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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 77, 11th Waning of Nayon 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Monday, 5 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.

Completed Htakha suspension bridge ready to give transport service to local people in Machanbaw Tsp

THE Department of Progress of Border Areas and National Races under the Ministry of Border Affairs makes efforts to provide streamlined transportation in border areas. Construction of Htakha suspension bridge has completed by cent per cent in Machanbaw Township of Putao District in Kachin State spending Kachin State budget in the 2020-2021 financial year, according to Putao District Development Supervisory Office.

The 200 feet long Htakha cable suspension bridge, about four furlongs from Htanga Village stretching on the road, links Htanga Village and Shangadengchet Village in Machanbaw Township. The project spent K131.67 million of Kachin State budget on construction of the suspension bridge in 2020-2021 financial year.

U Zaw Zaw Tun, Deputy Director of Putao District development supervisory office, inspected progress of the bridge on 1 July together with officials from the township quality control team.

Thanks to the suspension bridge, a total of 841 local people from eight villages involved in Htanga, Dengchet, Makyanga and Dengbudengsa village-tracts of Machanbaw Township will have the chance to enjoy fruitful results of transportation, education, health and socio-economic growth in their respective areas. Moreover, the facility is of great importance as it is located in the route leading to Khaunglanphu Township, according to the locals.—District IPRD (Putao)/ GNLM

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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

2,318 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 July, total figure rises to 165,405

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **165,405 after 2,318 new cases** were reported on 4 July 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **138,715** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **3,419** after **35** 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 https://www.moi.gov.mm/mal, https://www.moi.gov.mm/km and https://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm.

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

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

All must place emphasis on ecosystem restoration

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

(Excerpt from the speech to the State Administration Council meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 6 June 2021)

Ecosystem-based comprehensive development project implemented near Chaungmange Dam

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation organized the 2021 monsoon tree planting ceremony near Chaungmange Dam and Yonbin forest reserve in accordance with the COVID-19 health rules yesterday.

Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi, the permanent secretary and other officials grew a total of 1,000 perennial saplings such as mahogany, gum-kino and teak during the event.

Then, the Union Minister and party inspected the conservation works on Hsinohn lake constructed in 1959 in the irrigated area of Chaungmange Dam.

The ecosystem-based comprehensive development project is implemented near Chaungmange Dam and Yonbin forest reserve. As a pilot project, the Forest Department provided saplings of coffee, elephant foot yam, mango, banana and jackfruit to be grown in catchment area and irrigated area to the public this fiscal year. Moreover, the department conducted educating programmes for lab test of soil and allotment of plots for the crops, demonstration on terrace farming.

The department also establishes 16 acres of mixed-crop plantation, 243 acres of community owned plantation mixed with crops and two acres of village firewood plantation.

In the livestock sector, the officials provide assistance for breeding of domestic ducks to 100 local manageable farmers, plants pastureland grass, release 20,000 fingerlings into the dam and another 10,000 fingerlings into three-acre fishing farm. They will also construct inter-village roads.

Union Minister and party inspect conservation works on Hsinohn lake.

Hsinohn Lake has 2,640 acres of irrigated areas in upper part and 4,579 acres in lower part. Although the lake has not been renovated during 60 years and now 89 per cent of renovation works are completed.

The reservoir can store about 1,800 acre-feet of water and supply 4,300 acres of summer paddy this year.—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.

Union Minister for Industry inspects factories in Yangon Region

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than met the retired workers of the Ministry of Industry at Sethmu religious hall in the eastern archway of Shwedagon Pagoda in Bahan Township of Yangon Region on 3 July.

The Union Minister then inspected the Thet Thar detergent factory, a joint venture of government-private sector, operated under No (3) Heavy Industries Enterprise.

He also visited the modern warehouse of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) and inspected the raw material production process with the use of computerized system, medicine storage and snake farm.

Then, the factory manager clarified the work processes of factory, and the Union Minister talked about the instruction of SAC regarding with the medicine production at state-run pharmaceutical factory to improve the production rate to meet the local demands.

The Union Minister visited the Hepatitis B vaccine factory in Hlegu Township yesterday. During the visit, he stressed the needs to follow the systematic processes and make preparations to produce essential medicines for the public, and he gave other instructions.

He inspected the old Ice Factory in Ahlon Township. –MNA

Union Minister Dr Charlie Than visits Hepatitis B vaccine factory in Hlegu Township.

YCDC collects waste in municipal area daily

THE Environment Management In-charge Team of Yangon City Development Committee collects the waste daily discarded in Yangon City with the strength of 2,700 day shift workers and 1,500 night shift workers.

YCDC collects more than 2,500 tonnes of waste a day and disposes them by truck for 212 times in the day and 200 times during night at Hteinbin landfill. The YCDC staff operate garbage collection system in accordance with the district areas.

Sanitation workers collect waste along road in Yangon City. **PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG**

The officials put 1,590 660-litre dust bins, 346 240-litre dust bins and 127 dumps in seven townships of Eastern District as local people discard 624.5 tonnes of waste a day. The sanitation workers collect the waste with the use of 224 garbage carts. They operate the system 48 times in the daytime and 49 times at night.

Nine townships in Western District throw 458.74 tonnes of waste a day. The officials place 1,482 660-litre bins, 342 240-litre bins and 49 dumps. The YCDC staff collect the garbage with the use of 382 garbage carts and dispose the waste with trucks for 30 times in daytime and 39 times at night daily.

Similarly, nine townships of Southern District also discard about 480 tonnes of waste daily. There are 1,810 660-litre bins, 560 240-litre bins and 121 dumps there. The workers collect the waste with the use of 382 carts and dispose them for 46 times in the daytime and 41 times at night with trucks daily.

Moreover, 1,883.4tonnes of waste is thrown in eight townships in Northern District. There are 1107 660-litre bins, 537 240-lire bins and 266 dumps. The workers collect the waste using 272 cars and the garage trucks dispose the dumps for 88 times in the daytime and 71 times at night.

Moreover, YCDC will establish the very first Waste to Energy and Energy to Biogas plant near Hteinbin dumpsite in Hlinethaya Township applying Poland techniques. More than 1,000 tonnes of waste out of 1,500 tonnes will be processed to produce compress natural gas, according to the committee.—Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

Mask price gouging occur in Bamauk Township

THE price of mask is surging up to K4,000 per pack of 50 pc in Bamauk, Katha District of Sagaing Region.

A pack of 50 masks was only priced at K1,300 on 28 June. Following the 54 COVID-19 positive cases among 78 workers in KTV lounge, the price exorbitantly rose to K4,000 per pack.

The masks are sold at K2,100-K2,500 in the Pinlebu, Indaw, Katha and Wuntho townships which are next to Bamauk Township.

Furthermore, the prices of hand sanitizer gel increased from K1,500-K2,500 to K2,500-K3,500 per bottle. There is a shortage of hand gel in the pharmacies.

"A pack of 50 masks were sold at K1,300 as of 28 June. However, the retailers hiked up the price up to K3,500 after the COVID-19 positive cases in the cities. At present, a spike in demand caused the mask price up to K4,000 per pack," said a seller.

There were more than 200 coronavirus positive cases in Bamauk Township between 29 June and 3 July. Thus, facemasks are mandatory to wear in public areas during the COVID-19 pandemic.—Hlaing Bwa (Bamauk)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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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.

Livestock, fisheries attract six foreign investment projects in eight months

LIVESTOCK and fisheries sector has attracted six foreign investment projects as of May-end in the current financial year 2020-2021 since October, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those businesses brought in about US$19.2 million, including the expansion of investments by the existing joint ventures.

They are executing broiler farm, pig farming and sales of pigs, production and farming of layers and shrimp, as per data of the DICA.

Since 1988-1989 FY, about US$924 million of FDI have flowed into the livestock and fisheries sector.

Next, 16 countries have put investment in the livestock and fisheries sector so far. Among them, Thailand has topped the list of investments, with over $380 million, followed by Singapore with about $130 million.

Myanmar's livestock and fisheries sector is crucial to the livelihoods of many vulnerable households and contribute to improving nutritional outcomes in the country.—KK/GNLM

Workers are working in cold storage for enphasizing fish processing work.

Seintalone mango growers rely more on domestic market this year

Sales of Seintalone mango are seen in wholesale centre.

THE growers of Seintalone mango rely more on domestic demand this year as trade to Chinese market is inactive for now, the growers stressed.

An acre has 30 mango trees and a tree can bear more than 150 mangoes. The input costs nearly K400,000 per acre. A mango fetches only K150 at the present time. This being so, the growers do not earn a handsome profit this year, a grower said.

"This year, exports to Muse border dropped. However, the mango with good packaging is sent to various regions and states in the country. The mango reached most of the buyers through digital platform previously. The digital marketing and sales have remarkably declined owing to the mobile internet restrictions and the buying behaviour has also changed in the domestic market," Myanmar Mango Market and Technical Development Association stated.

"The domestic market sees a good potential this year, especially in Yangon and Mandalay. A mango is worth K350-400 in the domestic market. At present, the foreign demand is still sluggish," U Kyaw Soe Naing, general secretary of the association elaborated.

Myanmar's mango export has generated US$278 million income in the first half (Oct-Mar) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to the Myanmar Customs Department.

This year, mango export remarkably dropped due to the closure of Man Wein border gate triggered by the COVID-19 positive impacts.

The exports of Seintalone mango this year is about 50 per cent less than in the corresponding period last year, said U Kyaw Soe Naing, general secretary of the association.

"The drop in mango export is attributed to China's restriction in some border areas amid the COVID-19 and delays related to the COVID-19 containment measure (COVID-19 test for food packaging).

"China shut many border posts. Only Kyinsankyawt post is available for cross-border trade, causing delays and long-queue. It takes 4 to 5 days for a truck to enter the checkpoint. Heightened security measures on fruits and vegetables hinder the border trade," U Kyaw Soe Naing continued.

At present, Seintalone mangoes from Sagaing and Katha cities are daily sent to China on 10 to 15 trucks, the association stated.

Of about 200 mango strains originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe and, Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. Foreign market prefers Seintalone variety. Ayeyawady Region possesses the largest mango farms, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second largest producer with 43,000 acres and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. There are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region, according to the association.

In addition to the main trade partner China, Myanmar's mangoes were shipped to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Japan in the previous years. Mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification. The Agriculture Department has been striving for long-term organic farming.—GNLM

Myanmar ships over 23,675 tonnes of chick pea to external market as of 25 June

MORE than 23,675 tonnes of chick pea were exported to foreign market between 1 October 2020 and 25 June 2021 of the current financial year 2020-2021, with estimated value of US$13.9 million, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.

The price of chick pea remained high owing to the transaction problem and surged in freight rates. The price moved in the range of K86,000-K88,000 per three-basket bag depending on the varieties.

At the present time, the domestic pulses and beans market is positively related to the law on supply and demand.

"The prices usually fluctuate depending on supply and demand. When the peas are loaded on ship, the prices climb up. At present, the prices remain bullish on the back of steady demand amid the transportation problem and transaction difficulties," said a trader from Mandalay who shared his opinion.

Myanmar exported chick pea to India, Pakistan, UAE, Turkey and other foreign markets last year.

The chick pea is cultivated in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Nay Pyi Taw. There are 890,000 acres of chick peas across the country.

The peas are cultivated in October and November and they are harvested in January-April period.—KK/GNLM

Freight worker is carrying bags of chick pea to warehouse.

Mask Campaigns aimed at preventing COVID-19 conducted in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Regions, States

THE Ministry of Health and Sports distributed 12,050,000 surgical masks to the Public Health Department in Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states in June to effectively prevent COVID-19 infection so as to cut the chains of disease impacts.

According to the instructions of the ministry, the Public Health Department of Nay Pyi Taw Council and respective regions and states raises the awareness of public health and stages the mask campaigns at the crowded places like markets, banks, junctions, bus stops and toll-gates by cooperating with the local authorities and those from relevant ministries, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and volunteers.—MNA

Officials and health personnel distribute surgical masks to local people free of charge as part of staging the mask campaign in addition to raising health awareness of the people in order to prevent COVID-19 in townships of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territorial Area.

Departmental personnel and health staff raise health awareness of the people on danger of COVID-19 in addition to distribution of surgical masks to local people free of charge in staging mask campaign in Pabedan Township of Yangon Region.

Departmental officials distribute surgical masks to members of the Sangha as raising the health awareness in Toungoo Township of Bago Region.

Members of Myanmar Red Cross Society and voluntary organizations participate in raising health awareness of the people by sharing dos and don'ts for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 pandemic and distributing surgical masks free of charge as part of staging mask campaign in Bago of Bago Region.

Health staff and departmental personnel distribute surgical masks to the local people free of charge as acts of prevention of COVID-19 pandemic and health awareness in Kani Township of Sagaing Region.

Members of Red Cross society join mask campaign in distributing surgical masks to local people free of charge in addition to raising health awareness of people to know danger impacts of COVID-19 pandemic in Thanbyuzayat Township of Mon State.

Departmental personnel and volunteers share health knowledge about danger of COVID-19 to vendors and buyers in the market as raising health awareness in addition to staging mask campaign in Paungde Township of Bago Region.

Departmental personnel and volunteers distribute surgical masks to local people free of charge as mask campaign and share health knowledge about COVID-19 in Ottwin Township of Bago Region.

Volunteers distribute surgical masks to vendors at the market free of charge as part of raising mask campaign and raise health awareness in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon Region.

Departmental personnel, members of Red Cross Brigade and volunteers distribute surgical masks to local people free of charge as acts of staging mask campaign in addition to raising health awareness of the people for COVID-19 in Myitkyina Township of Kachin State.

Officials of Public Health Department hand over surgical masks to departmental personnel and volunteers to distribute them to local people free of charge as mask campaign in addition to raising health awareness in Myitkyina Township of Kachin State.

Over 300,000 acres of edible oil crops thriving in Magway Township

UNDER the supervision of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Department of Agriculture in Magway Township has set a target of cultivating more than 300,000 acres of edible oil crops such as groundnuts and sesame this year rainy season.

Sesame and groundnut are grown on coarse sand area, and oilseeds are thriving throughout the township, said local people.

"There are sandy soils in our Magway Township as the weather is hot. Sesame and peanuts are growing well on the hot and sandy soil. It is said that some villages need rain. Sesame and peanuts do not like heavy rain. Such kind of plantation needs just a few showers. The year 2021 is a year of good sesame and peanut production," said a veteran farmer from Thityakauk village, Magway Township.

Female farming workers are working in edible oil crop plantation. **PHOTO: WIN MAUNG**

Currently, sesame and groundnut fields are being added. Weeding is done by local workers, earning about 10,000 kyats a day.

"Weeding costs are 500 kyats per hour. There are also intermittent weeds. A person earns at least 10,000 kyats," Ma Shwe Yi, a weeding leader from Kyakan village, Magway Township, said.

The Township Department of Agriculture is applying GAP farming methods to ensure healthy and nutritious crop plantations in each camp area in Magway Township. Demonstration plots are being carried out in each camp to cultivate good quality sesame seeds.

The Department of Agriculture in Magway Township stated that it cultivates good varieties of crops with high yield and weather resistance.

In Magway Township, 183,562 acres of monsoon sesame, 113 acres of winter sesame, 253 acres of summer sesame and 117,082 acres of groundnuts are cultivated against the target of over 300,000 acres of oilseeds and sesame.

Local edible oil, black sesame, white sesame and groundnut are being exported to Japan, China and Korea every year, said U Lin Myat, Director of Magway Region Department of Agriculture.—Win Maung (Magway)/ GNLM

Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital, Mahamuni Buddha Image closed against COVID-19 resurgence

WITH an increasing number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Hsipaw town, the Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital OPD and Mahamuni Buddha Image have been halted temporarily starting from 30 June.

More than 40 COVID-19 confirmed patients were found in Hsipaw town and it is widely spreading in seven out of 11 wards in Hsipaw town. This is the reason why Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital OPD and Mahamuni Buddha Image have been closed temporarily.

"The number of COVID-19 cases is increasing daily. Thus, we have decided to close some of them. We have opened the OPD with our own decision and now closed again. The OPD is meant for the public from Hsipaw town. The OPD resumed its operation on 10 February because some of the private clinics are still being closed and people have nowhere to go when they feel sick. We have provided treatments for nearly 1,900 OPD patients free of charge in over four months. The hospital also donated cash to some patients because they do not have transportation charges to go back after having treatment," said a Sayadaw from Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital.

Sitagu Cakkudana hospital was established in 2008 and provided free eye care and operation service once every four months. But the operation of the OPD was suspended in late January 2020 because of the spreading of coronavirus. So far, the hospital has provided free eyes care service to nearly 30,000 patients. — Aye Maung/ GNLM

Cuba sets new record for daily COVID-19 cases

People wearing face masks are seen in a three-wheeler on a street in Havana, Cuba, 3 July 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CUBA once again set a record for the number of daily cases of COVID-19, with 3,475 infections and 15 deaths in the last 24 hours, the Ministry of Public Health reported on Saturday.

The ministry's director of hygiene and epidemiology, Francisco Duran, said in his daily television report that the number of cases had reached 200,728 and the number of deaths had risen to 1,337.

The western province of Matanzas has become the new epicenter of the disease on the island, with an incidence rate of 922.4 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

The government adopted new preventive health measures this week due to the increase in the number of cases, which include the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance and the implementation of more rigorous international sanitary controls.

It also includes continuing the national vaccination program with vaccine candidates Abdala, Soberana-02, and Soberana Plus.

So far, 6.39 million doses of Soberana-02 and Abdala have been administered, so that just over 2.79 million Cubans have received at least one shot. — Xinhua ■

Vermont leads US vaccine race

VERMONT - known for Bernie Sanders, maple syrup and the birthplace of Ben and Jerry's ice cream - has a new claim to fame: America's most-vaccinated state against Covid-19.

Home to red farmhouses and signs warning drivers of moose, the US's second-least populated state recently became the first to partially vaccinate 80 percent of eligible residents.

The rural, northeastern state has administered at least one vaccine dose to 82 percent of residents aged 12 and over, well above the US's national rate of 64 percent.

Its vaccination rate is more than double that of the worst-performing state Mississippi.

Officials and locals credit Vermont's success to widespread vaccine clinics, trust in political leaders and science and residents' strong sense of responsibility to their community. —AFP

An employee of Vermont Creamery receives a Covid-19 vaccine at work from a National Guard soldier. **PHOTO: AFP**

Decorate residences with flowery and vegetable plants

Most of the urban people reside at housing apartments whereas the rural people live in houses in fences. Nowadays, most of the urban residences are lack of vacant land areas because these residences are formed at the apartments of high-rise buildings.

The houses not only in the sub-urban areas but in the rural areas have a lot of spaces except for the housing buildings. As such, residents from the houses have chances to grow any plants such as vegetables, flowery plants, small and dwarf plants and other greening ones. On the other hand, these plants decorate the residences to be more pleasant.

> Everybody should consider that cultivation of plants will never face loss in the society. Therefore, all the residents in both urban and rural areas should choose the best option for cultivation of vegetables and flowery plants in their spaces.

For the people residing at the apartments of housing buildings, they have rare areas of even other kinds of residences. Their apartments are similar to the bird cages. They miss the chance of even breathing freeze air and taking brighter sunray. Consequently, the people from the apartments are facing carbon dioxide on a daily basis. Moreover, their souls are under detention due to lack of chance to enjoy the greening facilities of environment.

Fortunately, there is a good way to solve such problem of rural people. In this regard, the rural people need to choose the way of growing the greening plants. Vegetables can bear kitchen crops to the families whereas flowery plants can be offered to the religious images or decorated themselves with flowers. As such, cultivation of vegetables or flowery plants never brings loss to the residents.

In addition, flowery plants can be used in decoration at the apartments and houses to be more beautiful. As a significant point, these plants can emit oxygen at day time for better breathing of the residents. Sprouts, fruits, flowers and leaves can be supplied to neighbours so as to create better relations to each other.

As such, the plants grown at the apartments and houses can be used as tools of better relations with neighbours to be unity in the society. Everybody should consider that cultivation of plants will never face loss in the society. Therefore, all the residents in both urban and rural areas should choose the best option for cultivation of vegetables and flowery plants in their spaces.

■■■

Airlines dust off planes grounded by Covid

As travel picks up this summer, airlines are dusting off planes that were grounded during the pandemic, checking they are clear of fungus, bugs and bird nests before sending them back in the air.

IN Paris this week, a tow tractor grabbed an Air France plane that had been parked outside for a year at Orly Airport and brought it to a cavernous hangar where technicians quickly removed the tarpaulins.

Like most airlines, Air France took the overwhelming majority of its planes out of service during the pandemic as travel restrictions choked traffic to a trickle.

As much as 80 percent of its fleet was parked at the peak of the crisis.

The Airbus A321 at the Orly hangar will soon have to make up to seven flights a day as the summer season kicks off in Europe and Covid-weary travellers seek respite in sunny Mediterranean destinations.

Although planes that were grounded received regular maintenance, getting the Airbus ready to carry more than 200 passengers per flight again is not a quick job.

"There are a whole bunch of systems that were shut down and haven't been in operation for a long time and that we have to retest and recheck," said Vincent Rigaudie, one of people responsible for preparing Air France aircraft for flight at Orly.

Air France, like most airlines, took most of its planes out of service at their height of the Covid-19 pandemic and parked them on the tarmac. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We need to check oil levels in the hydraulics, we check all of the engine systems," he added.

Then aircraft are given a test flight to ensure all systems are operating normally before a plane is given the green light to return to commercial service.

In the hangar the size of several football pitches, teams of technicians normally work in shifts 24/7 to ensure Air France aircraft are fit to fly.

But the long hibernation of planes has created its own sort of problems that technicians must confront, Rigaudie explained above the din of shrieking loudspeakers meant to drive away pigeons.

The birds love to make their nests on parked planes, particularly on the wings at the level of the ailerons, and their droppings are corrosive.

"They don't need much room to get inside," Rigaudie said.

- Bugs and fungus -

Two other potential problems: the contamination of fuel tanks by fungus and insects blocking air speed sensors.

The tarps protecting the plane present their own challenge as humidity can build up under them.

Bags that absorb moisture were placed near the fan blades of the Airbus.

"These are to capture moisture that can stay inside the motor for the entire time it is parked," said technician Julien Breuzard.

Depending on where a plane is parked, such as in a hot and humid city exposed to pollution, more corrosion than normal can be expected.

At Orly, between 200 and 300 hours of work is needed to take a parked Airbus A320 family model aircraft and make it ready to fly again.

It all starts with a visual inspection, including using a micro-camera mounted on a long flexible tube to get into inaccessible areas. The Airbus has a computer system that detects malfunctions.

A drone is used to check out areas high up.

Then equipment is tested and repaired or replaced if necessary.

Batteries are reconnected and interior and exterior surfaces cleaned before the plane is ready to take passengers again.

SOURCE: AFP

■■■

Pandemic drives sea freight prices to record high

CONTAINER shipping prices have reached record highs some 18 months after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic which disrupted maritime logistics chains and drove demand sky-high.

"We are basically running out of vessels and of empty containers," Alan Murphy, head of the consultancy Sea Intelligence, told AFP.

"There's been a massive shortage of empty containers, they are in the wrong place, they are stuck in ports and not in Asia ready to be loaded."

The Freightos Baltic Index, a benchmark for major shipping routes, has more than tripled in a year to nearly $7,000 (5,900 euros) for a trip from China to the west coast of the United States.

A trip to Europe has exceeded $10,000, compared with just $1,600 at the same time last year.

Murphy said the unprecedented situation compounded the troubles of the last 10 years, which he said had been "really bad for the shipping lines".

Blighted by overcapacity in the sector, he said the firms "were losing money every time they were moving a container".

'Unprecedented drop'

The Covid-19 pandemic, which initially brought global shipping to a virtual standstill, did not bode well for the industry and led to "an unprecedented drop in demand", said Didier Rabattu, of Lombard Odier Investment Managers.

But this did not account for the trends among US and European consumers who during lockdown stopped spending in restaurants and theatres or going on holiday and instead used their money to purchase material goods -- many of them imported from Asia.

"Imagine how many televisions you can buy if you don't go skiing for a week with four people?" said Paul Tourret, director of France's Higher Institute of Maritime Economics (ISEMAR).

Disruptions to loading and unloading operations, from dockers falling ill and Covid restrictions to unforseen events like the shipping backlog caused the blockage of the Suez Canal in March, have only exacerbated the trend.

As a result, ship owners have never been in better shape.

The Marseille-based CMA CGM container and shipping company for example posted a net profit of more than $2 billion for the first quarter of 2021 alone, 40 times more than the previous year.

Its Danish competitor AP Moller-Maersk announced an even higher net profit of $2.7 billion for the first three months of the year -- 13 times what it saw last year.

'Reached a peak'

"It is true that ship owners are making a lot of money at the moment," Tourret said.

"But it is also a way for them to renew their fleets and accelerate their liquefied natural gas (LNG) programmes," he added.

CMA CGM placed an order in April for 22 container ships, more than half of which are LNG-powered.

Maritime transport is "one of the main emitters of sulphur dioxide", the French expert said, adding that although figures were favourable for each tonne transported, the sector nevertheless emitted levels of CO2 "comparable to Germany".

The price of container transport depends on the level of demand, but also on supply-side capacity to meet it.

The Covid-19 pandemic, which initially brought global shipping to a virtual standstill, did not bode well for the industry and led to "an unprecedented drop in demand", said Didier Rabattu, of Lombard Odier Investment Managers. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Whether or not shipowners decide to wage a trade war is a major factor," Tourret said.

"None of them has any interest in driving prices down. Their collective discipline today must be not to sell out," he added. The situation could last, Tourret said, driven in part by the need to transport perishable goods.

"If you are carrying perishable goods that will be worth nothing if they don't move, how much are you prepared to pay?" he asked.

SOURCE: AFP

■■■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Sunday 4 July, 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 5 July, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and Chin, Rakhine, Mon States, fairly widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Eastern Shan, Kayin States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. 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: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 July, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 July, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 July, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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CPC is the main driver of 'Chinese miracle'

By Seymur Mammadov | chinadaily.com.cn

A BIG important date for all of China - the 100th anniversary of the country's Communist Party(CPC) this year – is an important milestone for the entire Chinese society. This is the moment when it is worth looking back at everything that has been achieved and lived, and draw conclusions.

The current Communist Party of China has 92 million members, while at the dawn of its creation it had only 50 members. In that distant 1921, it was unimaginable that the creation of a new force based on the revolutionary workers' and peasants' movement would one day bring to life the very "Chinese miracle" that even the most ardent opponents of China grudgingly admit.

At the same time, the essence of the triumph of the Chinese model of development is simple - it is based on the sincere love and dedication of the people of China, who fervently believe in the sacred foundation of the Chinese state, its unshakable foundation - the Communist Party of China. It is this relationship between the leadership of the Communist Party and the common people that makes it possible to achieve unique results in all areas of the life.

According to the PRC, over the past eight years, 98.99 million people living in rural areas have overcome the poverty line. And 832 counties and 128 villages have been lifted out of poverty.

However, this is not just a trick or flashy statistics, but a prime example of the principle of mutual relations. Since 2013, the country has invested $ 246 billion in poverty eradication. As President Xi Jinping noted, starting from the late 70s, 770 million Chinese have been lifted out of poverty thanks to the investment.

ZHANG ZIHAN/FOR CHINA DAILY

One of the most deeply thought-out strategies of the parties in the foreign and domestic policy of China in the 90s is the successful decision of the CCP to develop a socialist economy with Chinese characteristics, the use of capitalist mechanisms, the introduction of private property and a market economy.

Thus, we can say that, being the most dynamically developing state in the world, using capitalist tools in the economy, China continues to be and remains a socialist country with humane positions and care for the interests of the common man.

Together with the creation of the most powerful competitive economy in the world, under the leadership of the Communist Party, China is successfully implementing the ideas and directions of socialist politics and economics. And they, in turn, make it possible to successfully realize China's leadership throughout the world. So, for example, China's policy of non-interference in the affairs of other countries, as well as active assistance to underdeveloped and developing countries, has been recognized across the world.

This approach allows China to successfully coexist in the modern world with states with more reactionary politics, while remaining not involved in world's destructive political processes, wars that can affect the viability, independence of states, etc. The CCP's strategy rests on higher values such as the equality and rights of peoples, the sovereignty of states and their prosperity.

The CCP does not consider itself entitled to impose its will on some and infringe on the rights of others - as, unfortunately, some developed Western countries do. However, if we try to analyze this policy of non-interference, China's equidistance from the "hot spots" on the planet and the policy of self-sufficiency, we will see that in the final perspective, an aggressive policy of imposing the own interests of a number of Western countries, the seizure of new spheres of influence in other regions does not lead to victorious results.

In this sense, an important socialist principle of China - close cooperation with developing countries, the development of their human and economic potential together, finds an important response in modern reality. The impulse of global development that Chinese investments brought to the economies of these countries made it possible for China to create, in cooperation with these countries, a transnational system of economic relations, the core of which is currently Beijing.

Remaining the main socialist power on the planet, adhering to the humanistic principles and messages developed by the Chinese Communist Party, based on the life and prosperity of an ordinary person, China is continuously progressing, becoming more powerful and stronger every day.

Sri Lanka tightens foreign currency outflows

SRI Lanka's central bank on Sunday further tightened controls on the outflow of foreign currency to combat a growing cash crunch triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. Foreign exchange reserves have almost halved since late 2019 to $4 billion after the rupee sank to a record low last year. The economy has been badly hit by the spread of the virus and lockdowns in its worst downturn since independence from Britain in 1948.

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka said overseas investments by local firms would be suspended for six months.

The amount of capital that companies and citizens can take out of the island nation would also be restricted, it added.

Sri Lanka has already banned imports of luxury goods and cars since last year to combat the foreign currency outflows. The government is planning to extend the import ban to mobile phones, computers and electronic consumer goods, local media reported recently.

Sri Lankan construction labourers work on a road in Colombo. **PHOTO: AFP**

The central bank said in a statement that the restrictions were to "assist and maintain the financial system stability".

International rating agencies have expressed concern over Sri Lanka's ability to service its huge foreign debt.

But central bank governor W.D. Lakshman has said the country will meet its debt obligations, which amount to $3.6 billion in the next six months.

Colombo has also borrowed from several Asian countries, including Bangladesh, China and South Korea, and expects to receive $800 million from the International Monetary Fund in August.—AFP

Nepal villages flooded as rivers swell after downpour

Many villages in the Rautahat district of Nepal have been inundated as swollen rivers drain out waters in low lying areas. Incessant rainfall in the Chure and upper lands have caused floods in various rivers and submerged many villages in central and southern parts of the district. The rains have brought floods in the Bagmati, Lal Bakaiya, Bhakuwa, Chandi, Aruwa, among other rivers.

The flood has inundated Banjaraha village in Ishnath Municipality, The Himalayan Times reported. More than 30 families have been displaced due to the flood, according to District Administration Office.

Floods have disrupted road networks in a dozen villages, including Banjaraha, Badaharwa, Bairiya, and Fatuwa. Floodwater from Bakaiya and Jhanjh rivers gushed into houses located at Chhatauna of Durga Bhagawati Rural Municipality.

The floodwater has also submerged district headquarters Gaur. –ANI

First astronauts at China's new space station conduct spacewalk

ASTRONAUTS at China's new space station conducted their first spacewalk Sunday, state media reported, as Beijing presses on with its extraterrestrial ambitions.

It was only the second time the country's astronauts have stepped out of their craft while in space.

Three Chinese spacemen blasted off in June, docking at the Tiangong station where they are to remain for three months in China's longest crewed mission to date. On Sunday morning, two of them exited the core cabin, said state broadcaster CCTV.

The first, Liu Boming, was transported via mechanical arm to a work site and the other, Tang Hongbo, moved by climbing on the outside of the cabin.

Nie Haisheng (centre), Liu Boming (right) and Tang Hongbo (left) blasted off in June. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Their mission involves elevating the panoramic camera outside the Tianhe core module, as well as verifying the robotic arm's transfer capability, state media said.

Television footage showed the astronauts preparing for the spacewalk by donning gear and conducting health checks while exercising in the cabin.

The astronauts were later shown opening the cabin door and exiting the module, in the first of two spacewalks planned for the mission -- both expected to last six or seven hours.

The launch of China's first crewed mission in nearly five years is a matter of huge prestige for the country, as Beijing marks the 100th anniversary of the ruling Communist Party this month with a massive propaganda campaign. To prepare, the crew underwent more than 6,000 hours of training. The Chinese space agency is planning a total of 11 launches through to the end of next year, including three more manned missions that will deliver two lab modules to expand the 70-tonne station, along with supplies and crew members.—AFP ■

Rebel-held Syria shifts power — towards

In rebel-held Syria, large solar panels have been installed to not only power homes but also for farmers, to pump water to irrigate fields. **PHOTO: AFP**

HUGE solar panels poke out of pumpkin and tomato fields in Syria's rebel-held northwest, where after infrastructure was destroyed during a decade of war, many have switched to renewable energy.

"We used to rely on diesel-powered generators, but it was a struggle with fuel shortages and price hikes," said Khaled Mustafa, one of dozens of farmers who set up panels in the Idlib region.

"So we opted for solar power instead," he said.

More than three million people live in the Idlib region in Syria's northwest, much of which is controlled by jihadist forces and other rebels.

Across Syria, at least 90 percent lack a stable power supply, according to the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP).

In rebel areas, there is little hope of state-provided electricity.

Instead, the dark blue silicon panels have become common -- installed on roofs, in hospitals or between tents in massive displacement camps.

Once small and smoky diesel generators used to power many homes.

But with regular fuel shortages sending prices soaring, solar panels are now viewed as a cheaper, more efficient and reliable alternative. In Mustafa's plot, solar panels hooked to rotating metal plates turn to follow the movement of the sun.

They are among 200 solar panels purchased two years ago by an agricultural cooperative of nearly 20 farmers, costing some $4,000.—AFP ■

Rescuers search for survivors in landslide-hit Japan town

RESCUERS in a Japanese holiday town hit by a deadly landslide searched for survivors Sunday, climbing across cracked roofs and checking cars thrown onto engulfed buildings as more rain lashed the area.

Two people have been confirmed dead after the disaster at the hot-spring resort of Atami in central Japan, with 10 others rescued and around 20 still missing, a local government official said.

Torrents of mud crashed through part of the town on Saturday morning following days of heavy rain, sweeping away hillside homes and turning residential areas into a quagmire that stretched down to the nearby coast.

"It's possible that the number of damaged houses and buildings is as many as 130. I mourn the loss of life," Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told ministers at an emergency meeting. "This rainy-season front is expected to keep causing heavy rain in many areas. There is a fear that land disasters could occur even when the rain stops," he warned.—AFP ■

Two people have been confirmed dead after the disaster at the hot-spring resort of Atami. **PHOTO: JIJI PRESS/AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Elsa kills 3 in Caribbean as storm closes in on Cuba and Florida

TROPICAL Storm Elsa churned late Saturday off the southwestern coast of Haiti, headed toward Jamaica and eastern Cuba as forecasters warned of heavy rains, flash flooding and mudslides.

"This rain may lead to scattered flash flooding and mudslides, some of which may be significant in nature," the NHC said.

The storm had maximum sustained winds pf 70mph as it passed 140 miles east of Kingston, Jamaica, per an 8 p.m. National Hurricane Center advisory.

Hurricane warnings were in effect from southern Haiti to the border with the Dominican Republic in the south, and tropical storm watches were in effect for regions including Florida and Cuba.—AFP ■

Aussie researchers to lead national program to reduce emissions from heavy industries

RESEARCHERS from Australian National University (ANU) will lead a national program to reduce emissions from heavy-polluting industries.

The federal government has recently announced 39 million Australian dollars (29.3 million U.S. dollars) in funding for ANU's Heavy Industry Low-carbon Transition Cooperative Research Centre over the next 10 years.

It will fund research into new ways to make steel and aluminium using carbon-neutral technologies.

Heavy industries account for approximately 20 percent of Australia's carbon dioxide emissions.

"We're looking at processes for making green steel using renewable energy like solar and wind, which if implemented could eliminate up to 9 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions," John Pye from ANU's College of Engineering and Computer Science told The Canberra Times, which published the story on Saturday.—Xinhua ■

China's Zhejiang aims to boost digital economy

East China's Zhejiang Province has set a goal of bringing the added value of digital economy to about 60 percent of its GDP by 2025.

According to the province's 14th Five Year Plan on the development of digital economy, industrial chains and clusters of digital security, integrated circuits, and high-end software will be constructed by 2025, with the number of valid patents in digital economy reaching 80,000.

The province will also improve its digital trade environment, aiming to increase the total volume of imports and exports in digital trade to 1 trillion yuan (about 154.5 billion U.S. dollars). Zhejiang has been a strong player in the digital economy sector. In 2020, the added value of digital economy of the province reached 3.02 trillion yuan, accounting for 46.8 percent of its GDP.— Xinhua ■

Merchants select goods at the Yiwu International Trade Market in Yiwu City, east China's Zhejiang Province, 20 February 2021. **PHOTO: GONG XIANMING/XINHUA**

Future of Laos, its fiscal stability, hinges greatly on China: Expert

The Southeast Asian nation of Laos is struggling to meet its debt obligations amid sovereign downgrades and depleted foreign reserves.

Peter Janssen, writing in Asia Times said that the future of the country's economy, and its fiscal stability, hinges greatly on mainland China.

This week Laos redeemed a USD 150 million bonds listed on the Singapore Exchange, chipping away only slightly at its ballooning external debt owed over the next five years, reported Asia Times.

Moody's and Fitch credit rating agencies both downgraded Laos' sovereign ratings last year in response to the nominally communist country's escalating public debt, declining foreign exchange reserves and concerns about potential defaults on debts coming due, reported Asia Times.

Tuk Tuks carrying tourists on a street in Luang Prabang. **PHOTO: AFP**

The economic slowdown in 2020 came at a time when Laos' public debt was on the rise, reaching 72 per cent of GDP according to Lao government estimates last year, and with big loans falling due.

In August 2020, Moody's downgraded its sovereign rating for Laos to Caa2 with a negative outlook to reflect its growing concerns about the double whammy of falling foreign exchange reserves and rising debt. Fitch followed suit in September 2020, downgrading its Laos rating to CCC from B-, reported Asia Times. —ANI ■

US trade deficit with Japan narrows 17.5% in May

The US goods trade deficit with Japan narrowed 17.5 percent in May from the previous month to $5.03 billion, the Commerce Department said Friday.

The deficit with China widened 1.9 percent to $26.32 billion, while that with Mexico declined 10.9 percent to $8.57 billion, the department said.

From the start of 2021, Japan ranked as having the fifth-largest trade deficit with the United States after China, Mexico, Vietnam and Germany. Globally, the US deficit in the trade of both goods and services widened 3.1 percent to $71.24 billion. US exports rose 0.6 percent to $206.02 billion, the highest since December 2019, while imports increased 1.3 percent to $277.26 billion, according to the department. The global trade figures are measured on a balance-of-payments basis after seasonal adjustment, and the country-by-country and regional breakdowns are based on unadjusted customs-cleared data.— Kyodo ■

European vacation: car rentals complicated and expensive

AFTER long months of lockdowns and curfews Europeans are looking forward to jetting off for a bit of sun and sand -- only to find that their dream vacation risks turning into a nightmare as no rental cars are available.

In many areas popular with tourists cars are simply not available or subcompacts are going for a stiff 500 euros ($600 per week).

Car rental comparison websites show just how expensive renting a vehicle has become for tourists this summer.

According to Carigami, renting a car for a week this summer will set tourists back an average of 364 euros compared to 277 euros two years ago.

For Italy, the figure is 407 euros this summer compared to 250 euros in 2019. In Spain, the average cost has jumped to 263 euros from 185 euros.

According to another website, Liligo, daily rental costs have nearly doubled on the French island of Corsica. At the resort city of Palma on the Spanish island of Mallorca, rental prices have nearly tripled.

Today's problem is a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Faced with near absence of clients, selling off vehicles to raise cash made a lot of sense for car rental firms struggling to survive.

"Everyone drastically reduced their fleet," said the head of Europcar, Caroline Parot.

Until the spring, most companies still had fleets roughly a third smaller than in 2019, she said.—AFP ■

Long waits at car rental counters is something that many vacationers in Europe may face this summer. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Envision: China's renewable energy giant

Employees work at the Envision battery manufacturing plant at Nissan's plant in Sunderland, north east England. **PHOTO: AFP**

PLANS were announced this week for two new electric car battery plants in France and Britain involving Envision, the Shanghai-based company that has quietly built a global renewable energy empire.

Envision's two billion euro ($2.4 billion) electric car battery plant in Douai, northern France, will supply French carmaker Renault, it said, becoming France's second so-called "gigafactory".

Carmaker Nissan -- Renault's Japanese partner -- also said Thursday that it will invest £1 billion ($1.4 billion) to build facilities including an electric car battery plant with the Chinese company at its Sunderland manufacturing site in the UK.

Who's behind Envision?

Envision was founded in 2007 after its founder Zhang Lei returned to China from the UK.

Zhang, a former energy analyst, aims to build "infrastructure for a net zero world," according to a company report.

At the time the company was founded, solar panels were the hot sector receiving political support from Chinese policymakers.

But Envision, whose Chinese name "Yuanjing" means "prospect", set its sights instead on wind turbines, which were then considered more inefficient.

The company equips its turbines with sensors which it monitors in order to optimise their performance.

Envision says it has installed more than 12,500 wind turbines in China and other countries including India, France, Argentina and Kazakhstan.

Auto batteries

Envision, which brands itself as a champion of renewable energies, has since branched into the electric car battery sector.—AFP ■

Bezos leaves enduring legacy as he steps away as Amazon CEO

AS he prepares to blast off into a new career stage, Jeff Bezos leaves an enduring legacy after transforming Amazon from a modest online bookseller into one of the world's most powerful corporations.

Bezos, 57, was set to hand over the job of Amazon chief executive on Monday to Andy Jassy and turn his attention to his private space exploration firm, philanthropy and other endeavors. He will retain a key role, however, as executive chair at the technology and e-commerce colossus he founded 27 years ago. The transition comes after a spectacular streak for Amazon, which has drawn attention for its innovations. But the firm has also been vilified over business practices that have crushed competitors and raised concerns over treatment of a workforce of more than one million.

This April 24, 2015 handout photograph obtained courtesy of Blue Origin shows Jeff Bezos at New Shepard's West Texas launch facility before the rocket's maiden voyage. **PHOTO: BLUE ORIGIN/AFP**

"Bezos has been a transformational leader... in book selling, the retail market, cloud computing and home delivery," said Darrell West, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Technology Innovation.—AFP ■

Fiery feni: Making a 500-year-old Indian liquor cool again

FIVE centuries after Goans began making feni -- a pungent, fermented liquor not for the faint-hearted -- a new crop of distillers is hoping to take the spirit global. But first, they have to convince other Indians to drink it. Usually made from crushed cashew apples or coconut palm sap, the potent beverage has in recent decades fallen out of favour in Goa -- a former Portuguese colony south of Mumbai -- with the arrival of foreign liquor brands.

"I wanted to translate traditional knowledge for a modern audience," said Hansel Vaz, whose Cazulo distillery uses centuries-old techniques to make feni while inventing cocktails that are easy on the nose and smooth on the palate.—AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0178N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0178N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-7-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TCI ARJUN VOY.NO. (100162021)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TCI ARJUN VOY.NO. (100162021)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-7-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SEA MASTER VOY.NO. (125S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SEA MASTER VOY.NO. (125S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-7-2021** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Madrid's cut-down Pride march belies bumper LGBTQ day

THOUSANDS of people turned out for a pared-down Pride in Madrid on Saturday, with floats and carriages missing because of precautions to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Even with attendance capped at 25,000, the mood was festive, with streets festooned with rainbow-coloured paraphernalia.

The slogan this year: was "Human rights are not negotiable, they are legislated: comprehensive Trans Law now".

It reflected moves to pass a law to allow any Spanish citizen 16 or over to change their registered sex.

The legislation would remove a requirement for applicants to first get medical reports supporting the move. If passed, Spain will become one of very few countries to allow self-determination of gender.

The legislation "expands people's opportunities for happiness", said Irene Montero, a lawmaker from the radical left Podemos party, which is backing the proposed legislation.

"We're making history with Pride 2021," she said.

Podemos is backing the proposed law in the face of reticence from its socialist coalition partners.— AFP ■

More than 100 migrants rescued in Channel in one day

OVER 100 migrants, including 29 children, were rescued in a single day as they tried to cross the Channel to reach the British coast on six makeshift boats on Friday, maritime authorities in France said.

Migrants on one boat contacted French rescuers to report that they were in difficulty off the northern French coast.

The 55 castaways on board, including 14 women and 26 children, were rescued, the maritime prefecture said in a statement.

More migrants, including one pregnant woman, were then rescued from other boats.

All 111 migrants picked up were returned to the French ports of Dunkirk or Calais. — AFP ■

Alleged fraud: Senior cardinal, nine others face Vatican trial

Pope Francis has promised to clean up the Vatican's finances. **PHOTO: AFP**

AN influential Cardinal and nine others will be tried over alleged financial wrongdoing linked to the purchase of a plush London property, the Holy See announced on Saturday.

In a first within the Vatican legal system, Italian Cardinal Angelo Becciu, who was a leading figure in Rome and a close ally of Pope Francis, will appear before a tribunal from July 27.

The 73-year-old was dismissed from a powerful Vatican job last September, after Francis told him he had been accused of syphoning off Vatican charity funds to help his siblings.

Becciu will be prosecuted over embezzlement, abuse of power and witness tampering in the case, linked to a scandal concerning a loss-making Vatican investment in central London that happened under his watch. He has always professed his innocence.

Before his dismissal, he led the Vatican's department on sainthoods. From 2011 to 2018 he was the Substitute for General Affairs, a role akin to chief of staff in the Vatican's central bureaucracy.

Among the other defendants in the Vatican trial are Rene Bruelhart, the Swiss former head of the Financial Information Authority (FIA), the Vatican's financial watchdog.

He will also face abuse of power charges, as will Enrico Crasso, an investment fund manager who controlled millions of euros of Vatican money, including private donations to the Church.

Among the others facing Vatican justice are former FIA director Tommaso Di Ruzza and Italian consultant Cecilia Marogna, known as "the Cardinal's Lady" for her links with Becciu.— AFP ■

Biden backs removing assault prosecution from US military chain of command

US President Joe Biden on Friday endorsed removing the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases in the armed forces from the military chain of command. **PHOTO: ALEX BRANDON/POOL/AFP**

US President Joe Biden on Saturday endorsed removing the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases in the armed forces from the military chain of command.

The recommendation was one of the chief proposals made by an independent commission set up by Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin to look into the handling of sexual assault in the military.

Austin said he would work with Congress to amend military justice laws and remove the prosecution of cases of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse from the military chain of command. Dedicated offices in each military department would be created to handle the prosecution of such cases, the defense secretary said.

Currently, commanders are responsible for the investigation and prosecution of crimes allegedly committed by their subordinates, a system critics say often presents conflicts of interest and other issues. The proposed changes were an "overdue step in the right direction", Biden said. "We need concrete actions that fundamentally change the way we handle military sexual assault and that make it clear that these crimes will not be minimized or dismissed," he said in a statement. "I look forward to working with Congress to implement these necessary reforms and promote a work environment that is free from sexual assault and harassment for every one of our brave service members."—AFP ■

Philippine military plane in deadly crash after it 'misses the runway'

A Philippine military plane carrying troops crashed in a southern province Sunday after missing the runway on July 4, 2021. **PHOTO: FACEBOOK/ROTARY CLUBS OF THE PHILIPPINES/AFP**

A military plane carrying at 92 people "missed the runway" and crashed in the restive southern Philippines on Sunday, the armed forces chief said.

At least 17 people have been killed and 40 people have been rescued so far from the burning wreckage of the C-130 transport aircraft, according to a statement by Defence Minister Delfin Lorenzana. Lorenzana said rescue efforts are ongoing. He said the aircraft had 92 people on board, including three pilots and five crew. The rest were army personnel. The plane was trying to land on Jolo island in Sulu province when the incident happened at 11:30 am local time (0330 GMT), said General Cirilito Sobejana. "While transporting our troops from Cagayan de Oro (on the southern island of Mindanao), it missed the runway, trying to regain power but it didn't make it," Sobejana told local media, describing the accident as "very unfortunate".

"Responders are at the site now, we are praying we can save more lives," Sobejana told AFP.

Sobejana said the 40 rescued were being treated at the nearby 11th Infantry Division hospital.—AFP ■

China's foreign minister says Indo-Pacific strategy should be dumped

CHINA'S Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday the Indo-Pacific strategy led by the United States is aimed at countering Beijing in a group and claimed the strategy "should be dumped at a trash heap."

Speaking in a forum on global security issues discussed under China's initiative, held at Tsinghua University in Beijing, Wang warned the strategy adopted by the United States, Japan and other countries is forming a siege against Beijing.

Apparently referring to the Group of Seven industrialized countries and the Quad grouping of the United States, Japan, India and Australia, Wang also said China opposes a framework of cooperation to "fuel rivalry" and "an action to accelerate division."

As the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has been increasingly promoting relations with Taiwan, Wang claimed the United States is encouraging Taiwan's independence.

Regarding Japan's decision to release treated radioactive water into the sea from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant announced in April, Wang urged Tokyo not to discharge the water without the consent of neighboring countries and international organizations.

In the speech made two days after China celebrated the 100th birthday of the ruling Communist Party on Thursday, he said, "Today's China is no longer the same country of 100 years ago. — Kyodo ■

Supplied photo shows Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaking in a forum on global security issues on July 3, 2021, in Beijing. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Work starts on Chile's first post-dictatorship constitution

Workers in Chile prepare the National Congress headquarters before an elected assembly meets to draft the country's new Constitution. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHILE officially starts writing a new constitution Sunday to replace the one it inherited from the era of dictator Augusto Pinochet and is widely blamed for deep social inequalities that gave rise to deadly protests in 2019.

The country's biggest protests in 30 years of democracy won Chileans a referendum last October in which a majority voted for a new constitution to be drawn up by a body of elected members. This 155-member body, elected in May and called a "constitutional convention," will on Sunday officially start its work of crafting a new Magna Carta for a new Chile.

It is a representative collection of Chileans -- lawyers, teachers, a housewife, scientists, social workers, vets, writers, journalists, actors and doctors -- many of whom had themselves partaken in the protests.

The youngest is 21.

Half are women, by design, and 17 seats were reserved for representatives of indigenous groups.The assembly holds the power to draft a new path for the country after decades of political and economic power concentrated in the hands of an elite, many from the right and defenders of the old constitution's free-market guarantees. "They come from the same schools, they go to the same three universities and most of them have lived in Santiago, in the most affluent neighborhoods," Marcela Rios, assistant representative of the United Nations Development Program in Chile, told AFP of the old guard.—AFP ■

Taliban seize key Kandahar district after fierce fighting

THE Taliban have captured a key district in their former bastion of Kandahar after fierce night-time fighting with Afghan government forces, officials said Sunday, the latest area to be seized since US troops began their final withdrawal.

The insurgents have pressed on with their campaign to capture territory across Afghanistan's rural areas since early May when the US military began the pullout.

The fall of Panjwai district in the southern province of Kandahar comes just two days after US and NATO forces vacated their main Bagram Air Base near Kabul, from where they led operations for two decades against the Taliban and their Al-Qaeda allies.

Over the years, the Taliban and Afghan forces have regularly clashed in and around Panjwai, with the insurgents aiming to seize it given its proximity to Kandahar city, the provincial capital.

The province of Kandahar is the birthplace of the Taliban, who went on to rule Afghanistan with a harsh version of Islamic sharia law until being overthrown by a US-led invasion in 2001.

Panjwai district governor Hasti Mohammad said Afghan forces and the Taliban clashed during the night, resulting in government forces retreating from the area.

"The Taliban have captured the district police headquarters and governor's office building," he told AFP.—AFP ■

French judge tasked with probing Rafale jet sale to India

A French judge has been tasked with investigating the controversial 2016 multi-billion-dollar sale of Rafale fighter jets to India on "corruption" suspicions, the French national financial prosecutors' office (PNF) said on Friday.

The 7.8-billion-euro ($9.3-billion) deal for 36 planes between the Government of India and French aircraft manufacturer Dassault has long been mired in corruption allegations.

The PNF had intially refused to investigate the sale, prompting French investigative website Mediapart to accuse it and the French Anti-corruption Agency of "burying" suspicions surrounding the September 2016 deal. In April, Mediapart claimed "millions of euros of hidden commissions" were given to a go-between who helped Dassault conclude the sale, of which "some... could have been given as bribes" to Indian officials.

Dassault retorted that no wrong-doing was flagged in the group's audits.

After the reports, France's Sherpa NGO, which specialises in financial crime, filed an official complaint for "corruption" and "influence peddling" among other accusations, prompting an investigating magistrate to be designated to probe the deal.

Sherpa had already asked for an investigation into the deal in 2018, but the PNF took no action.

In this first complaint, the NGO had denounced the fact that Dassault chose Reliance Group as its Indian partner, a conglomerate headed by billionaire Anil Ambani, who is close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dassult had intially won a contract in 2012 to supply 126 jets to India and had been negotiating with Indian aerospace company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).—AFP ■

Dassult had intially won a contract in 2012 to supply 126 jets to India and had been negotiating with Indian aerospace company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). **PHOTO: 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.

Myanma Esport: Burmese Ghouls says good bye to team players

Myanmar's Esport Team, Burmese Ghouls seen after securing the 1st Runner Up title of the M2 World Championship in Singapore on 24 January, 2021. **PHOTO: BURMESE GHOULS FACEBOOK PAGE**

MAIN players of the Myanma Esport Mobile Legends' Burmese Ghouls team: ACE, KID, RubyDD, Maybe, and Dee along with their coach PVNDV parted ways with their team and will continue their careers in new teams said the Burmese Ghouls team's officials.

The breaking news was released on the official page of the Burmese Ghouls Mobile Legends Bang Bang team on 3 July.

"As we, the Burmese Ghouls Organization, have been struggling in 2021 and our Esport organization, Mobile Legends: Bang Bang, is no longer able to support the future of our main team, and its players," Burmese Ghouls officials said. "Nevertheless, team leader ICE ICE will be with the organization and participate in our future activities.

"Our Burmese Ghouls Organization wishes our brothers, who made pride of Myanmar on behalf of the Burmese Ghouls Organization during international Esport tourney, and wishing them to possess many successes in their future careers and in their new teams, and to be successful as Myanmar honorary players.

"Special thanks to the players and fans for the many memories and achievements we have had together. "Like we always said: Once Ghouls, Always Ghouls!," Burmese Ghouls officials added.

Myanmar's Mobile Legends team, Burmese Ghouls secured the second prize (1st Runner Up) of the M2 Mobile Legends: Bang Bang World Championship 2021 after facing a narrow 3-4 loss to Filipino Bren Esports team in the Grand Final of the Esports championship at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore on 24 July, 2021.

The team was the very first team in Myanmar Esport history to reach the Grand Final of the World Championship. —GNLM

Rampant England fire warning as Euro 2020 dream heads back home

ENGLAND return to Wembley two wins from a first European Championship title after recording their biggest ever victory at the tournament with a 4-0 demolition of Ukraine in the quarter-finals in Rome.

Having successfully negotiated a trip to the Stadio Olimpico with a flourish, Gareth Southgate's team will have the support of some 60,000 fans when they take on Denmark for a place in the final Wednesday.

Three years on from a bitter World Cup semi-final loss to Croatia, England have the chance to move on from that disappointment and end a long wait for silverware.

With the remainder of the competition to be played in London and Covid-19 restrictions severely limiting travelling fans, they are unlikely to get a better opportunity of adding to the 1966 World Cup win.

"Teams have to go on a bit of a journey and they have to go through some pain sometimes to progress," said Southgate.

"We've had some great nights over the last four years but we've also had some painful ones and that's definitely helped us prepare for another tournament."

Unlike in Russia, where Harry Kane's hot start soon became a distant memory as England entered the knockout phase, the Tottenham striker looks to have rediscovered his form at the perfect moment. — AFP ■

Hjulmand pays tribute to Eriksen's part on 'road to Wembley'

DENMARK coach Kasper Hjulmand said Christian Eriksen remains part of his team after the Danes extended their remarkable run at Euro 2020 to the semi-finals with a 2-1 win over the Czech Republic in Baku on Saturday.

Eriksen suffered a cardiac arrest in his country's opening match of the tournament against Finland and needed resuscitation on the field before making a full recovery in hospital.

A shell-shocked Denmark went on to lose 1-0 to Finland when the match resumed shortly afterwards and were then also defeated 2-1 by Belgium. — AFP ■

Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said Christian Eriksen remains part of his team after the Danes extended their remarkable run at Euro 2020 to the semi-finals with a 2-1 win over the Czech Republic in Baku on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**