". A self-avowed football hoo-

ligan in his youth, Tusk grew up in the northern port city of Gdansk which was the cradle of the Solidarity movement that dismantled Communist rule.

During his time as president of the European Council from 2014-2019 he handled crises ranging from migration to Greece's economic plight to tough Brexit negotiations.

There was uncertainty in the run-up to the party congress after Warsaw mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, the runner-up in a presidential election last year, said he wanted to head the party.

According to media reports, Trzaskowski will no longer challenge Tusk for the leadership. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

France's Le Pen seeks to regain momentum after poll setback

FRENCH far right leader Marine Le Pen this weekend hosts a party congress seeking to find new impetus for her 2022 challenge to President Emmanuel Macron after disappointing results in regional elections.

Last month's vote saw Le Pen's National Rally (RN) fail in its bid to gain control of at least one of the 13 regions of mainland France for the first time, after initial polls had indicated it could pick several up.

While the regional elections are very different to next year's presidential race, the failure raised questions about the strategy of Le Pen, who over the last years has sought to rebrand her party as a more mainstream right wing force.

It was little consolation for her that Macron's ruling centrist Republic on the Move (LREM) party fared even worse, with the traditional right showing signs of a resurgence. — AFP ■

Grand funeral held for Zambia's first president Kaunda

ZAMBIA on Friday held a grand funeral for the country's first President Kenneth Kaunda.

Held at the Show Grounds, a venue for holding agricultural and commercial shows in Lusaka, the country's capital, the state funeral attracted hundreds of people, including leaders from different parts of the world.

Kaunda, 97, died on June 17 and the government announced a 21-day mourning period. The mourning period included taking the body around all 10 provincial towns. However, attendance at the funeral on Friday was by invitation only due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zambian President Edgar Lungu led foreign dignitaries from various parts of the world, including some African presidents, during the state funeral. — Xinhua ■

France denies cover-up over Pacific nuclear tests



This file photo taken on 4 October, 1985 shows the French nuclear testing site on the Atoll of Mururoa in the Indian Ocean Tuamotu archipelago of the French Polynesia overseas territory. PHOTO: AFP

THE French government denied any cover up on Friday over radiation levels in the Pacific

following its nuclear testing in the region, as discussions were held in Paris about the legacy of

the explosions.

A two-day roundtable meeting called by French President Emmanuel Macron in April began on Thursday following fresh allegations that the testing between 1966-1996 caused hidden atmospheric and ground pollution.

"There was no state cover up," Genevieve Darrieusseq, junior defence minister, told AFP in a brief comment on the sidelines of the event where she has ruled out any official apology from France.

In March, online investigation site Disclose created waves when said it had analysed some

2,000 pages of French military documents declassified in 2013 about the nearly 200 tests carried out around French Polynesia.

Using statistical modelling and help from academics and specialists, it concluded that "French authorities have concealed the true impact of nuclear testing on the health of Polynesians for more than 50 years."

The roundtable discussion, which Macron attended on Thursday without making any public comment, has met with a mixed response from Polynesian politicians. — AFP ■

US troops to leave Afghanistan by end of August

THE United States expects to finish withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan by the end of August, officials said on Friday, after announcing all American and NATO soldiers had left the conflict-scarred nation's biggest airbase.

Following 20 years of war, US President Joe Biden had set a September 11 deadline for the final pullout of the few remaining soldiers on the ground.

The news that American troops had left Bagram Air Base fuelled expectations that the pullout would be completed within days, but White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the troops would be out of the

country "by the end of August".

"The president has long felt... that the war in Afghanistan was not one that can be won militarily," she told reporters, adding that the United States would continue to provide security systems and humanitarian assistance in the months ahead.

Bagram served as the linchpin for US-led operations in the rugged country, where the long war against the Taliban and their Al-Qaeda allies started in 2001 following the September 11 attacks.

"The American and coalition forces have completely withdrawn from the base and henceforth the Afghan army



An Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier looks out while standing on a Humvee vehicle at Bagram Air Base, after all US and NATO troops left, some 70 Km north of Kabul on July 2, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

forces will protect it and use it to combat terrorism," defence

ministry spokesman Fawad Aman tweeted. — 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.

MNL hits fifth in ASEAN for its cash award range

THE winner prize money range for the Myanmar National League (MNL) is currently standing fifth in ASEAN-level domestic leagues, according to the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF).
Till the previous football season, Myanmar National

League football authorities give USD78,000 prize money to the winning team of the MNL.
The price money for the winner of the Thailand League is currently the biggest at USD319,000.
Malaysia Super League is second with their prize money of USD240,000, and Singapore

Premier League is third with USD150,000.
Viet Nam League is currently fourth with their award of USD129,450 for the winning team.
Following fifth place Myanmar, Liga Indonesia is sixth with USD68,000 award.
Next, Cambodia League is

seventh with USD36,170 prize money and Laos League is eighth with a USD32,000 award for the winning team.
Liga Timor Leste is ninth with USD15,000 award and Brunei Super League is tenth with prize money of USD10,000 for the winning team. — GNLM

Olympics protest rules relaxed for Tokyo Games

ATHLETES at Tokyo 2020 will be allowed to “express their views” before and after competing -- but not on the podium -- after Olympics chiefs relaxed some of the rules for protests at the event.
The International Olympic Committee (IOC) released new guidelines Friday softening a long-standing ban on political protests at the Games.
It means athletes will now be allowed to take the knee before play begins to highlight racial injustice, speak to the media and post online about their views, or wear clothing with a protest slogan at a press conference.
But political statements during events, victory ceremonies and at the Olympic Village are still off the cards, the IOC said.
Protests must not be “targeted, directly or indirectly, against people, countries, organizations and/or their dignity”, the sporting body said in a statement.
They also cannot be “disruptive” to other competitors, such as unfurling a flag as a team is being introduced.
“The new guidelines are a result of our extensive consultation with the global athletes’ community,” Kirsty Coventry, chair of the IOC’s athletes commission, said in a statement. — AFP ■

Mancini hails ‘extraordinary’ Italy win over Belgium

ROBERTO Mancini hailed Italy’s “extraordinary” performance after a 2-1 quarter-final win over Belgium on Friday set up a Euro 2020 last-four clash with Spain.
Nicolo Barella and Lorenzo Insigne scored first-half goals in Munich as the Italians extended their national record unbeaten streak to 32 games.
Romelu Lukaku converted a penalty to give Belgium hope, but Italy deserved the win over the world’s top-ranked team, who were without injured captain Eden Hazard.
The Azzurri will face Spain at Wembley on Tuesday in a repeat of the Euro 2012 final.
“We fully deserved this victory. My players were extraordinary,” Italy coach Mancini told broadcaster RAI.
“We suffered in the last 10 minutes because we were really tired. Maybe we could have even scored more goals.”
Italy are hoping to be crowned European champions



Italy’s coach Roberto Mancini (L) reacts at the end of the UEFA EURO 2020 quarter-final football match between Belgium and Italy at the Allianz Arena in Munich on 2 July 2021. PHOTO: STUART FRANKLIN / POOL / AFP

for the first time since 1968, but Mancini tempered the growing expectations.
“Our road is still long, we still have two games to go,” he said. “Let’s enjoy this victory, we’ll see. Congratulations to the guys who have been very good.” — AFP ■