

NATIONAL

Union Minister for Construction inspects road, bridge construction works in Ayeyawady, Magway regions

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Myanmar-Thai experts on workers discuss migrant workers' affairs

PAGE-5

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.

Ayeyawady sees developing transport infrastructures



Elephant rides in Ayeyawady.



The Pathein-Yangon Highway emerges as a development instance of Ayeyawady.

A

YEYAWADY Region was once included in the Mon Nya region, one of three Mon regions—Mon Ti, Mon Sa and Mon Nya. Dagon and Dala were in the Mon Ti region; Thaton and Mottama were in the Mon Sa region; Pathein and Myaungmya were parts of the Mon Nya region. Despite being an area where significant Myanmar kings did not establish, the region has been rich in unique historical features. Although the lower part of Myanmar was called “RaMaNya” in the past, it

is unknown when it was called. Only the name “RaMaNya” was first found in the very ancient chronicles of Siho (Chapter 76 of the Mahavamsa). King Alaung Mintayar, the founder of the Konbaung dynasty,

SEE PAGE-2



An aerial view of the Shwethoungyan Bridge on the Chaungtha-Shwethoung Road.

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Announcement of Union Election Commission

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

MNHRC Statement on dismissal and release of prisoners prosecuted under Section 505-A of Penal Code Statement No. (10/2021)

PAGE-5

LOCAL BUSINESS

Watermelon growers suggested 50% production drop next growing season

PAGE-6

NATIONAL

COVID-19 virus found from repatriated sailors in Kawthoung

PAGE-7



Ayeyawady sees developing transport ...

FROM PAGE-1
organized the Mon people from the RaMaNya region to form the Third Myanmar Empire.

At present, Ayeyawady Region is formed with six districts, 26 townships, 45 towns, 302 wards, 11,860 villages in village tract in order to adapt the political, administrative, economic and social conditions.

Because of the abundant water resources, local people in Ayeyawady Region mainly rely on navigation and they are engaged in traditional commercial fisheries and agriculture. In terms of agriculture, the region has the distinction of being the State’s granary, with abundant rice. However, there has not been a significant change because people in the area rely on only waterways.

Today, Ayeyawady Region has a remarkable development due to the road networks implemented by the State and the region is accessible any season. The road networks were originally started with five lines, but have expanded to eleven. These include:

Maubin-Yelalay-Shwetaung-maw-Kyaikpi-Mawlamyinekyun road (44 miles and 6 furlongs); Mawlamyinegyun- Hlinebone-Thitpotekwin- Pauk-Pyinsalu road (72 miles and 3 furlongs); Labutta- Thingangyi- Pyinsalu road (35 miles and 2 furlongs);

Labutta (Kyaukphyarlay)-Thonegwa- Oktwin-Htakesun road (55 miles and 1 furlong); Bogale- Kyanechaung- Kadonkani road (42 miles); Bogale-Satsun-Htawpine-Amar road (38 miles and 5 furlongs); Pyapon-Kyonegadun-Satsun road (17 miles and 6 furlongs); Jakkar-Seintaung-Mawtinsun road (95 miles); Bogale-Mawlamyinekyun-Kyonmange-Wakema-Myaungmya road (22 miles and 5 furlongs); and Pathine-Ngaputaw road (19 miles and 5 furlongs).

In terms of bridges, a total of 93 bridges over 180 feet such as Nyaungdon bridge, Bo Myat Tun bridge, Pathein bridge No (1) and (2), Myaungmya bridge; 942 concrete bridges under 180 feet, 44 Bailey bridges over 180 feet; 61 Bailey bridges under 180 feet; 9 wooden bridges over 180 feet, 50 wooden bridges under 180 feet; 1,560 pipe culverts totalling 2,759 bridges have been built.

Along with the road networks and bridges, there are four main roads in Ayeyawady Region: Yangon-Nyaungdon-Danubyu-Ngathainggyoung- Gwa- Thandwe-Taungup-Sanekhamaung-Tattaung-An-MraukU-Kyauktaw-Buthidaung-Maungtaw-Sittway Road; Pathein -Ngathainggyoung - Kwinkauk- Batye-Ushitpin-Padan-Kanpya-Kasunma-Myaing-Salingyi-Monywa



Beach hotels signify the development of Ayeyawady.

Road; Pathien-Yaykyi-Kyonpyaw-Ahtaung-Hinthada-Ingapu-Myanaung-Kyangin-Batye Road; Pathein-Mawtinsun Road; and the nine Union crossing roads: Yangon-Nyaungdon-Danubyu-Ngathainggyoung-Gwa Road; Yangon-Nyaungdon-Pantanaw-Wakema-Kyonmange-Labutta Road; Yangon-Nyaungdon-Kyaunggon-Pathein Road; Yangon-Kyaiklat-Mawlamyinegyun Road; Yangon-Dedaye-Pyapon-Bogale-Kyaikpi-Mawlamyinegyun Road; Yangon-Pyapon-Dedaye-Kyongadun-Daw Nyein-Seikma-Amar Road; Yangon-Twantay-Maubin-Mawlamyinegyun Road; and

Pathein- Ngaputaw- Labutta Road; and Pathein-Myaungmya-Labutta Road. With these roads, Ayeyawady Region is developing from waterways to land routes.

In addition, major projects such as the construction of Pathein-Monywa-YeU Road and the discovery of new oil fields in the region are encouraging for local people. Then when Myanaung oil field and Shwepyitha oil field are discovered in the region, the residents could shout out “Black gold can be mined from the black ground”.

With highway roads and bridges, road networks, river pumping projects and their re-

sults monsoon paddy and summer paddy fields, universities and colleges, marine science research laboratories, television relay stations and microwave stations, rural roads that can be accessed in all seasons, domestic satellite communication stations and foreign submarine cable stations, natural beauty such as Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha beaches, international standard hotels and other sectors such as livestock, forestry, telecommunications, economic, social, education and healthcare sectors, Ayeyawady Region is now developing. – Chan Myae Maung/GNLM

Announcement

1. It is found that some foreign correspondents based in Myanmar express the current government of the State Administration Council as military council or military junta or junta in their news stories and exaggerate their news quoting rootless sources and false news related to Myanmar.

2. The State Administration Council just controls various State duties in line with the provisions of the state of emergency under the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and it has been clearly announced that the government is not a coup d'état government.

3. The United Nations and global countries have recognized the State Administration Council as the legal government of Myanmar.

4. Especially, some foreign news agencies need to express news in line with news media ethics instead of quoting and exaggerating inaccurate and uncertain news and undermining the country by disseminating false news to global people.

5. The government emphasizes the holding of press conferences and the correct and quick replies to queries so as to ensure the correct and swift flow of information.

6. The announcement was hereby issued that some foreign news agencies were warned not to further apply the usage of military council/military junta/junta for the government in the future and not to quote and exaggerate the false news, and action will be taken against them under the existing laws if they apply wrong usages, quote and exaggerate fake news and disseminate false information.

Ministry of Information

Health and Sports Ministry opens COVID-19 call centre

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

The people can dial the following telephone numbers from 8 am to 9 pm on a daily basis for facts about the COVID-19 disease.

Contact numbers:

(1) 067-3411508

(2) 067-3411509

(3) 067-3411144

(4) 09-882557991

(5) 09-882557992

(6) 09-882557993

Only working in unison can benefit all

If you wish for the country to be developed and prosperous, all of the country's resources – financial, natural and human – have to be used together for the equal development of all races.

If the Bamar does what it wants, if the Kachin does what it wants, if the Shan, Kachin and Chin do not all cooperate, there will be no benefits for anyone. Only when you try working in unison will you know its benefits.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Bogyoke Aung San at the Panglong Dinner on 11 February 1947)



Special appeal court passes four exceptional civil appeal cases, hears four more civil cases

THE special appeal court comprising Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Judges U Kyi Thein, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hong and Daw Khin May Yi have passed interlocutory orders for special civil appeal case No 96/2019 (Mandalay) and 97/2019 (Mandalay) at office No. 1 of Supreme Court of the Union yesterday morning and handed down judgments on four exceptional civil appeal cases — No 71/2019 (Shan), No 95/2019 (Yangon), 99/2019 (Yangon) and 107/2019 (Magway).

Moreover, they heard four exceptional civil appeal cases— No 88/2019 (Sagaing), 92/2019 (Ayeyawady), 93/2019 (Ayeyawady) and 35/2020 (Ayeyawady) in line with the restrictions of prevention and control of COVID-19. — MNA

Announcement for taking action under Important Goods and Services Act

IF the authorities find storage of medical supplies for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, medicines and foodstuffs with the purpose of selling and distributing them at higher prices and manipulation of market prices, action will be taken against those offenders under the Important Goods and Services Act.

Ministry of Commerce

Union Minister for Construction inspects road, bridge construction works in Ayeyawady, Magway regions

UNION Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay met Ayeyawady Region Administration Council Chairman U Ye Myint, council members and departmental officials and discussed the development of infrastructure in the region on 4 July.

Then, the Union Minister and party inspected the upgrade of nine-storey Pathein General Hospital, Pathien-Kankalay road section, Kankalay-Yay Kyi- Bat Ye road maintenance works conducted by Building Construction Team (15) of maintenance Department, 150 feet long Ywar Thit Gyi-Pauk Tuu bridge constructed by building Rural Road Development Department in Ahlone Village-tract in Kyangin Township of Ayeyawady Region and upgrade work of mile post 100/1

at Pathein-Monywa road (Ayeyawady Region).

The Union Minister also visited the 1,300 feet long Mindon Bridge (Yaynatha) constructed by the Construction Team (3) of Bridge Department, 270 feet long Gway Cho Bridge on Thayet-Minhla road section constructed by Special Team (3) and 180 feet long Htan Kine Bridge construction site.

The Union Minister also met Magway Region Administration Council Chairman U Tint Lwin, council members and other departmental officials as per COVID-19 health rules yesterday. During the meeting, he discussed the development of road-bridge transportation networks, prioritized sectors and regional development programmes.



The MoC Union Minister is seen inspecting the Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) yesterday.

He then inspected the (Magway), Nay Pyi Taw-Taung road section and bridge conservation works. — MNA

2,969 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 July, total figure rises to 168,374

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 168,374 after 2,969 new cases were reported on 5 July 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 139,473 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,461 after 42 died.—MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

5 July 2021



1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in Nagmon, Khaunglanphu, Hsawlaw, Ingyanyan and Phakant townships of Kachin State and Papun Township of Kayin State.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 227,069 eligible voters in Nagmon, Khaunglanphu, Hsawlaw, Ingyanyan and Phakant townships of Kachin State and Papun Township of Kayin State. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 88,738 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 22,387 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 887 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 14,396 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
3. Findings in respective townships were as follows;

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Township sub-commission	List from Immi-gration depart-ment	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CSC
1	Nagmon	25	4,899	4,398	25	19	376
2	Khaunglanphu	36	8,909	5,565	571	113	1,172
3	Hsawlaw	18	4,363	2,926	394	9	328
4	Ingyanyan	7	2,006	1,939	69		30
5	Phakant	105	184,062	50,702	18,572	746	12,196
6	Papun	25	22,830	23,208	2,756		294
	Total	216	227,069	88,738	22,387	887	14,396

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Nagmon, Khaunglanphu, Hsawlaw, Ingyanyan and Phakant townships of Kachin State and Papun Township of Kayin State together with the respective township election sub-commission, heads of police force, Immigration and Population, administrators and representatives of parties under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
5. According to the inspection, a total of 216 polling stations in these six townships took out 261,599 ballots and used 136,257 ballots. It left 124,879 ballots instead of 125,342 ballots. The difference was 3,644 ballots and it found 3,181extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Subject	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Nagmon	25	6,506	4,368	2,138	2,134	54	50
2	Khaunglanphu	36	11,253	7,330	3,923	3,921	4	2
3	Hsawlaw	18	5,602	3,042	2,560	2,539	21	
4	Ingyanyan	7	2,800	1,424	1,376	1,376		
5	Phakant	105	209,892	104,039	105,853	105,411	2,823	2,381
6	Papun	25	25,546	16,054	9,492	9,498	742	748
	Total	216	261,599	136,257	125,342	124,879	3,644	3,181

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of six townships, the numbers of eligible voters are more 138,331 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens who had turned 18 in 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).
7. There are 22,387 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI “Preparation of Voting Roll” stated, “Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time.” But, there were 887 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 14,396 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these six townships.
8. At No (5) polling station of No (5) Ward of Nagmon Township, they did not register the eight additional voters in Form (1) and allowed them to cast vote.
9. 14 voters in Khaunglanphu Township, another 4 voters in Hsawlaw Township and 32 voters in Phakant Township were found on the voter lists and allowed to cast vote although they were under 18 on the election day.
10. The Form (1) books used for Pyithu Hluttaw at No (28), (34) and (36) polling stations in Khaunglanphu Township, No (12) polling station in Hsawlaw Township and No (14), (16), (19), (46), (63), (68) and (72) polling stations in Phakant Township were found missing and so they were not examined.
11. It did not found the signatures of voters (or) fingerprints in Form (1) books used at No (70) polling station in Seik Mu Village-tract and No (92) polling station in

SEE PAGE-5

To benefit the State

THE teachers who joined the CDM due to misunderstanding based on the weakness in administrative measures and political attacks need to report back to the respective schools. The requirements of teachers will be fulfilled during the school opening period. In performing State responsibilities, Council Members need to consider from different perspectives so as to benefit the State.

(Excerpt from the speech of the meeting 10/2021 of the State Administration Council by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 10 May 2021)

FROM PAGE-4

- Haung Par Village-tract of Phakant Township.
12. They deleted the personal information of U Nyi Tun, voter list number (1685) and filled the data of U Nyi Nyi Than at No (20) polling station in Lone Khin Village-tract of Phakant Township.
13. Findings in Nagmon, Khaunglanphu, Hsawlaw, Ingyanyan and Phakant townships of Kachin State and Papun Township of Kayin State were as follows:-
- (a) There were 135,967 voters and they used 136,257 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 290 more than the numbers of voters.
 - (b) It found 3,644 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots.
 - (c) It found 813 extra ballots at some polling stations.
 - (d) In voter lists Form (1), they did not fill the additional voters and allowed them to cast vote just with handwriting registration.
 - (e) Those who are under 18 were found on the voter lists and allowed to cast votes.
 - (f) They removed the personal data of the original voter in Form (1) and filled in other information of another voter.
 - (g) In voter lists Form (1), they did not fill signatures or fingerprints of voters and allowed the voters to cast votes.
 - (h) The signatures of ward/village-tract sub-commission chairman and secretary were not found on every page of Forms (1) according to the respective Hluttaw Election Rules 15 (a).
 - (i) Names of the voters, voter list number, polling station number, ward/village-tract names and voters' signs were not filled in ballot receipts used in some polling stations for casting votes.
 - (j) Some of the ward/village-tract election commissions failed to return the ballot receipts and extra ballots as per the law and so the ballots were found missing.
 - (k) The non-identity voters were on the voter lists and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any national identity cards.
 - (l) They conducted measures that violate the law when they started collecting advance ballots.
 - (m) They released the COVID-19-related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.
14. It found voting frauds in Nagmon, Khaunglanphu, Hsawlaw, Ingyanyan and Phakant townships of Kachin State and Papun Township of Kayin State. The excess/shortage ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Union Election Commission

Myanmar-Thai experts on workers discuss migrant workers' affairs

MYANMAR-THAI experts on workers held a virtual coordination meeting yesterday.

The Myanmar delegation led by Director-General U Maung Maung Than of the Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Thai delegation led by Mr Phairoj Chotikasatien, Director-General of the Department of Employment joined the meeting.

During the meeting, the leaders exchanged views on conducting COVID-19 tests on

Myanmar migrant workers, the extension of health insurance and work permit until 13 September 2021, MoU between two governments, employment agreement, issuance of Certificate of Identity (CI) cardholders, who completed their four-year term visa and worked under MoU system in Thailand, not to return to Myanmar during COVID-19 pandemic, the establishment of CI centres, processes to provide legal stay for undocumented migrant workers and rights of Myanmar migrant workers. —MNA



MNHRC Statement on dismissal and release of prisoners prosecuted under Section 505-A of Penal Code Statement No. (10/2021)

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is heartened by the State media news that 24 out of those performing artists, film artists and musicians prosecuted under Section 505-A of the Penal Code, 86 male and female prisoners who are registered and 2,210 male and female prisoners under trial at the prisons and jails in Nay Pyi Taw and respective regions and states, totalling 2,296 have been dismissed from their cases and released in accordance with the laws and procedures.

It is learned that those prosecuted prisoners released include journalists, according to Announcement 6/2021 of the Myanmar Press Council. The Commission believes that such dismissal of charges against those prisoners under prosecution, including artists and journalists, from their cases in accordance with the laws and procedures will also hearten the relevant families, citizens,

international and regional human rights organizations.

At this juncture when the humanity including Myanmar is threatened by Covid-19 Pandemic, dismissing the charges in accordance with the laws and procedures like this is a very significant measure from the humanitarian and human rights perspective and, in the view of the Commission, will go some way in contributing to the efforts for the prevention, control and treatment of Covid-19.

The MNHRC also welcomes the fact that the released journalists are urged in the Myanmar Press Council Announcement 6/2021 to uphold the media ethics and standards required for the development of the Fourth Pillar. The MNHRC fervently hopes that similar further measures will follow sooner and give impetus to the building of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Watermelon growers suggested 50% production drop next growing season



The exports of watermelon drastically plunged as against last year as watermelon supply is exceeding the demand and transport delay triggered by the heightened COVID-19 measures in the border areas harm the quality of the fruits.

WATERMELON growers flooded markets with excess supply this year and led to a market failure. Consequently, they are suggested to reduce the sown acreage acres by 50 per cent for the coming season, cross-border fruit depots stated.

This year, about 30,000 trucks of watermelon and 12,000 trucks of muskmelons were conveyed to China via the land border. Nevertheless, a thousand trucks went in vain as they stranded in the road part, affecting the quality of the fruits. Some watermelons have been disposed of as well.

The exports of watermelon drastically plunged as against last year as watermelon supply is exceeding the demand and transport delay triggered by the heightened COVID-19 measures in the border areas harm the quality of the fruits. As a result of this, the traders are encouraged to keep market balance and maintain the quality, Khwar Nyo Fruit Depot stated.

As China is stepping up the coronavirus containment

measures in the border areas, the exporters of agricultural products including watermelon are suffering amid the COVID-19 resurgence.

This year, some watermelon trucks returned from the Myanmar-China North-East border checkpoint as the watermelon was not traded well and the truck drivers were no longer bear the cost and tariff on the China border.

Additionally, starting from 20 April 2021, the coronavirus test is mandatory for cross-border traders. Following the detection of the coronavirus cases in border Ruili, China restricted border access at the Man Wein checkpoint. Ruili-Kyalgaung river crossing has been also closed. Only Kyinsankyawt post is available for cross-border trade, causing delays and long queues. It takes about a month for a truck to enter the checkpoint.

As a result of this, the cross-border fruit depots suggest that the growers harvest the watermelon depending on the market condition to avoid a

mismatch between supply and demand.

A truckload of watermelon (855 variety) fetches 45,000-65,000 Yuan in mid-March. The price drastically plunged to 13,000 Yuan in mid-May and it does not even cover the truck freight rate.

Myanmar's watermelon market earlier relied only on China. Myanmar shipped 45 tonnes of seedless watermelon to the Dubai market in December 2020 and January 2021.

After the country achieves success in the Dubai market, Myanmar has a plan to expand its market to Hong Kong SAR, the UAE and Qatar, the association stated.

On 5 January 2021, 105th mile Fruit Wholesale Centre released a statement that the number of watermelon and muskmelon trucks for exports is to be set to govern the market.

Myanmar yearly exports over 800,000 tonnes of watermelon and about 150,000 tonnes of muskmelons to China, the association stated. — KK/GNLM

About 7,000 cattle stranded in Muse

WITH China stepping up border security for COVID-19, live cattle trading has ground to a halt, and about 7,000 cattle have been stranded in Muse town since December 2020.

The domestic companies are sending cattle in line with Standard Operating Procedure to China through the Muse border.

"Before COVID-19, cattle were highly demanded. During the early outbreak of coronavirus, about 10 traders from China entered Myanmar to purchase over 1,000 herds of cattle per day. The resurgence of COVID-19 in Myanmar prompted China to tighten its border areas with Myanmar. Consequently, it was seven months that live cattle trading was halted. We are not sure when the cattle trading will go back to normal," a cattle trader explained the reasons for trade suspension.

"The traders are facing many hardships as it is difficult to take care of the cattle in yards during the rainy season. The traders have been burdened by labour wages, cost of feedstuff, healthcare services, and other general costs," said a trader from Muse.

Furthermore, Chinese traders are constantly purchasing the cattle on the black market across border between Myanmar and China, said Chair U Soe Naing of the Mandalay Region Cattle Exporters Association.

At present, the black market has been stronger. The legitimate market has halted since late 2020.

"The illegal market is happening. At present, the border trade is illegally carried out like the trade four years ago," U Soe Naing

stressed.

Following about 10,000 cattle stranded in Muse last year, traders embarked on the illegal sales, he continued.

For legitimate trade, China permits live cattle import only after ensuring the cattle is free from 20 diseases including Foot and Mouth Disease, along with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. Yet, those import criteria do not matter on the black market.

That is why Mandalay Region Cattle Exporters Association requested the officials concerned to deal with this black market and strive for resumption of the cattle trade.

Myanmar's live cattle export is heavily relying on China market due to a good price although Myanmar has other external markets such as Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

The Ministry of Commerce grants a permit to each company for 100 cattle export, and the permit is valid for three months. The companies can be taken legal action if they do not sell the cattle during the three months.

Live cattle export was allowed in late 2017 to eradicate illegal exports, creating more opportunities for breeders, promoting their interests and generating more revenues.

Myanmar shipped US\$360 million worth of animal products, including cattle, to the external markets in the financial year 2018-2019.

The value of animal product exports dropped by \$100 million in the 2019-2020 FY as against a year-ago period, following negative impacts of COVID-19. — Htet Myat/GNLM

Rice price rises on lower stockpile

THE rice price has risen after stockpiles in hands of farmers and traders have fallen, according to Mawlamyine Rice Wholesale Centre's trade data.

On 1 June, the rice prices moved in the range of K23,500-36,500 per bag depending on the rice quality and varieties. The prices surged to K25,300-39,400 per bag on 30 June.

The figures showed a gap of K1,700 to K3,000 per bag depending on the varieties

of the rice.

Furthermore, as per the 2020 rice price data, the price of staple rice usually increases in the rainy season. Consequently, the price gain is expected during the monsoon season this year.

Nevertheless, the rice market is sluggish as the majority of low-and-middle-income people do not have much money on hand for now. — NN/GNLM



The Ministry of Commerce grants a permit to each company for 100 cattle export, and the permit is valid for three months. The companies can be taken legal action if they do not sell the cattle during the three months.

COVID-19 virus found from repatriated sailors in Kawthoung

A Rapid Diagnostic Antigen Test Kid (RDT) test was conducted in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region on 4 July, and 17 hotel-quarantined crew members were diagnosed with COVID-19 positive said officials from the District Public Health Department.

“Almost every day, people are infected with the virus in the form of domestic infection in the recurrence of COVID-19 virus. Crew Change is being carried out in the Andaman Sea near Kawthoung, where foreign airlines have been suspended due to the outbreak of the virus,” said Kawthoung District Hospital medical Superintendent

Dr Lin Htike.

“There have been some cases of the virus in the crew, but today’s large numbers are the first to be discovered,” Dr Lin Htike added.

Those 17 crew members who were infected with the virus were evacuated from the quarantined hotels to the private ward of the District Hospital by ambulances of Kawthoung Township Charitable Organization and the Red Cross.

As of 5 June, 30 people in Kawthoung Township have been diagnosed with the virus and are receiving medical treatment. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)/ GNLM



Those 17 crew members who were infected with the virus were evacuated from the quarantined hotels to the private ward of the District Hospital by ambulances of Kawthoung Township Charitable Organization and the Red Cross.

Nearly 200 people infected with COVID-19 in Bamauk township in five days

NEARLY 200 people were infected with COVID-19 in Bamauk township, Sagaing region in five days, said an official from Bamauk township hospital.

According to the initial report of the health volunteers, a total of 195 new cases of COVID-19 infections have now been linked to a recent outbreak in Bamauk township, Sagaing region.

The COVID-19 case was found on 19 June at a KTV restaurant. On the first days of COVID-19 reported cases, a total of 56 workers from KTV were infected with COVID-19. About 21 people from Bamauk Myoma police sta-

tion, two staff members from the forest department and one staff member from the township administration department were also reportedly infected with COVID-19 on 30 June. Then, the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases were 77 on 1 July and 18 cases on 2 July.

At present, we are detecting the COVID-19 on the people who are connected with the suspected patients. So far, we haven’t found patients with bad health conditions. We are worried that our township will be worse in health conditions like Kalay and Tamu townships. We need more vol-

unteers to help in this situation. People are urged to follow the COVID-19 rules and regulations.

Currently, we could not send those swab tests to the National Health Laboratory (NHL). The infected patients are staying at the new hospital, old hospital, border development school and township sports hall. If the number of confirmed patients is increasing, we will let them stay in the school, said a volunteer staffer.

There were no reported cases in the first and second waves of COVID-19 in Bamauk Township. — ACM/GNLM

COVID-19 preventive health checkpoint to reopen in Sagaing district effective 5 July

A COVID-19 preventive health checkpoint to screen the travellers is reopened in the entrance gates of Sagaing district beginning from 5 July.

The truck drivers and their helpers are allowed to enter the Sagaing district only if they could show a certificate of COVID-19 clearance from its relevant regions. The authorities from the Sagaing district COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee are conducting the COVID-19 tests on the truck drivers and their followers, heading to other regions from the Sagaing region at Sagaing’s 700th Ground and will issue the COVID-19 clearance certificate.

“The committee prohibited the table service at the shops beginning from 5 July to 19 July. The shops are allowed only the take-away service. The committee has been controlling the region because it is connected with stay home townships. All the truck drivers have to be detected COVID-19 test. Then,

the committee will issue the 72-hour COVID-19 clearance certificate. The truck drivers and their followers are allowed to enter the Sagaing region only if they could provide the COVID-19 clearance certificate. The trucks drivers en route to other regions from Sagaing are also detected COVID-19 test and they are issued with the clearance certificate,” said an official from COVID-19 committee.

“The COVID-19 tests will be conducted at the old stadium starting from 5 July. Then, we are arranging to reopen the COVID-19 preventive health checkpoint in every township of the entrance gate. But, the travellers who could provide the clearance certificates are allowed to enter the township,” he added.

In order to control the spreading of COVID-19 infection in the Sagaing region, all the visitors who will come from the stay-home townships must stay for quarantine. — Aye Maung/GNLM

Farmers get profit as okra thriving in Kyauktan village

FARMERS are feeling happy as okra (ladies’ fingers) plantations are thriving in Kyauktan Village, Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, said local farmers.

“Okra is suitable for growers if it grows fast and the pests

can be controlled in time. If the plant is good, it can produce 13 to 15 pods per tree and more than 10,000 plants per acre. They can earn more than 800,000 to 900,000 kyats per season,” said Daw Mya Aye, an okra grower in Kyauktan



These okra plantations are ploughed in rows and watered seven times to make weeding and spraying easier. Okra is sprayed with pesticides every 10 days, and the fruit begins to bear fruit one and a half months after planting and harvests two months later.

village.

These okra plantations are ploughed in rows and watered seven times to make weeding and spraying easier. Okra is sprayed with pesticides every 10 days, and the fruit begins to bear fruit one and a half months after planting and harvests two months later.

Customers pay 6 kyats per bag of okra, depending on the strength of the plant. It takes three to four months to harvest.

Farmers in Kyauktan village are mainly engaged in agriculture, so they grow okra, cucumbers and other kinds of vegetables.

Vegetables and flowers plantations are grown with groundwater all year round,” okra grower Daw Mya Aye added. — Zeya Htet (Minbu)/ GNLM

Strive to show culture and manner of nation and nationals to tourists

THE tourism industry creates millions of jobs and business opportunities in global countries. It is a drive for new generations to enjoy natural and ancient cultural heritages and preservation tasks.

Some tourism developing countries earn income from the tourism industry as a key role in the State economy. And, it is the third-largest export sector of the global economy. Moreover, the tourism sector is of great importance in the exploration of new sites for humans, culture and exposures as well as conservation of natural biodiversity.

As the tourism industry is important not only for Myanmar but for the whole world, all global countries including Myanmar are implementing the tourism sector in line with the sustainable development goals of the United Nations for systematic development in the long run.

According to the data of the Asia-Pacific Tourism Board on arrivals of international tourists in 2021-23, the number of tourist arrivals to Myanmar is expected to reach 0.5 million to 1.8 million in 2023. But such a situation depends on control of COVID-19 infection and peace and stability of the State.

Since its establishment, the State Administration Council prioritizes the resumption of domestic tourism services. In the Thingyan period of 2021, more than 430,000 local travellers paid visits to destinations in the nation. As variant COVID-19 infection started in early June, officials of the Ministry of Health and Sports, volunteers and people should participate in the prevention, control and treatment of the pandemic. Myanmar needs to implement Agri Tourism, Farming Tourism and Nature-based Tourism in addition to ecotourism, community-based tourism, marine tourism and so on to be able to earn income for booming the tourism industry.

In fact, securing success in the tourism industry needs work in concert with local authorities, relevant organizations and local people. Moreover, residents in relevant tourism areas need to follow disciplines to show their good and able citizen manner to the tourists without too much eagerness to earn the income while giving assistance to the local and foreign tourists who need helps.

In fact, the tourism service is a chance for the country and the people to show their fine and polite culture and manner to the guests at an opportune time.



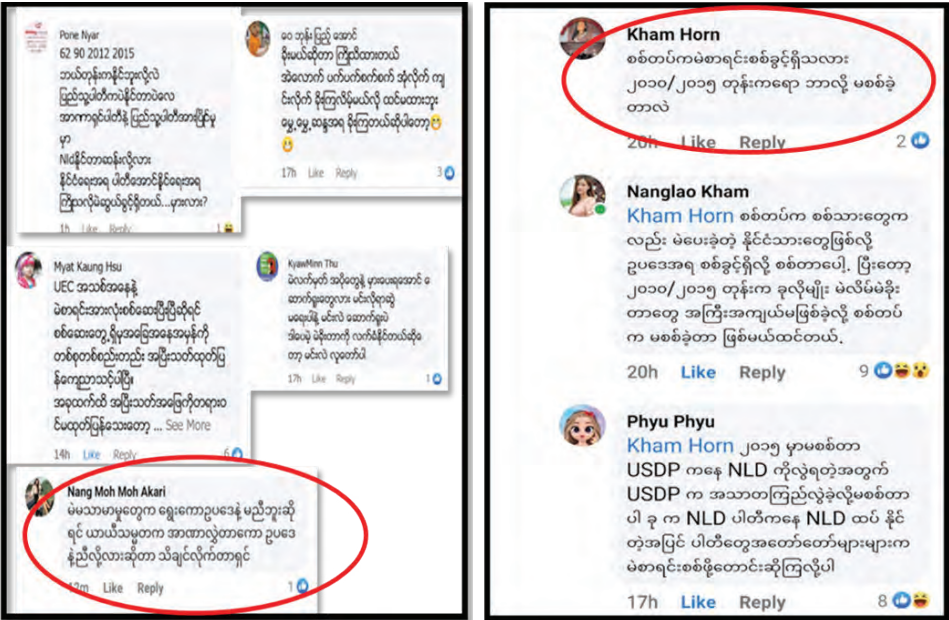
The Questions People Want to Know their Answers

By Min Khant

RECENTLY, my articles ‘the undeniable facts that led to widespread election frauds’ was described in the State-run newspapers and shared and reviewed by some interesting readers on their social network of Facebook. I also like to extend my special thanks to those who discussed and commented reviews on my article. As the outcomes, it found that the article provoked curiosities, questions and emotions from the heart of people regarding the electoral frauds occurred in 2020 election. That is a good point as it provides me an opportunity to stifle the emotions of uncertainties and respond to the questions of people and thus, the article emerges.

also publicly announced that she would be “above the president”. Hence, what she said was already violated the Section 16 of the Constitution, ‘The Head of the Union and the Head of Executive of the Union is the President.’ Moreover, inabilities of the then President to dutifully discharge his assigned duties also proved the failures to follow the provisions defined in Section 71 (a) ii/iv/v of the Constitution, being disqualified for the President and inefficient discharge of duties assigned by law.

Another point is the open interferences of the then President and Daw Aung San Su Kyi in party activities. Sections 64 and 232 (k) clearly define that the President and Union Minis-



Comments and discussions of people for the article ‘The Undeniable Facts that Led to Widespread Election Frauds’

Next question is whether the Tatmadaw has the right to inspect the voter lists. The answer would be ‘yes’. Not only the Tatmadaw, but also every single citizen has the right to copy the voter rolls according to Section 15 (b)(2) of relevant Election By-Laws. Copying the voter rolls is to thoroughly inspect it with evidences. It also means they are the data commonly owned by all people. Eligible voters of all Tatmadaw personnel cast votes at respective polling booths along with people. That is the right of every individual and organization. The Tatmadaw naturally has the right to maintain the State not derail from the tract of Democracy in national politics according to the Constitution. Not only the Tatmadaw, any institution can inspect the voter rolls. Hence, everybody can find out that the Tatmadaw had declared the findings of its inspection and demanded the proper actions of responsible body of UEC. I think the former UEC would be in trouble in case it get questioned why they rejected the inspections if they assumed the election was flawless.

Some people fire questions: why the UEC could not finish their lingering inspections, when the final declaration will be out and how the responsible ones will be taken action. I think the questions will directly concern with the current UEC. As far as I know, 309 out of the 315 townships where the

elections were held completed necessary inspections. After inspections in remaining townships finish, I think the clear findings will emerge with strong evidence of how votes were stolen and electoral frauds occurred. At that point, rather than showing the statistics, it is really important to reveal how they prepared to commit electoral riggings, what kinds of evidence were found, and how international organizations interfered in the elections. For instance, showing evidence like ‘here are the ballot receipts,’ ‘here are remaining ballot papers,’ ‘here are the extra ones’ and therefore, ‘how many are missing’. I think it is also necessary to reveal the original list of election sub-commission members in handwriting of chief ministers of regions/states and the original copies of the instructions in favour of the NLD party victory in the elections. To remain as the history records and take lessons for the next elections, the findings of the inspections should be released with clear evidence and records.

There is no need to fire questions as it was undoubtedly obvious that the NLD-led administration interfered in and dominated the functions of former UEC. In some cases, it is reported that there were unscrupulous attempts of election sub-commissions and ward/village administrators appointed under the arrangements of NLD chief ministers to exclude the supporters of other political



The article ‘The Undeniable Facts that Led to Widespread Election Frauds’ shared by people on social network with reviews

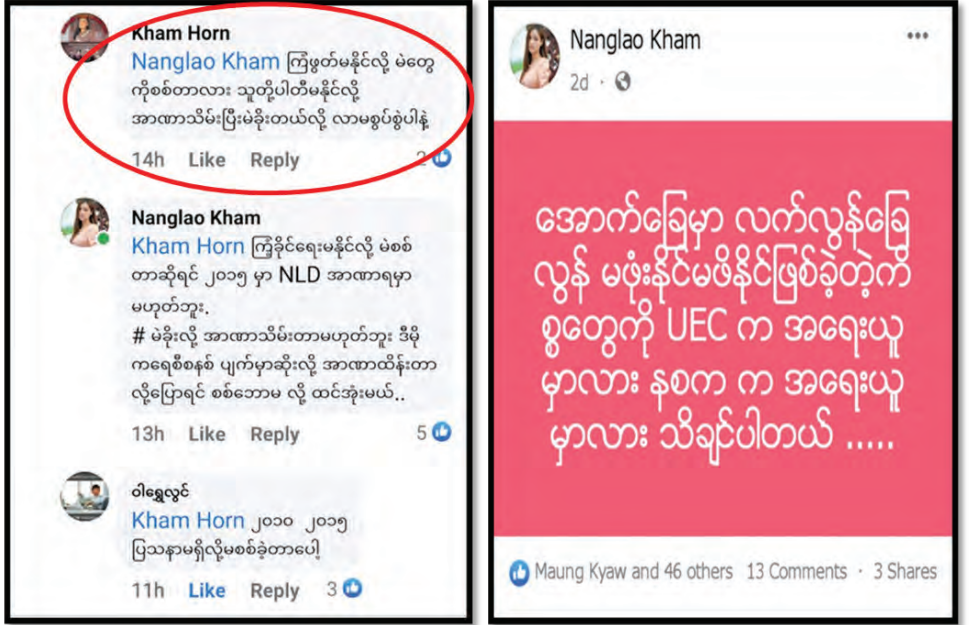
With regard to the recent political developments in Myanmar, the question of which the people want to know its clear answer is ‘why did Tamadaw assume the State’s responsibilities?’ For the question, I will simply answer so, ‘Tatmadaw assumed the State’s responsibilities in accord with the State Constitution to avoid the political system of one-party dictatorship and not to derail the democracy system people desire since the electoral frauds in 2020 election led to unacceptable situations’. Therefore, I also pointed out how the previous NLD-led administration, NLD party and the UEC cheated the 2020 general elections and made electoral frauds in my first article ‘the undeniable facts that led to widespread election frauds.’

Another question of which people want to know is ‘whether the declaration of state of emergency by the Acting President is in line with law’. To perceive the answer of ‘yes’, it will require to study the Constitution. In reality, since inception of NLD-led government, they commenced to cheat the provisions of Constitution by a hair’s breadth enacting the State Counsellor law to create a post for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. There were also many incidents in which Daw Aung San Suu Kyi herself had acted like a President going beyond the boundary of State Counsellor law. She

ters shall not take part in its party activities during the term of office. Such legislations demarcate the party politics from national politics in order to avoid the conditions of exceeding party politics and in which doing party interests using the government power. They violated the laws and conducted election campaigns despite knowing such legislations in the time of high COVID-19 infection rate leading to a certain situation where they have been charged under the Natural Disaster Management Law by Myanmar police force.

In case of such situation, Section 73 (a) of the Constitution promulgates that one of the two Vice-Presidents who has won the second highest votes in the Presidential election shall serve as Acting President if the office of the President falls vacant due to his resignation, death, permanent disability or any other cause. The term ‘any other cause’ in the above Section encompasses the matters of being disqualified for the President and inefficient discharge of duties assigned by law and violation of the Constitution as well as the cases to be taken by Police Force. Against the backdrop of the above-mentioned situation, the declaration of state of emergency by the Acting President is totally in conformity with the Constitution.

parties in the voter rolls. I expect that appropriate actions will be seen against those who committed such offences. there would be no such situation that led to the declaration of state of emergency. To draw a conclusion, even if the



Emotional comments and questions of people regarding the contents of the article

The next question is whether the Tatmadaw made the inspections on the voter rolls since its allied party USDP did not win the previous elections. From my personal perspective, if it was the problem triggered by Tatmadaw for not accepting the election result, the Tatmadaw would have inspected the voter rolls of the by-elections held in the time of USDP-led government and the 2015 general elections. In the said elections, NLD party had won landslide victories. However their victories were just the outcomes of clean, free and fair elections reflected by the wills of people. Since the relevant UEC had also well settled the disputes in conformity with laws, Tatmadaw could not find any matters to inspect the voter rolls, or reject or question on the election results. Only in the 2020 general election, other political parties requested the Tatmadaw to inspect the voter rolls since there appeared obvious bloated voter lists, unjust and irregular activities, and voting riggings. It was triggered by the disputes of party politics. Therefore, it is found out that Tatmadaw had to inspect the voter rolls. If the former UEC led by U Hla Thein had addressed the disputable voter lists in the just and fair manner,





Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Monday 5 July 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 6 July, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions.

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: Moderate monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal.

100 years of achievements

By MARCOS CORDEIRO PIRES | China Daily Global

SINCE its founding a century ago, the Communist Party of China has steadfastly led the Chinese people towards the dream of national rejuvenation.

Few countries in the world have a past associated with one of the great civilizations of history, but only the Chinese civilization can boast of having more than 4,000 years of continuity.

Few countries in Asia and Africa that were under the domination of European imperialism managed to regain their status as a great power as in the past. Among these few is China.

Few countries have managed to overcome scientific and technological backwardness and match the world's greatest powers. In 1949, after 100 years of humiliation, only 20 per cent of the population in China was literate and it had only a few thousand scientists. Today, China is the country with the most people training in engineering, mathematics, science and information technology. This achievement has enabled the country to become the second-largest economy and the largest exporter and importer in the world.

Few developing countries, by their own efforts, have managed to build a sophisticated defense system and an aerospace programme. China, in 2020, was the first country to land a probe on the far side of the moon. It has developed the leading 5G technology and holds the patents in artificial intelligence. China also leads the high-speed train sector, building in 10 years a network that exceeds the sum of all other countries' lines.

Few countries that have suffered from imperialism and colonialism have managed to organize strategies to eliminate extreme poverty. Hunger is an open wound in most developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. But in 2020, China managed to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty after 40 years of reform and opening-up, one of the most outstanding achievements in human history.

Worldwide, millions of people have died of COVID-19. Many developed countries have suffered a sharp drop in their GDP because of the pandemic and still face lockdowns that continue to hamper the economy. China, the first country to be hit hard by the virus, has managed to



SONG CHEN/CHINA DAILY

largely contain the cases of infection, has a shallow death rate per million and has reorganized its economy, being the only G20 country to grow last year. It has developed vaccines that are helping dozens of countries in the world to overcome the pandemic, mainly Brazil, where out of every 10 vaccines applied, nine are from China. While national selfishness is on the rise worldwide, China has become the primary supplier of inputs and vaccines to contain the coronavirus.

When looking for the reasons for China's success, two answers can be found: the determination and resilience of the Chinese people and the organizational capacity of the Communist Party of China.

The CPC is heir to the indignation of the Chinese youth that manifested in May 1919, when they denounced the Treaty of Versailles, which granted former German protectorates in the country to the Japanese. Revolutionary consciousness advanced with the creation of the CPC in July 1921, when Marxist ideas and the Russian Revolution's success excited the struggle against imperialism, factionalism and corruption that had weakened the country. But the CPC did not only have

an anti-imperialist action. It presented a socialist programme that promised a better life for the urban working class and the large mass of farmers.

The great victory obtained on Oct 1, 1949, was achieved after much struggle and perseverance, not only against reactionary nationalists but against Japanese militarist imperialism. The consolidation of the People's Republic of China and the country's stabilization were achieved with great difficulty, including a costly war in the Korean Peninsula between 1950 and 1953. Also, due to an ongoing search for a Chinese way to socialism, which differed from that of the Soviet Union, the leadership of the CPC incurred mistakes, such as the "great leap forward" (1958-60) and the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), but which served as a beneficial experience for the later phase, in 1978, when the reform and opening-up period began.

Western analysts often divide China's history by separating the legacy and experiences that occurred during the leadership of Chairman Mao Zedong from the period led by Deng Xiaoping. It is a mistake, because without Mao's estate, Deng era's accelerated development

could never have occurred. The CPC, under the leadership of Mao, withstood international pressure, divided the rural land among villagers, contributed to women's autonomy, organized a campaign for mass education, created a heavy industrial sector and built a strong defence capacity. In other words, it guaranteed the means for national sovereignty and the next steps.

Under Deng's leadership, the country shifted its focus as the "fundamental contradiction" was no longer the class struggle but the fight against backwardness and poverty. This new approach contributed strongly to the stability of the country and the CPC, despite some setbacks. The Deng era enabled China's reintegration into the world economy, reintroduced the market economy, and outlined "socialism with Chinese characteristics". The following generation of leaders, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, persevered on Deng's path, strengthening the economy and laying the foundations for the continuous improvement of the Chinese people's well-being.

The successes resulting from China's rapid growth have brought new contradictions, which are currently being addressed by President Xi Jinping's leadership. Since 2013, new challenges have arisen such as promoting a new-type of urbanization, the improvement of living standards in rural areas; the widening of income disparities; the negative impacts of industrialization on the environment; the limitations of the middle-income trap; the crisis of multilateralism; the emergence of nationalism at the global level; the pressures from Taiwan separatists; the trade war initiated by the United States; and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. All these issues are complex topics, but with the experience acquired by the millions of officials and leaders of the CPC and the strong support of all Chinese people, all these problems can be overcome and China will achieve its goal of being a socialist and fully developed nation in 2049.

As in life, the CPC has made mistakes and enjoyed successes, but the balance has always tipped heavily in favor of the latter.



New Zealand's largest Pfizer vaccine shipment arrives ahead of schedule

THE largest shipment of Pfizer vaccines yet has arrived two days ahead of schedule thanks to a joint effort by the Ministry of Health, Pfizer and logistics company DHL, COVID-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins said on Monday.

The shipment of 150,000 doses touched down on Sunday afternoon.

The vaccines were taken straight from the tarmac at Auckland airport to the storage and distribution centre, where quality checks were carried out to ensure ultra-low temperatures were maintained during the flight and that none of the vials were damaged in transit, Hipkins said in a statement.

"Staff worked late last night to pack and get the vaccine ready for shipment by road and air to District Health Boards (DHBs) and vaccination centres around the country today," Hipkins said.

"With our first July shipment safely on the ground and 1 million doses arriv-

ing this month, over the coming weeks we can start to ramp up the number of vaccines being administered," he said.

New Zealand had distributed nearly all of its supply of the Pfizer vaccine in storage, giving DHBs enough stock to last until Wednesday, said the minister. — Xinhua ■

Pope Francis undergoes colon operation: Vatican

POPE Francis, 84, underwent a surgery Sunday for an inflamed large colon, a Vatican statement said.

The pontiff was admitted to Rome’s Gemelli University Hospital “for a scheduled surgery for symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon”, it said.

The condition causes potentially painful inflammation of the diverticulum, a pocket that can form on the colon walls and which tend to multiply with age.

A potential complication is an abnormal narrowing of the colon.

Earlier Sunday, the pope gave the weekly Angelus prayer at St Peter’s Square.

There, he announced that he would visit Slovakia in September after a brief stop in Hungary to celebrate a mass in Budapest.

In the afternoon, the pontiff



People attend the Sunday Angelus prayer delivered by Pope Francis from the window of his study overlooking St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on 4 July 2021. PHOTO: AFP

arrived at the clinic accompanied by his driver and one close

aide, and Italian media said he was in the operating room a few

hours later.

Following the operation,

a statement from the Vatican said he has reacted well to the intervention.

The pontiff was expected to spend the night in hospital, according to medical sources quoted by Italian news agencies.

In recent years, the pope has had to cancel some public appearances and sometimes has difficulty walking. Born on 17 December, 1936 in Argentina, Francis lost part of his right lung at the age of 21. He also suffers from a hip problem and sciatica.

Francis’ visit to Slovakia will include the cities of Bratislava, Presov, Kosice and Sastin, the Vatican said in a statement. Although more detailed plans for the trip will be announced later, there was no indication the pope intended to meet Hungary’s political leaders during his stop in Budapest. — AFP ■

China’s electronic information manufacturing sector maintains fast expansion

CHINA’S electronic information manufacturing sector continued to steadily expand over the first five months of the year, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) shows.

The added value of electronic information manufacturers with annual operating revenues of at least 20 million yuan (about 3.1 million US dollars) jumped 21.5 per cent year on year, with a compound annual growth rate of 12.2 per cent over the past two years, according to the MIIT.

The export delivery value of major enterprises in the sector rose 21.3 per cent year on

year in the January-May period, while fixed-asset investment into the sector went up 27.6 per cent from a year earlier.

MIIT data also shows that the operating revenue of major electronic information manufacturers soared 31.2 per cent year on year to 4.06 trillion yuan in the first four months, while their combined profits in the period totaled 193.5 billion yuan, surging 86.2 per cent year on year. In May alone, China’s smartphone output climbed 9.6 per cent year on year to 100 million units, while the output of microcomputers rose 10.8 per cent to 36.14 million units.

— Xinhua ■



Workers make walkie-talkies at an electronics company in Xiamei Township, Nan’an, southeast China’s Fujian Province, 26 August 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

‘Learn to live with’ the virus Johnson tells Britons

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson will on Monday unveil a plan to lift coronavirus restrictions from 19 July, while urging the population to “learn to live with” the virus.

Johnson had initially aimed for a full reopening on 21 June but was forced to push back the date because of a surge in the highly contagious Delta variant. That variant now accounts for nearly all new Covid cases in Britain.

The prime minister will give a press conference and Health Minister Sajid Javid is scheduled to address parliament on the issue.

After Russia, Britain has the highest coronavirus death toll of any European country, at more than 128,000. It is gradually ending a third lockdown period, although some restrictions



Members of the public receive a dose of a Covid-19 Pfizer vaccine inside a temporary vaccination centre set up at the Emirates Stadium, home to Arsenal football club, in north London on 25 June 2021. PHOTO: AFP

remain.

Night clubs have not been allowed to open, large-scale events do not run at full capacity and service is still restricted in pubs.

The prime minister’s office

says the latest figures indicate that the number of cases will continue to rise as restrictions are lifted, but also that “the link to hospitalizations and deaths has been weakened” thanks to vaccinations.—AFP ■

Indian company gets manufacturing licence for Russia’s COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V

INDIA’S Panacea Biotec has received manufacturing licence to produce Russia’s COVID-19 vaccine, Sputnik V, the company said Sunday.

The licence was granted by India’s drug regulator pursuant to Panacea Biotec’s collaboration with Russian Direct Investment Fund, the sovereign wealth

fund. Earlier in May, the batches of vaccine were produced at Panacea Biotec’s facilities in India and were shipped to the Gamaleya Centre in Russia for quality control and they have successfully cleared all quality parameters both in Russia as well as in India, the company said.

In April, Sputnik V was

registered in India under the emergency use authorization procedure and the inoculation in India with the imported vaccines from Russia started in May by another Indian company, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories, who too has approval from the Russia’s sovereign wealth fund. — Xinhua ■

One dead, 29 injured from Bangkok factory explosion



Firefighters work at the site of an explosion and fire at a plastics factory on the outskirts of Bangkok on 5 July 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

AN EXPLOSION near Thai capital Bangkok's international airport Monday left a plastics factory in flames, killing at least one firefighter and wounding 29 people, officials said.

Heavy plumes of black smoke could be seen rising up to the sky from the city's downtown 35 kilometres (21 miles) away, as helicopters continued to dump fire suppression foam from the air on the site. The blast occurred around 3 am at Taiwan-based Ming Dih Chemical Co, located on the outskirts of Bangkok near Suvarnabhumi airport.

By noon, 500 residents near

the area were moved to two shelters, including a nearby school about 9 kilometres away, where elderly residents in wheelchairs waited to return to their homes.

Rescue workers drove around surrounding neighbourhoods in emergency vans, telling thousands of residents via loudspeakers to leave for their safety.

The public have been ordered to stay away from a radius of at least 500 metres around the blast site, said Lieutenant General Ampon Buarubporn.

"We do not know if there is anything left to explode," he said, adding that authorities are still

working to get the fire under control. The cause of the explosion is still unknown.

According to officials, Ming Dih Chemical Co. produces expanded polystyrene – colloquially known as styrofoam – and has been in operation since 1985 in Bang Pli district.

Besides being the site of Suvarnabhumi airport – which saw massive black clouds above its airport runways Monday – the 500-metre radius around the factory is also home to some 300 factories and residential neighbourhoods housing 240 communities. —AFP

Cyprus says huge forest fire 'under full control'

THE Cyprus Forestry Department said Monday that a deadly wildfire, the island's worst in decades, was now "under full control".

The blaze, fanned by strong winds, broke out Saturday and swept through parts of the Troodos mountain range, leaving four Egyptian labourers dead, before being reined in by water bombing by Greek and Israeli aircraft.

"The fire that broke out on Saturday... came under full control today Monday, 5 July, 2021 at 08:00 am (0500 GMT)," the department said in a statement.

It added that firefighters were still deployed en masse around the village of Arakapas to tackle any potential further

outbreaks.

The fire, described as the worst since the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960, destroyed 50 homes, damaged power lines and forced the evacuation of 10 villages.

It burned an area of about 55 square kilometres covered with forest vegetation and crops.

Four Egyptian labourers died trying to escape the village of Odos.

AFP reporters saw thick gnarled trunks of ancient olive trees reduced to smouldering stumps and grey ash replacing yellowed scrub as far as the eye could see, as well as several burned out homes in Ora village.

A 67-year-old farmer was



Volunteers help carry a firehose in an effort to contain a fire near the Kotsiatis area, on the outskirts of Cyprus' capital Nicosia on 4 July 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

arrested and remanded in custody on suspicion of causing the blaze, a charge he denied.

Police said an eyewitness had seen him leaving Arakapas

in his car at the same time the fire started there.

He could face charges of recklessly causing four deaths.—AFP ■

Chip shortage driving French industry lower

THE global shortage of semiconductors that has been plaguing the automobile industry is helping drive industrial production lower in France, data showed Monday.

Manufacturing of motor vehicles fell by 7.9 per cent in May from the previous month "due to shortages of raw materials in the automotive industry", the national statistics agency INSEE said.

That helped drag down overall industrial production by 0.3 per cent during the month.

Coronavirus pandemic lockdowns caused a shift in consumer spending towards electronics and a spike in demand for the semiconductor chips that run them.

Modern automobiles can use dozens of such chips in their various electronics systems, and car-makers have had to slow or idle factories when they have run out of supplies.

French motor vehicle production was down 29.2 per cent in May from its level in February 2020, just before the pandemic lockdowns began.

Overall, French industrial production was 5.6 per cent lower from its pre-pandemic level. —AFP ■

Rest of collapsed Florida apartment block demolished ahead of tropical storm

A controlled explosion brought down the unstable remains of the collapsed apartment block in Florida late Sunday ahead of a threatening tropical storm, with the confirmed death toll at 24 and 121 people missing.

Video footage showed the rest of the 12-storey Champlain Towers South in Surfside, outside Miami, being demolished just after 10:30 pm local time (0230 GMT). Preparing the site for demolition ahead of the possible arrival of Tropical Storm Elsa early next week had required that the search for victims be halted on Saturday.

Most of the building collapsed in the early hours of 24 June, sending up a huge cloud



Smoke rises above as the rest of the Champlain South tower is demolished in Surfside, Florida, north of Miami Beach, late on 4 July 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

of dust and rattling Americans unprepared for such a deadly urban disaster. Authorities had said the unstable remaining struc-

ture posed a threat to search and rescue teams still at the scene, though hopes of finding anyone alive have diminished.

The video footage of the demolition showed smoke, dust and other debris blowing away from the site after the building came down following two loud booms. Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava had announced the schedule at an earlier press conference, saying the operation would use "small, strategically placed explosives." "The demolition itself is confined to the immediate area around the building," she said.

"However, there is dust and other particles that are an unavoidable byproduct of all types of demolition and, as a precautionary measure, we're urging residents in the immediate vicinity to stay indoors."—AFP ■

Eco-friendly material maker TBM gets investment from SK Group

TBM Co., a Japanese maker of environmentally conscious materials, has forged an agreement on capital participation from South Korean conglomerate SK Group.

SK Group will take a 10 per cent stake in TBM to engage in the development and sale of the start-up's LIMEX recyclable materials through the 13.5 billion yen (\$123 million) deal struck through SK Japan Investment Inc., the group's local investment unit. TBM was founded in 2011 and is known for its signature technologies on LIMEX, a sustainable ma-

terial derived from limestone that could be an alternative to plastic and paper.

LIMEX can be used for a wide range of products including name cards, calendars, clear folders and food containers, and is easily recycled. TBM says it has been used by more than 6,000 companies and municipal governments in Japan. TBM also agreed with SKC, a chemical material company of SK Group, to form a joint venture to develop more competitive and cost-effective biodegradable LIMEX products with a mixture of TBM's technologies with SKC's



Nobuyoshi Yamasaki (R), CEO of TBM Co., attends an online ceremony about a capital tie-up between TBM and SK Group. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

biodegradable material. Generally, cost issues remain the key obstacles

of marketability of conventional eco-friendly biodegradable plastics.

TBM and SK Group hope the latest agreement, the first investment deal for

Tokyo-based SK Japan Investment, will help explore overseas sales channels on the strength of SK Group's global networks.

TBM, in particular, looks to take advantage of SK Group's rapid business expansion outside South Korea, including Southeast Asia, in promoting its products globally.

"We are aiming to develop a low carbon and circular economy through our LIMEX business and become the world's top player in the field of sustainability," Nobuyoshi Yamasaki, CEO of TBM, said. — Kyodo News ■

BOJ lowers assessments of 2 regions as recovery from pandemic slows



Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda (far L) attends an online meeting of BOJ branch managers from the central bank's head office in Tokyo on 5 July 2021. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

THE Bank of Japan on Monday downgraded its economic assessments of two of the country's nine regions — Chugoku and Shikoku — as the pace of recovery from the coronavirus pandemic is slowing.

In its quarterly Sakura report for July, the BOJ raised its outlooks for two regions while maintaining its assessments of the remaining five, underscoring the uneven nature of economic recovery.

The Japanese central

bank said the economy remains in a "severe situation" due to the impact of the pandemic but many reported that the economy has "picked up as a trend" or "started to pick up."

The two regions that saw upgrades were Kinki, which includes the western prefecture of Osaka, and Hokuriku in central Japan. The Kanto-Koshinetsu region centring on Tokyo was among the five regions for which assessments were main-

tained.

"For the time being, economic activity is expected to stay at lower levels than before the coronavirus pandemic," Governor Haruhiko Kuroda told a videoconference of BOJ branch managers before the release of the report.

The Sakura report, named after its cherry blossom-colored cover, will be among the materials used at the BOJ's policy-setting meeting next week.

Japan is battling to rein in rising coronavirus cases in urban areas amid worries about a further spread of the Delta variant, less than three weeks before the opening of the Tokyo Olympics.

Economists and BOJ policymakers expect further progress in vaccinations in Japan will lead to more economic activity, helping the services sector that has lagged behind manufacturers in the pace of recovery.—Kyodo News ■

Most Asian markets rise after healthy US jobs report

Asian markets mostly rose Monday following another Wall Street record sparked by a blockbuster US jobs report that reaffirmed the country's recovery was on track, while oil prices dipped as top producers struggled to reach a deal on lifting output.

All three main indexes in New York finished the week at a fresh peak in reaction to data showing far more people than expected were employed last month, as the world's top economy continues to race out of last year's pandemic-induced recession.

The Labor Department report was seen as providing the best of both worlds for investors

as it also showed the unemployment rate ticking up slightly, tempering worries that the Federal Reserve will have to rein in its ultra-loose monetary policy sooner to prevent the economy from overheating.

"Overall, the level of payrolls is still 6.8m below pre-pandemic February 2020 levels and is still below the level of substantial progress needed by the Fed," said National Australia Bank's Tapas Strickland. "As such there is nothing in this report for the Fed to become hawkish about."

The healthy advances on Wall Street provided Asian traders with a platform, and most markets

extended the rally.

Sydney, Seoul, Taipei, Singapore, Wellington, Manila and Jakarta all rose. Shanghai edged higher but Hong Kong was flat, with tech firms taking a hit again after China at the weekend ordering ride-hailing giant Didi to be removed from app stores after a probe found "serious violation" of data collection regulations.

The move -- which came just days after the firm's US market debut following a \$4.4 billion initial public offering -- is the latest in China's crackdown on the tech sector as authorities grow concerned about its increasing influence on

consumers. Tencent fell more than one percent in Hong Kong while Alibaba shed more than two per cent.

SoftBank, a major investor in Didi, tanked more than five per cent in Tokyo, where the Nikkei was also in negative territory.

Still, the general feeling is that equities are on course for more gains this year as central banks maintain their accommodative policies and governments push out stimulus measures.

That, along with the rollout of vaccines, is helping offset concerns about rising cases of the more transmissible Delta virus variant. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2110E/W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2110E/W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-7-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

ဆာဝဲးစာ ဗဟုသုတ ပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

Biden says US closer to declaring “independence” from virus



Visitors flood to the National Mall to watch the fireworks display during Independence Day celebrations on 4 July 2021, in Washington. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Sunday said the United States is getting closer to overcoming the coronavirus pandemic as the country marked Independence Day, although vaccinations fell just short of a goal set by his administration.

“Today, we’re closer than ever to declaring our independence from a deadly virus,” Biden said in a speech at the White House to first responders, military members and other guests. But he added, “That’s not to say the battle against COVID-19 is over,” warning of more contagious variants that are emerging.

The Biden administration has been ramping up vaccination efforts across the country, aiming to have 70 per cent of adults inoculated with at least one shot by Sunday. The figure stood at

around 67 per cent, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Daily cases and deaths have both dropped sharply from peak levels marked in January, when Biden took office. But still more than 200 people die each day from the virus and less than half of the total population has been fully vaccinated, according to the CDC. In the United States, a total of more than 33 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 with more than 605,000 deaths have been reported, both figures higher than in any other country in the world, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. US health authorities have said people who have been fully vaccinated against the novel coronavirus basically no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance. —Kyodo News ■

China extends probe into US-listed tech firms after Didi blow

CHINA announced on Monday probes into two more US-listed Chinese companies, a day after banning ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing from app stores in the wake of its huge US initial public offering.

The country’s major internet firms wield massive influence among consumers, but have for almost a year had their wings clipped in a regulatory crack-down that scuppered IPOs and hit business as the government seeks to rein in their influence.

The latest moves hit newly listed companies Full Truck

Alliance — a merger between truck-hailing platforms Yunmanman and Huochebang — as well as Kanzhun, which owns online recruitment platform Boss Zhipin.

All three platforms have been told to stop new user registration during the period of investigation — which was to “to prevent security risks to national data, safeguard national security and protect public interest”, according to the Cyberspace Administration of China.

Just hours earlier, the watchdog ordered the removal of

Didi from app stores following a similar investigation, throwing a wrench in the company’s growth plans after a bumper New York IPO last week raised more than \$4.4 billion.

The Administration issued the order on Didi — which has nearly 500 million users and 15 million drivers — after investigations found its user data collection and use in “serious violation” of regulations.

It also cited national security for the action, in an unusual move against a domestic tech firm.—AFP ■

More than 1,000 Afghan troops flee Taliban into Tajikistan

MORE than 1,000 Afghan troops fled into neighbouring Tajikistan in the early hours of Monday after clashes with the Taliban, the Central Asian country’s national security committee said.

Taliban militants have launched several major offensives in northern Afghanistan in recent weeks as US and international troops withdraw from the country, including seizing its main crossing into Tajikistan last month.

On Monday, Tajikistan’s national security committee said that 1,037 Afghan government troops had fled into the ex-Soviet country “in order to save their lives” after clashes with the Taliban during the night.

“Taking into account the principle of good neighbourliness and adhering to the position of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the military personnel of the Afghan government forces were allowed to enter Tajik territory,” the committee said in a statement distributed by Tajikistan’s state information agency Khovar.

It said the Taliban had taken “full control” of six districts of the Badakhshan province bordering Tajikistan in Afghanistan’s northeast.

Several hundred Afghan troops had already crossed into Tajikistan after the Taliban unleashed its onslaught in early May.—AFP ■

Queen to honour UK health workers for Covid service

BRITAIN’S Queen Elizabeth will award the UK’s state-run National Health Service (NHS) the country’s highest civilian honour in recognition of health workers’ service during the pandemic, the government announced Monday.

The award of the George Cross, which is the civilian equivalent of Britain’s Victoria Cross for extraordinary military heroism, comes amid outcry from medical professionals over pay and working conditions in the NHS, which has been pushed close to breaking point during the pandemic.

“This award recognizes all NHS staff, past and present, across all disciplines and all four nations,” the Queen, 95, said in a personal message accompanying the award. “Collectively, over more than seven decades, they have supported the people of our country with courage, compassion and dedication, demonstrating the highest standards of public service. “You have the enduring thanks and heartfelt appreciation of us all,” she added.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was hospitalized with Covid in April last year, said

he had “witnessed their courage first-hand”, saying Britain wouldn’t “be where we are today without our health services”.

“I know the whole of the UK is behind me in paying tribute and giving thanks for everything the NHS has done for us not only in the last year, but since its inception,” he added. While Johnson’s government has routinely praised the efforts of NHS workers, instituting a weekly clap for carers during the first wave of the virus, it has been criticized for offering only a one per cent pay rise to staff.—AFP ■



Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers stand guard at a road checkpoint outside Bagram Air Base, after all US and NATO troops left, some 70 Km north of Kabul on 2 July 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rescue efforts continue after mudslide in central Japan

RESCUE workers continued their search for 113 people still unaccounted for Monday, two days after a large mudslide in a hot spring resort town south-east of Tokyo killed at least three people and destroyed at least 130 houses.

Firefighters, police and Self-Defence Forces personnel continued to search mud-swamped houses in Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture, and remove debris after rescuing 23 people by Sunday. One person was reported injured and over 550 people took shelter in local hotels, according to the city.

The city government has confirmed the safety of 34 of the 147 people whose whereabouts had been unknown based on the basic resident register.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters in Tokyo that rescuers will continue looking for those believed to be buried in the mud.

According to the prefectural government, some 100,000 cubic meters of soil collapsed into a nearby river around 10:30 am Saturday, and travelled a distance of about 2 kilometres.

The local government decided to close 11 elementary and junior high schools, and four kindergartens on Monday as warnings against heavy rain and mudslide remained in place.

On social media platform Twitter, people posted the names, ages, descriptions and photos of missing relatives.

Among those searching for their relatives is 71-year-old Koichi Tanaka, whose 70-year-old wife, Michiko went missing after Tanaka left his wife at home to check on her friend.

“I cannot believe that the city’s face changed drastically within an hour,” said Tanaka.

A local arm of the Japan National Council of Social Welfare will start the enrollment of vol-



Search and rescue operations continue for missing people in the Shizuoka Prefecture hot spring resort city of Atami, southwest of Tokyo, on 5 July 2021, two days after torrential rain triggered a large mudslide. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

unteers from Monday afternoon. The organization will set up a volunteer center once fears of a secondary disaster recede. The organization is planning to only take on volunteers from within the prefecture in order to prevent coronavirus infections, it said.—Kyodo News ■

Australians trapped in vaccine ‘Hunger Games’ says top official



A man walks past a Covid-19 vaccination centre in Melbourne on 30 June 2021, as millions of Australians are under stay-at-home orders with the country battling multiple small outbreaks of the highly contagious Delta variant. **WILLIAM WEST / AFP**

GETTING vaccinated in Australia is like “The Hunger Games” a top health official admitted Monday, as the country battles

looking to get jabbed, said Brad Hazzard, health minister for the country’s most populous state New South Wales.

“It is almost a sense now of The Hunger Games of people chasing vaccine,” he said of desperate residents turning up at mass vaccination centres or making regular calls to medical facilities in the hope of securing an appointment.

Set in a dystopian future, the wildly popular Hunger Games books and films saw a group of young people selected annually to participate in a televised battle to the death.

Just seven per cent of Australia’s roughly 25 million residents have been fully vaccinated, one of the lowest proportions for any developed nation.—AFP ■

Iran’s Bushehr nuclear plant back online after two-week pause

IRAN’S only nuclear power plant has been brought back online, its manager said early Monday, after two weeks off-grid amid conflicting reports over an apparent regular maintenance operation.

The “technical fault” that shut down the Bushehr plant and its 1,000-megawatt reactor on Iran’s southern coast “was fixed”, Mahmoud Jafari, who is also deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), told ISNA news agency around midnight.

That allowed the plant to resume power generation and be reconnected, he said.

Jafari said power generation had resumed “from Sunday”, and urged Iranians to “help” the Islamic republic’s overburdened grid by minimizing power consumption as weather forecasts predicted rising temperatures in the coming days.

The Bushehr plant was built by Russia and officially handed over in September 2013.

Russian and Iranian firms started work on two additional 1,000-megawatt reactors in 2016, with construction was expected to take 10 years.

On 20 June, the AEOI had blamed “a technical fault” for the shutdown and said it had given the energy ministry one day’s notice before going off-line.

It said two days later that the issue was with the plant’s “power generator”, without explaining further.

But Iran’s foreign ministry at the time described the shutdown as “routine,” saying it was carried out “once or twice each year”.

Bushehr going off-grid had raised concerns of worse blackouts after a string of power cuts in Iran blamed on heat, drought impacting hydro-electrical facilities, and surging electricity demand.

Death toll in Philippine military plane crash rises to 50

PHILIPPINE security forces searched among coconut trees on a remote southern island Monday for the flight data boxes of an aircraft that crashed and killed 50 people in one of the country’s worst military air disasters.

The Hercules C-130 trans-

port plane was carrying 96 people, most of them recent army graduates, when it overshot the runway while trying to land in sunny weather on Jolo island in Sulu province — a haven for Islamic militants — on Sunday.

Fifty people, including 47 military personnel and three

Iran introduced planned, rolling blackouts in May after Tehran and several other cities were hit by unannounced power cuts, sparking complaints from consumers and an apology from the energy minister.

Power cuts are not uncommon during Iran’s hot summers, when air-conditioning use spikes. Adding to the problem, the country’s hydro-power capacity has been hit by low rainfall. —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.

Myanmar junior football teams to prepare for int'l tourneys

MYANMAR youth national football teams will prepare for international tournaments depending on the COVID-19 pandemic situation, said football authorities.

Myanmar youth teams are planned to compete in ASEAN level competitions including the Asian Cup and the ASEAN

Championships of youth version.

If no ASEAN-level competitions is planned for this year, Myanmar youth teams will have to prepare for next year's competitions, said football officials.

This year's ASEAN U-19 and U-16 tournaments are not confirmed yet due to the epidemics.

ASEAN football officials have set temporary decisions to hold ASEAN SEA Games, 2023 Asian Cup U-20 and 2023 Asian Cup U-17 next year, and Myanmar youth football teams will be under training for the tourneys depending on the confirmed fixtures and epidemics condition.

U Soe Myat Min is currently handling the head coach of the Myanmar U-19 team and U Chit Naing has been assigned as the U-16 head coach.

Myanmar junior team players were participating in domestic football leagues to gain professional experiences. Myanmar

U-19 team will compete in MNL-2 (First Division) as Junior Lions while Myanmar U-16 team will compete in the MNL U-19 League under the name MFF Youth, but the competition has been suspended since March 2020 due to the epidemic. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Judo legend Nomura hopes 'king' Riner can match Olympic hat-trick

FRANCE'S Teddy Riner can cement his place as judo's "king" by winning his third Olympic gold in Tokyo — according to the only person ever to achieve the feat: Tadahiro Nomura.

The retired Japanese judoka told AFP he would love to see Riner match his own triple tally at Tokyo's historic Nippon Budokan arena, and wants the French giant to "give a performance worthy" of his talents.

Riner won his second Olympic title in 2016 in low-key fashion, beating Japan's Hisayoshi Harasawa in the +100kg final after a defensive display that drew boos from the Rio crowd.

Nomura urged the French superstar to win with a touch more panache in Tokyo, even if it means Riner edging out his Japanese compatriot for the title again.

"It would be tough to see a Japanese fighter lose, but I'd also be happy to see Riner win



French judoka Teddy Riner (L) fights with a training partner during a session with other French judokas qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games, in Paris, on 22 June 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

the title," said Nomura, who won his first Olympic -60kg title at the 1996 Atlanta Games and defended it in Sydney and Athens.

"My ideal would be for him not to be booed by the crowd, but to give a performance worthy of him as the king -- to win his third title with strong judo."

Nomura said Riner will

compete with "wounded pride" after his almost 10-year, 154-match unbeaten streak was ended by Japan's Kokoro Kageura in February 2020.

That will make the French superstar "a scary prospect" for opponents in Tokyo, Nomura believes, and defeat may have helped refocus his mind.

— AFP ■

Home advantage pays dividends at unique Euro 2020

EURO 2020 has delivered more drama than even then-UEFA president Michel Platini could have envisaged when he announced the event would be held around Europe nine years ago, but it has still been slammed as a "joke" and "not really fair".

The tournament has been played across 11 cities in 11 countries as the culmination of Platini's plan for a continental-wide celebration of the championship's 60th anniversary, albeit a year late due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

But the unique set-up of the Euro — which by goals per game is the highest-scoring since 1976 — has led to criticism and a semi-final line-up constituting of four of the nine host nations to qualify.

While England, Spain, Denmark and Italy all played all three of their group matches on home turf, others had

to travel thousands of kilometres between games.

Wales played their first two matches in Azerbaijani capital Baku before a near 4,000-kilometre (2,480 miles) trip to Rome to face Italy.

An exhausted side, who reached the semi-finals in 2016, were then thrashed 4-0 by Denmark, who had played all their group games in Copenhagen, in the last 16 in Amsterdam.

Due to travel restrictions, Welsh fans from the UK could not even attend that tie, while the Danes were roared on by thousands of supporters.

"Written off before a bag of air was kicked, 3,000 miles from home," said Wales full-back Chris Gunter.

"Every nation had fans wherever they went. You and us deserved more from this joke set-up of a tournament, but who said life was fair." — AFP ■