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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 95, Fullmoon of Waso 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Friday, 23 July 2021

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

SAC holds 2021 Waso robes offering ceremony

State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the congregation are taking the Five Precepts from Pauk Myaing Sayadaw at the SAC Waso robes offering ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 July 2021.

THE State Administration Council of the Union of the Republic of Myanmar held its 2021 Waso robes offering ceremony yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw under the COVID-19 guidelines set by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

A total of 18 monks led by Ovada Cariya of Uppatasanti Pagoda Presiding Sayadaw of Pauk Myaing Monastery in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Abhidhaja Maha Rahta Guru Bhaddanta Zanida attended the donation ceremony.

Chairman of the Council Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also joined the ceremony together with SAC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, other council members, union ministers and officials.

The SAC Chairman first paid homage to the Buddha image in Sasana Beikman Taw Gyi and offered Emerald Bowl containing Soon (day-meals), flowers, water and light to the Buddha image. Then, the Senior General and party took five precepts from Pauk Myaing Sayadaw.

The Senior General, Vice-Senior General and other SAC members also donated Waso robes, offertories, day-meals and desserts to Pauk Myaing Sayadaw and members of Sangha. The congregation shared the merits gained and concluded the ceremony. – MNA

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U Shwe Kyein.

Customs Department gives permit for anti-COVID-19 supplies on 22 July

CUSTOMS Department grants daily permission for importation processes of COVID-19 protective equipment and medical products through airports, harbours and land border checkpoints during the current public holidays, officials said.

On 22 July (yesterday), the Customs Department issued import process permissions for 69 companies at Yangon International Airport and 34 companies at other border checkpoints.

The department has already issued import permissions for 2,698 oxygen concentrators, 17,184 Oximeters, 1,788 thermometers, 1,080 oxygen regulators, 1000 flow meters, 2502 nasal cannula, 200 oxygen masks and 50 oxygen filters at Yangon International Airport.

Next, 99,725 kg of masks and surgical gloves, 15390.66 cubic metres of liquid oxygen and pure oxygen, 2,200 set of oxygen cylinders and regulators, and 6,954 sets of oxygen plants and concentrators were also given permits at land border crossings of Muse, Chinshwehaw, Myawady and Tachilek, respectively. — MNA

6,701 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 July, total figure rises to 253,364

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **253,364 after 6,701 new cases** were reported on 22 July 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **173,926** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **6,133** after **319** died. —MNA

Private sectors should cooperate with the Government as the COVID-19 protection is a national duty

THE COVID-19 disease seems to be an incurable infection and it will need a vaccine and so the Ministry of Health and Sports cooperate with the Tatmadaw Medical Research group to produce the vaccine in the country. The COVID-19 protection activity is a national duty and the private sectors should cooperate with the Government.

(Excerpt from the 2nd coordination meeting on COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 13 July 2021)

736,000 doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines donated by China arrive

A TOTAL of 736,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines and related materials manufactured by Sinopharm Company and donated from the People's Republic of China arrived yesterday at the Yangon International Airport.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win received the donation from the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar through videoconferencing.

The Ambassador said the COVID-19 vaccine donation highlights the spirit of a warm and friendly community between China and Myanmar and the development of practical cooperation against the pandemic. He added a special route has been opened through Yunnan Provence to provide emergency supplies such as oxygen concentrators to Myanmar.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win received the donation from the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar through videoconferencing.

The Union Minister expressed words of thanks for the donation. He said the vaccination would be carried out according to the National Deployment Plan. Priority will be given to those living on the Myanmar-China border for successful trade flow in the areas.

A total of 736,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines and related materials manufactured by Sinopharm Company and donated from the People's Republic of China arrived yesterday at the Yangon International Airport.

Myanmar received 500,000 COVID-19 vaccines as the first donation from China in April 2020. The second batch of 2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines and related materials donated by China will arrive in three instalments on 22, 23, and 24 July. Another 4 million doses of the vaccine, which were purchased, will arrive between July and August. — MNA

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Public Announcement
22 July 2021

DUE to the current situation, it is necessary to continue controlling the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Thus, all basic education schools (including private schools and monastic schools) will be temporarily closed for two weeks from 26-7-2021 to 8-8-2021.

CORRECTION

PLEASE read "The test fee costs around K30,000 and the RT-PCR test costs around K200,000." instead of "The test fee costs around K30,000 and the RT-PCR test costs around K20,000." in the second Q&A of the "MOHS responses to Inquiries about …" on page 2 of The Global New Light of Myanmar on 22 July 2021.

Importation of oxygen tanks, anti-COVID-19 medicines and related materials continues

A TOTAL of 97 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 2 oxygen generators, 6,696 oxygen concentrators, 4 units of oxygen plant, 7 tonnes of the glove and 92 tonnes of masks were imported through the Yangon International Airport and border trade points yesterday.

The government is allowing continuous importation of oxygen, medicines and related materials that are in urgent need for the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities in the country.

Since 12 July, when the COVID-19 outbreak began to rise nationwide, priority is given to the importation of anti-COVID-19 medicines and related equipment. Relevant departmental officials cooperate to facilitate and speed up the importation during the period designated as public holidays.

As of yesterday, from 12 July, a total of 655 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 62 tonnes of oxygen cylinders, 21,174 oxygen concentrators, 134,500 test kits and 542 tonnes of masks were imported.—MNA

Officials of Sittway Township assure of oxygen supplies

SITTWAY Township of Rakhine State has enough oxygen to date for COVID-19 treatment, said U Than Tun, Rakhine State Administration Council member (3).

"The Sittway General Hospital (500-bedded) produces 60 oxygen cylinders (40 litres) per day. But we have to distribute these oxygen cylinders to hospitals in Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun and Minbya townships," he said.

Moreover, the oxygen cylinders from the military hospital (17), Sittway 100-bedded hospital, military hospital (2), Ann 300-bedded hospital, Nyaung Chay Htauk (Ka Pa Sa) and Myaungtagar Steel Factory (MEC) are also distributed to Sittway hospital.

Similarly, the Rakhine State Administration Council and Western Command ordered 900 oxygen cylinders and they will arrive in Rakhine State via Muse and Mandalay soon.

The Sittway UMFCCI cooperates with the social welfare teams to establish an oxygen plant in Sittway and it can produce 200 oxygen cylinders (40 litres) per day.

The machines are ordered and it will take about one month and a half to produce oxygen. Currently, people can contact the state health department for help currently if they need oxygen.

Similarly, the Rathedaung residents of Sittway District provided cash assistance to set up an oxygen plant that can produce between 30 and 50 oxygen cylinders (40 litres) per day. The mobile oxygen plant will also assist the other townships. Currently, the Rathedaung hospital gains 18 oxygen cylinders (40 litres)

and remains 4 cylinders.

The Ponnagyun Public Hospital in Sittway District uses 6 oxygen cylinders (40 litres) for COVID-19 patients and the social welfare teams provide the needed oxygen to the hospital.

The officials also arrange to build an oxygen plant that can produce from 30 to 50 oxygen cylinders (40 litres) per day using the cash contribution of residents.

Moreover, the Pauktaw residents of Sittway District donated money to construct an oxygen plant that can produce from 80 to 120 oxygen cylinders (40 litres) per day.

The people can contact the respective township health officials for oxygen. – Tin Tun (IPRD)/GNLM

Vehicle carrying liquid oxygen for Yangon leaves Myawady border

A vehicle carrying 20 tonnes of liquid oxygen for Yangon Region left Myawady Trade Zone at 3:40 pm yesterday as imports processes of the anti-COVID-19 supplies are being allowed through the Myawady border to assist in the prevention and control of the pandemic.

The Department of Commerce at the Myawady trade post is coordinating with the relevant department to get better import processes of the liquid oxygen, said officials.

In addition, masks, oxygen cylinders and oxygen concentrators are allowed to import quickly and easily, according to the commerce department. —Htein Lin Aung/GNLM

MoHS plans to vaccinate people against COVID-19

VACCINATION programmes are being stepped up as part of the COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control programme in Myanmar. The Ministry of Health and Sports says it plans to vaccinate the public against COVID-19 soon.

The vaccine will be given to people in the country aged 18 and over in priority groups, said officials.

"The vaccine can be given to weaken the virus. It is a type of medicine that is not harmful to humans. Up to stage 3 of the drug has been tested in several countries to determine its ability to protect against COVID-19 disease," said Dr Khin Khin Gyi, Director of the Central Infectious Disease Control Division, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Sports during an interview.

Sinopharm is a COVID-19 vaccine developed by China National Biotech Group Company Limited (CNBG). It has an average of 112 days of follow-up in those who received two doses 21 days apart, with a 79% effectiveness in preventing COVID-19 disease and its severity, according to the World Health Organization.

COVID-19 vaccination started in Myanmar on 27 January 2021.

More than 1.6 million people have been reportedly vaccinated, and donations have been made to ensure that 100% of the population is fully vaccinated. — Htet Lyan/ GNLM

Personal preventive practices against COVID-19 infection

(1) Wear the mask systematically when going out in public.
(2) Keep a proper physical distance.
(3) Avoid the crowd.
(4) Wash your hands for 20 seconds frequently.
(5) Avoid entering unventilated closed spaces as much as possible.

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

Union Election Commission
Announcement of election results of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin states
22 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 of 18 townships in Kachin State, 7 townships in Kayah State and 7 townships in Kayin State in detail together with the respective UEC members, former township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population, administrators and representatives of political parties in accordance with Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law, and interviewed the election sub-commissions, poll heads and members.

2. In 2020 Multiparty General Election, the candidates/voters ran/voted in Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states as follows: -

(a) The candidates of 17 political parties and independent candidates competed in 18 townships of Kachin State. Of 1150,407 voters, 761,850 cast votes at 919 polling stations, and it shows 66.22 per cent of votes.

(b) The candidates of 12 political parties and independent candidates competed in 7 townships of Kayah State. Of 212,916 voters, 162,857 cast votes at 233 polling stations, and it shows 76.49 per cent of votes.

(c) The candidates of 14 political parties and independent candidates competed in 7 townships of Kayin State. Of 123,838 voters, 661,698 cast votes at 852 polling stations, and it shows 53.50 per cent of votes.

3. The previous election commission released 1,150,407 eligible voters in 18 townships of Kachin State. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 755,807 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 92,452 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 7,633 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 102,876 persons repeated on the voter lists two times. According to the cross-check, 60,590 persons repeated on the voter lists while 679 people over the age of 100 and 497 people under the age of 18 on the election day were also found on the lists.

4. A total of 919 polling stations of 18 townships in Kachin State took out 1,301,094 ballots and used 761,324. It left 536,889 ballots instead of 539,770. The difference was 9,449 ballots and it found 6,568 extra ballots.

5. The previous election commission released 212,916 eligible voters in 7 townships of Kayah State. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 214,074 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 5,552 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 930 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 16,680 persons repeated on the voter lists two times. According to the cross-check, 5,912 persons repeated on the voter lists while 238 people over the age of 100 and 44 people under the age of 18 on the election day were also found on the lists.

6. A total of 233 polling stations of 7 townships in Kayah State took out 238,805 ballots and used 162,849. It left 75,276 ballots instead of 75,956. The difference was 2,468 ballots and it found 1,788 extra ballots.

7. The previous election commission released 1,236,838 eligible voters in 7 townships of Kayin State. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 1,047,865 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 241,953 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 15,258 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 128,230 persons repeated on the voter lists two times. According to the cross-check, 15,294 persons repeated on the voter lists while 917 people over the age of 100 and 822 people under the age of 18 on the election day were also found on the lists.

8. A total of 852 polling stations of 7 townships in Kayin State took out 1,366,222 ballots and used 641,848. It left 654,029 ballots instead of 724,374. The difference was 72,272 ballots and it found 1,927 extra ballots.

9. The findings on voter lists and ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw in Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states were as follows;

Sr	state/ region	Pyithu Hluttaw		Amyotha Hluttaw		region/ state Hluttaw		Ethnic Nationals		Number of Township	polling station	Township Election Commision	List from Immigration	With drawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
		constituency	candidates	constituency	candidates	constituency	candidates	constituency	candidates									loss	extra
1	Kachin	18	101	12	75	36	209	4	25	18	919	1,150,407	755,807	1,301,094	761,324	539,770	536,889	9,449	6,568
2	Kayah	7	48	12	83	14	99	1	7	7	233	212,916	214,074	238,805	162,849	75,956	75,276	2,468	1,788
3	Kayin	7	34	12	61	14	80	3	24	7	852	1,236,838	1,047,865	1,366,222	641,848	724,374	654,029	72,272	1,927

10. The previous UEC has released the (32/2017) statement for the formation of regions/states election sub-commissions dated on 17 November 2017. Then, they also released Notification No (33/2017) on 4 December 2017 and Notification No (34/2017) on 6 December 2017 for the formation of election sub-commissions with NLD supporters. These statements stated that they appointed the ones nominated by the regions/states chief ministers as chairman and members.

11. Under the directives by the letter number 7/464 general/A Pha Ra (2020) dated 4-8-2020 of the Union Government Office, a support group was formed for the completion of voter list, led by the state chief minister and it was found that there were two- or three-times duplication of voter lists due to the group. Under the instruction of the group, the township sub-election commission added the census lists submitted by the township general administration department into the voter lists. It was found that the voter lists inflated and the duplication occurred due to the addition of people who were already on the lists since the relevant ward/village tract general administration departments failed to examine the census lists before submitting it.

12. The ward/village-tract administrators served as chairpersons in collecting the numbers of the population to compile the voter lists. In this process, the ward/village-tract administrators appointed by the NLD government and some NLD members jointly collected the numbers of the population. They did not inspect whether the people live in their ward/village-tract, whether they are eligible voters according to Hluttaw Election Law. Therefore, there were many non-identity voters on the voter lists and some repeated on the voter lists two times or over three times with just one NRC card. The 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." And, it found activities that violate the law. According to Section 19 (b), the names not eligible are included in the voting roll, delete such names from the voting roll. But they did not remove the names.

13. The former UEC also released instructions that the advance voting process for people over 60 can be conducted starting 29-10-2020 before the election day. But some NLD members conducted door-to-door service in collecting advance votes in some places and it caused voting fraud. According to COVID-19 health rules, the announcement and instruction for voters who were unable to return to their constituencies were released on 8-10-2020 and 11-10-2020 respectively by the former UEC. Due to such directives, the voters were found repeated on the voter lists and non-identity voters were also on the lists and were allowed to cast vote.

14. The former UEC also released a statement for voters without any ID cards to cast their votes on 19-8-2020. The non-identity voters cast votes just with voter certificates at the polling stations. Therefore, the non-identity voters, those who repeated on voter lists two times or over three times were allowed to cast vote without complying with the Hluttaw Election Law section 59. Regarding the voting stamps, the instruction that the ballots with a tick without a UEC label will be recognized as valid votes also caused the complicated situations in counting the votes.

15. The voting frauds were supposed to be intentionally committed. Moreover, the NLD party members also interfere in collecting voter lists, election campaign, advance voting process and voting processes even on election day with their power. In addition, all electoral activities, including the campaigns of other political parties and parliamentary candidates misused the COVID-19 restrictions and conspired to seize the state power as well as the former UEC also found misused their authorities and violated the Law and rules.

16. According to the findings in Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states, the 2020 Multiparty General Election was found to be inconsistent with the relevant Hluttaw Election Laws/Rules and was not free and fair. Therefore, regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, it is here announced that measures will be conducted to annul the election results for the Hluttaw candidates of Pyithu, Amyotha and State Hluttaws and ethnic representatives in 18 townships of Kachin State, 7 townships of Kayah State and 7 townships of Kayin State in accordance with the law.

Union Election Commission

State Administration Council
Press Release
Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

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

Oxygen plant in MraukU Township commences test run

THE machines were being installed at the oxygen plant and a trial run of the plant was conducted to produce oxygen, prevent the shortage of oxygen and cure the positive patients as quickly as possible yesterday in MraukU Township of MraukU District in Rakhine State.

MraukU Sayadaw Vanavasi Ashin Vayaminda of Yadana Mhan Aung Monastery led the whole process to provide oxygen in Rakhine State and patients at MraukU General Hospital. The plant is a one-storey RC building and can produce 40 oxygen cylinders (40 litres) per day. If it runs for 24 hours, it can produce 60 oxygen cylinders (40 litres).

The Rakhine State faced hardships in transporting the oxygen cylinders from Yangon in the past. If the oxygen plant is completed in MraukU, it can supply oxygen to Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, Minbya and Myebon townships.

The people can contact U Maung Win Chay, chairman of Nan Yeik Garuna Oxygen Team of MraukU Township via 09- 8522155 for the emergency COVID-19 patients in Rakhine State. –Khin Maung Tun (IPRD)/GNLM

The plant is a one-storey RC building and can produce 40 oxygen cylinders (40 litres) per day. If it runs for 24 hours, it can produce 60 oxygen cylinders (40 litres).

Insurgents destroy medical oxygen pipeline of North Okkalapa General Hospital

On 19 July, the insurgents destroyed the oxygen pipeline connected to the ICU at North Okkalapa General Hospital in Yangon. Therefore, only 25 per cent of oxygen was supplied to the patients and it also caused casualties. The officials repaired the pipeline yesterday and provided the needed oxygen to the patients as usual.

THE State Administration Council has been working to conduct effective COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities since before the outbreak of the third wave of COVID-19. When the outbreak occurs, the SAC imposed rules and regulations to prevent the infection, conducted education programmes, established quarantine centres for suspected and confirmed patients in respective townships. Moreover, they promoted the local oxygen production rate and also imported the oxygen cylinders, vaccines and medical supplies for the patients.

During such a period, the dutiful government employees, volunteers and military medics offered medical services to the locals despite the destructive elements of insurgents and the absence of CDM health workers.

Meanwhile, the terrorist groups including NUG and CRPH and their supporters target the COVID-19 patients to affect their lives for their political and personal interests.

On 19 July, the insurgents destroyed the oxygen pipeline connected to the ICU at North Okkalapa General Hospital in Yangon. Therefore, only 25 per cent of oxygen was supplied to the patients and it also caused casualties. The officials repaired the pipeline yesterday and provided the needed oxygen to the patients as usual.

The people are unsatisfied with such doings of NUG, CRPH and their supporters and the people should cooperate with the authorities in arresting the suspects. — MNA

23 JULY 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Egg operations prove shameful mindset of people

THE governments in successive eras and people have thumbed up that Myanmar formed with more than 130 ethnic national people had been residing in the country through thick and thin. Is it right? Is it really?

In some recent days, not only in Yangon City but also in some countryside areas faced the egg was run over. Price of eggs skyrocketed in the domestic market. Those who possessed eggs were silent. But, most of the people who needed the eggs hardly searched the eggs but missions were unaccomplished. They were in plights because eggs are essential for combatting the COVID-19 as some pharmacy shops did not have useful medicines.

> But all the entire people will see the clear picturesque that the natural judge would adopt severe sentences to the inhumane unscrupulous persons in the near future.

Myanmar people have been taking pride in their generosity in donations and religious affairs. Is it correct? Is it really? In the last egg crisis, any well-off and any great donors did not distribute the eggs in their hands to needy persons. On the other hand, any layer cannot die after laying an egg once. If today's market does not have eggs, poultry farms will produce eggs for the market without fail. Poultry farmer does not dare to be absent to send their eggs to the market.

We think the eggs crisis was intentionally planned to be occurred across the nation under utterly wicked and despicable tactics without serving the interests of the public lives. Those inhumane unscrupulous persons committed the synchronized attacks with basic foodstuff eggs on the innocent entire nationals without any reason. They one-sidedly attacked the people who could not respond to them.

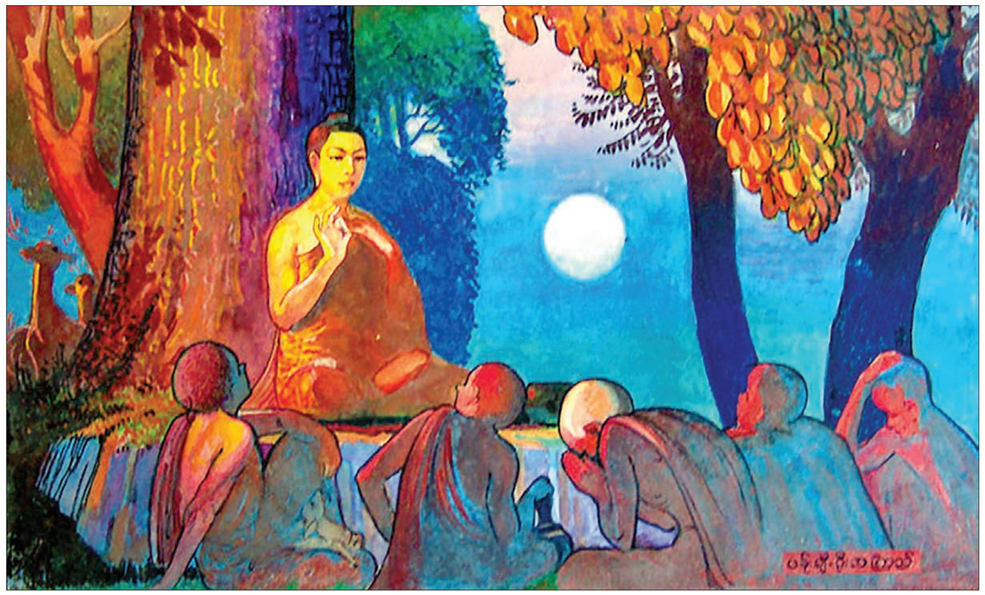
In this regard, those unscrupulous persons may be politicians or greedy businesspersons or any others. Whatever it may be, those who committed unprecedented devil acts have chances to choose the abodes for their coming lives. But, surely, they would not have the lives of being stunted in physique or deficient in faculties.

At present, Myanmar people are worried about the threats of COVID-19 while facing difficulties and shortages of basic needs such as foodstuffs on a daily basis. People don't have incomes due to halting businesses in the infection of disease. But all the entire people will see the clear picturesque that the natural judge would adopt severe sentences to the inhumane unscrupulous persons in the near future.

■ ■ ■

The wheel of Dhammacakya Sutta turns on the full moon of Waso

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu
Dr Khin Maung Nyunt



The Dhammacakya Day is also the Day of forming Sangha Order. The Five Recluses who became Arahats saint monks after hearing Anatha Lekkana Sutta delivered by Lord Buddha the following day formed the first Sangha Order. **PHOTO: ARTIST U BA KYI/GNLM**

WASO, the Rain Retreat is the Buddha's way of conserving and preserving the natural environment.

It was exactly the same theme "Connecting the People to Nature" when Lord Gotama Buddha prescribed Waso Rain Retreat for his monk disciple followers.

Previously, Buddhist monks were free to move about at any time, anywhere in all seasons of the year, until public complaints reached the Buddha. In their free movements especially in the rainy season when farmers were busy with their cultivating activities in the fields and when all living world is fully alive with flora and fauna in nourishing showers free movements of Buddhist monks caused inadvertent unintentional annoyances and damages. The farmers had to stop their work to pay respect and donate food to the monks. The moving monks unknowingly and accidentally step upon creatures coming out and creeping about from the wet soil, some die under their feet or some are crippled.

When the Buddha heard the public outcries about these accidents, he was obliged to prescribe a monk discipline to restrict their movements in the rainy season. Thus appeared Waso Vows for Rain Retreat. Every monk was required to take to vow at the assembly of monks of the same monastery that he would reside at the monastery of his residence and would not go out or move about outside of the monastic compound during the period of three monsoon months Waso, Wakaung and Tawthalin (July, August and September respectively). If unavoidable circumstances or situations occurred that required his stay outside the residential monastery and his movement away from the compound, he was required to beg for leave of absence not more than seven days from the Abbot Monk of the monastery. On failure of making that formal request for leave of absence, he immediately suffers from the sin of breaking Wa Vow [ဝါတွိုး]. Losing all his ordained years and the right to receive Kathein robe offering.

Wa vows have the beneficial impost upon the education of the monks. During rain retreat monks could devote their whole time to learning Pariyatti and practising Patipatti and Pariveda – the three Sasanas of Buddhism-learning, Practising and promoting.

Farmers could devote themselves to agricultural activities unannoyed by the sight of monks. Flora and fauna old and new safely enjoy their lives under monsoon showers.

Waso Rain Retreat is Lord Buddha's way of connecting People (clergy and laity) to Nature.

Dhammacakya Sutta discoursed on the full moon night of Waso by Lord Gotama also bears profound natural environmental significance.

King Sudhodara of Kapilavattu kingdom gathered all Brahmin Priests who were Raja gurus (Royal advisers) to his audience. He presented his baby son Prince Siddhartha and asked them to read his horoscope (Record of Birth Day) and predict his feature. All guru Brahmins carefully examined the horoscope referring to all Veda treatises. Only by one, they gave their prediction to the King each showing two fingers.

Your Imperial Majesty, I'm happy to tell you the result of my examination. Either your son would grow up to succeed your throne and become a Universal monarch or he would renounce his mundane life to become a forest recluse and eventually become Buddha. "I could not let my son leave the palace and become Buddha. I want him to succeed me to the throne and become chacravan (Universal monarch). Could you make some means of keeping my son in the palace and succeed me to the throne?"

"Oh yes, your Imperial Majesty. Just build three palaces for three seasons Yama, Thuba and Thuyama surround your son with all attractions and pleasures of palace life. Let him always get caught up in the defilements of mundane life".

The King then turned the last Brahmin guru, Kondanna, the most junior in age and service and asked.

"What about you young Brahmin guru?"

Showing only one forefinger of his, the youngest Brahmin guru replied.

"Your Imperial Majesty, after I have thoroughly examined your son's horoscope and checked with all Veda treatises, I obtained one and the only one answer. That is that your son would definitely become a Buddha. He would never succeed you to the throne. I am a faithful royal guru who speaks the truth, the who truth nothing but the truth. I do not tell what your Imperial Majesty wishes to hear that your son would succeed you to the throne so that I get royal favour. Here are the exact dates of events of your son's life. Your son would get married and had a son born. By the age of 29 years after seeing the four visions – the Aged, the Infirmity, the Dead and Forest Recluse, he would renounce his mundane life to become a recluse in the forest. After six years of austerity practices in the Uruvala Forest, he would attain Buddhahood at the age of 35 years. He would give his first sermon to the five forest recluses in the Migara Wunna Deer Park. Next, he would continue his Dhamma Duta teaching journey home and abroad for 45 years. Then at the age of 80, he would pass away and attain Nirvana – Escape from the Samsara the cycle of births and rebirths and all sufferings and cravings to reach the end of body and soul.

Your Imperial Majesty, you may punish me for not answering what you wish to hear that your guru Brahmin Kondanna left the palace. No peace, no truth of Dhamma could be obtained at the capital, in the Palace where daily life was surrounded by defilements. Only in the forest where there is a green natural environment where one's body and soul can get the bliss of solitude and peace.

The entire Dhammacakya Sutta has been translated into Myanmar and English and published by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture of the Myanmar Government. Here a summary is given to emphasize the importuned of the middle way of living (Majhima Patipada) and the significance of a green natural environment for the middle way of living. After six years of his quest for truth (Dhamma) by practising austerities, recluse Prince Siddhartha discovered it. While in the Uruvala Forest he and the other five forest recluses searching for truth promised to one another to tell one another if he had found out the truth. Therefore, forest recluse Prince Siddhartha on becoming enlightened as Gotama Buddha was obliged to tell the truth (Dhamma) he had discovered to the five forest recluses (1). Kondanna (2). Wappa (3). Baddiya (4). Mahanama and (5). Assaji.

The middle way (Majjhima Patipada) avoids the two extremes --

> The entire Dhammacakya Sutta has been translated into Myanmar and English and published by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture of the Myanmar Government.

(1) Kamasu Khalika nuyogo (Hedonism) on one hand and

(2) Atta kilamathanuyogo (self-mortification) on the other. Both these two extremes are wrong because they lead to no truth. The middle way only leads to truth.

SEE PAGE-10

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Thursday 22 July 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (15:30) hrs MST today the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 23 July 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Eastern Shan, Chin, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-13) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 July 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 July 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 July 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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09 454 237 515

The wheel of Dhammacakya Sutta turns on the Full moon of Waso

FROM PAGE-9

There are four noble truths

(1) Birth is suffering, old age is suffering, illness is suffering, death is suffering. Association with those we do not love is suffering. Separation from those we love is suffering, not getting what we desire is suffering.

(2) The origin of suffering is craving.

(3) Suffering can be ended and Nirvana can be attained.

(4) The way to stop craving and end suffering is to follow the eight-fold path (Maga) which Gotama Buddha teaches as follows: -

(1) Right View
(2) Right Understanding
(3) Right Speech
(4) Right Action
(5) Right Livelihood
(6) Right Effort
(7) Right Mindfulness and
(8) Right Concentration

At the Behest of Maha Brahma "Sahanpati," Gotama Buddha set calmly under the Sal trees in the deer park in Migara Wunna Forest in the evening of the full moon day of Waso when gold yellow coloured round Moon rose above the foliage and shed its rays on earth began Lord Buddha began his discourse on Dhammacakya Sutta. Not only Five Forest recluses but also all Brahmas, devas and sentoid beings of the whole Universe gathered to listen to the sermon.

Nest on the 5th waning moon of Waso the Buddha discoursed on Anatta Lakhana Sutta.

Having heard and thoroughly understood these two Suttas the five as cretic forest recluses became arahants (saint monks) one after another on the following consecutive days. The first cretic forest recluse to become a saint monk was Kondanna. These five arahant saint monks formed the first Sangha order to impart Buddha Dhamma (Truth) to all sentient beings. Because all five acetic forest recluses became monks in the month of Waso, Myanmar people made the tradition of the Festival of Ordination of monks in Waso. Waso full moon day is commemorated as Dhammacakya Sutta Day by Myanmar Buddhists across the country by reciting the Sutta and expounding it to the audience.

Today, Migara Wunna, the deer park Forest is well maintained by the Indian Government for Buddhist pilgrimage tourism as well as natural environmentalists across the world. Well conserved and preserved, the entire park is made free from all pollutions. No industries, no emissions in its vicinities. You walk on foot or battery-charged wheelchairs are provided for the needy. Many landmarks and memorials of the Dhammacakya Sutta are well preserved to retain the original at the master of those days when this first sermon was delivered.

After the visit, you return home not only with the essence of the sermon in your heart and soul but also that of a green natural environment for the sustainability of our planet Earth with all living beings inhabiting it.

■ ■ ■

North Korea's capital swelters in heatwave

PYONGYANG sweltered on Wednesday as state media issued warnings about a heatwave across North Korea.

This summer the country has recorded higher-than-average temperatures that are hovering around 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) in the capital.

Residents strolling Pyongyang's main streets on Wednesday beat the heat with umbrellas and hand-held fans. Some cooled off by eating a bowl of shaved ice with sweet toppings, a traditional summer dessert.

Despite the sizzling climate, everyone sweated it out in face masks to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Most homes in impoverished North Korea do not have air conditioning, with data suggesting that only a quarter of the population has access to electricity.

State media has issued a series of warnings about the dangerously high temperatures over the past week.

"Officials and working people in all the fields and regions across the country have turned out in the campaign for preventing the damage from fierce heat and drought," the Rodong Sinmun newspaper said last week. The paper added that forestry officials should be on the lookout for wildfires, and agricultural workers should watch out for pests and other heat-related crop damage. A health official told state-run KCTV last week that North Korea expected another heatwave at the end of the month. —AFP ■

Pyongyang's residents are coping with higher-than-average temperatures. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tesla mints nickel deal with Aussie mining giant

ANGLO-Australian mining firm BHP said Thursday it had reached a deal to provide Tesla with supplies of nickel -- a metal vital in producing high-powered batteries for electric cars.

Under the agreement, the innovative carmaker will lock in supplies from a mine in Western Australia, one of the world's largest sources.

Most nickel today is used in the production of stainless steel.

But demand for the metal is projected to explode over the next decade, as electric vehicles become more common.

Mercurial Tesla CEO Elon Musk has previously voiced concern about future nickel shortages -- which could put a brake on the efficiency and storage capacity of batteries, as well as making them more costly to produce.

BHP chief commercial officer Vandita Pant predicted demand will "grow by over 500 per cent over the next decade" in large part thanks to the nickel-for-batteries business.

No details of the duration or value of the deal were disclosed.—AFP ■

Smog tower to help Delhi breathe but experts sceptical

The fresh air tower's benefits are contested by environmental experts who say it will make little difference to the city's air quality. **PHOTO: AFP**

A new attempt at purifying New Delhi's notoriously polluted air will see forty giant fans push out filtered air in the heart of the Indian capital's posh downtown shopping district.

But the $2 million "smog tower" has no shortage of doubters who say it will not help a city notorious for some of the world's dirtiest air.

The 25-metre (82 foot) high tower is meant to filter air over a one square kilometre radius around the swanky shops and cafes in Connaught Place.

The neighbourhood's British colonial-era buildings are hit by a grey-yellow smog every winter.

"Smog is an annual phenomenon because of particulate matter. So we are (trying) to contain this," said Anwar Ali Khan, who is in charge of the project.

The engineer added the objective is to eliminate up to 50 per cent of the most deadly PM2.5 particles from the air.

The city has said more towers could be built if this experiment works.

Delhi's chief minister Arvind Kejriwal once called the Indian capital a "gas chamber" because of its intense pollution.

Experts say that while smog towers may work they are just a pinprick against the relentless foe of car and truck fumes, construction dirt, industrial emissions and the agricultural stubble burning that engulf the city of more than 20 million.

"Installing smog towers has never been, and will never be a solution," Sunil Dahiya, an analyst with the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, told AFP.—AFP ■

Flood causes road traffic on Mawlamyine-Thanbyuzayat Road

FLOOD impacted road transport at 1 pm on 20 July in Mudon Township, Mon State due to the continuous rainfall from 4 pm on 19 July.

The heavy rainfall resulted in a flood on Mawlamyine-Thanbyuzayat Road between Hneepadaw village and Yaungdaung village in Mudon Township.

The flood risk occurs yearly on that road part. The depth of road floods is about 2.5 feet. The flooded road hinders the commutes. The vehicles and motorcycles stopped on the road. Only the emergency vehicles are allowed to pass the flooded road. The flood depth is slowly rising, so the road condition is under watch, said an administrator of Hneepadaw village.

The officials concerned of the related department, police, fire police, rescue team and residents are carefully monitoring the flood damage for road safety. – Aung Myo Thu (IPRD)/GNLM

Flood impacted road transport at 1 pm on 20 July in Mudon Township, Mon State due to the continuous rainfall from 4 pm on 19 July. The heavy rainfall resulted in a flood on Mawlamyine-Thanbyuzayat Road between Hneepadaw village and Yaungdaung village in Mudon Township.

Kyungsu-Myeik ferry route to be suspended

Under the Township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee Programme, the express water ferry services are being halted from 21 July to 25 July to make COVID-19 disease prevention and control more effectively.

The express water ferry services between Kyungsu and Myeik have been temporarily suspended starting from 21 July to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 in Kyungsu township, Tanintharyi region.

Under the Township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee Programme, the express water ferry services are being halted from 21 July to 25 July to make COVID-19 disease prevention and control more effectively. After the halted date, the water ferry service will resume with the limited passengers.

The relevant health departments and philanthropic organizations are raising awareness for COVID-19 at the terminal. The Ministry of Health and Sports has warned the public to follow the COVID-19 guidelines strictly. The ferry restarted in line with the COVID-19 health guidelines to have a good flow of trade for the locals from Kyungsu town. — Sithu Ya Aung (Kyungsu)/GNLM

Twantay self-help oxygen plant to distribute oxygen in July-end

THE generous locals are making concerted efforts to establish an oxygen plant under the self-help scheme in Twantay Township of southern Yangon Region and the plant is expected to generate oxygen in July-end.

The cost of an oxygen plant is estimated at K120 million and it is under construction with community contributions.

Myanmar is battling against the new strain of COVID-19 in the third wave. The devastating oxygen shortage is happening in each township. The COVID-19 positive patients with a critical illness are in dire need of oxygen. To mitigate the oxygen shortage crisis in the region, the generous residents are striving to set up an oxygen plant.

"We have ordered an oxygen generator. The construction of the oxygen plant is underway. Once the generator is installed, it will generate oxygen for the people. The distribution is slated to start in July-end or early August," a local stated delightfully.

That oxygen plant will produce 80 cylinders (40L) per day. The people in Twantay are urgently searching for oxygen as Myanmar is running out of oxygen, for now, said a philanthropist from Twantay Township. — Maung Yin Oo

Over K15 million collected to build oxygen plant in Kawlin

DONATIONS for the construction of an oxygen plant in Kawlin, Sagaing Region began on 15 July.

Thanks to the enthusiastic contribution of the local people, the contract for the purchase of an oxygen machine was signed on 17 July.

According to a member of the Kawlin Township Oxygen Implementation Committee, a deposit of US$23,500 has already been paid for the oxygen plant construction and equipment will arrive at the port of Yangon within 45 days of signing the contract and will be transported to Kawlin as soon as possible.

Efforts are being made to order about 100 sets of 40-litre oxygen tanks for the township oxygen plant.

However, due to the current high demand for oxygen tanks in the city, about 50 tanks will be procured locally by the end of this month to ensure adequate intervals before direct import.

For the future processes of the oxygen plant, the township elders will move forward with Shwe Kawlin oxygen-supplying association, philanthropic groups and young volunteers, officials said. – Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)/ GNLM

According to a member of the Kawlin Township Oxygen Implementation Committee, a deposit of US$23,500 has already been paid for the oxygen plant construction and equipment will arrive at the port of Yangon within 45 days of signing the contract and will be transported to Kawlin as soon as possible.

Sagaing reports 77 new COVID-19 cases with four deaths

SAGAING township found 77 new COVID-19 confirmed cases, with four deaths, according to Sagaing township COVID-19 Suspect Patient Monitoring and Transportation Team.

The officials from Sagaing township 200-bed public hospital and district public health department conducted the COVID-19 test on the suspected patients with the use of RTD (Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kit) on 21 July. Then, a total of 77 people has tested positive for COVID-19. Four people died from the virus while they were undergoing medical treatment at the hospital.

"A total of 77 people tested positive for the disease on 21 July. The COVID-19 test kits are being detected in both public hospitals and public health departments. So far, about 77 people have tested positive with four deaths. Besides, about 20 people have recovered and been discharged from the hospital," said a team leader of Sagaing township COVID-19 Suspect Patient Monitoring and Transportation Team.

With the presence of COVID-19 confirmed patients in the Sagaing region on a daily basis, authorities have imposed stay home restrictions on Sagaing township since 13 July.

Furthermore, Sagaing township municipal Committee will supervise to ensure that only essential goods shops are allowed to open, and the non-essential shops are ordered to close temporarily. — ACM/GNLM

Over 152 larger ships above 30,000 DWT arrive Yangon, Thilawa ports in five months

YANGON inner terminals and outer Thilawa Port received over 152 larger ships of above 30,000 DWT (Deadweight tonnage) in the past five months (February-June) after the draft limit has extended up to 10 metres, and a new navigation channel developed accessing to inner Yangon River.

Starting from May, more ships enter Yangon terminals which handled over 11,000 containers and 115,000 metric tons of general commodities, according to a statement of Myanma Port Authority. In June, 40 container ships docked at the terminals. The draft extension is up to 10 metres, and the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now.

Myanmar Port Authority ensures smooth freight flow with non-stop operation during the public holidays (17-25 July).

Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT). **PHOTO: MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY**

Earlier, the larger ships have draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft was extended to 10 metres.

The value of Myanmar's maritime trade over the past nine months (1 October-9 July) of the current financial year 2020-2021 sank to US$14.29 billion, which plunged from $3.765 billion during the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at $6.3 billion, imports had registered $7.7 billion.

Myanmar witnessed a slump in exports and imports triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts and the political changes. For maritime trade, disruption in the logistic sector and cargo shipping crisis triggered by the COVID-19 impacts battered the maritime trade somehow.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade. It includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. – Mon Mon/GNLM

Myanmar-India border trade up by $110 mln as of 9 July

Between 1 October and 9 July in the current budget year, trade volume via the Tamu border gate totalled over $32.6 million, with exports valued at $31.73 million and imports $0.88 million.

THE value of border trade between Myanmar and India amounted to US$193 million between 1 October and 9 July of the current financial year 2020-21 amid the closure of border posts by India.

The border trade during the period increased by $110 million compared with the same period of the previous budget year.

The Myanmar-India total border trade during the period was shared by Myanmar's export of $ 191.89 million and its import of $1.52 million.

Most India-Myanmar border trade passes through the Tamu crossing, and the Reed crossing in Chin State is the second busiest. Officials will enforce the health rules and regulations when the border trades are running as usual.

Between 1 October and 9 July in the current budget year, trade volume via the Tamu border gate totalled over $32.6 million, with exports valued at $31.73 million and imports $0.88 million.

In the same period, the total trade volume via the Reed border trading post stood at $160.8 million, with exports valued at $160.2 million and imports $0.64 million.

Myanmar exports mung beans, pigeon peas, green grams, areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves, fishery products, fruits, and vegetables to India. At the same time, it imports pharmaceuticals, oil cakes, electronic appliances, motorbikes, steel and other construction machines and building materials from the neighbouring country. — ACM/GNLM

Myanmar exports drop 13.5% amid global pandemic

THE COVID-19 pandemic affected the country's exports in the past nine months (1 October-9 July) of the current financial year 2020-2021, with a drop of 13.5 per cent as against last FY.

Myanmar's exports over the past nine months touched a low of US$11.98 billion, reflecting a tremendous drop of over $1.87 billion compared with a year-ago period of the previous FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

During the corresponding period in the previous FY, exports stood at $13.86 billion, according to data released by the ministry.

The pandemic deals a severe blow to the manufacturing, livestock, fishery, forest, mineral and other service sectors as it disrupted the transport, supply chain and logistics sectors and shut down the events. Additionally, most people demand only staple food. As a result of this, the export sees the growth in the agriculture sector only this year.

Drop in the exports of natural gas, gems and jewellery and CMP garments are contributing factors to the slump in exports, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts. The neighbouring countries restricted the border posts to contain the spread of the virus. Pandemic-induced container shortage pushed up the freight rates in Myanmar, causing delays for exporters.

Of the seven export groups, agricultural exports showed an increase of $953.74 million against a year-ago period whereas exports of livestock, forest products, minerals, fishery products and finished industrial goods drastically declined.

Between 1 October and 9 July of the current FY, export values were registered at $4.1 billion for agro products, $17.37 million for livestock, $606 million for fishery products, $750 million for minerals, $101.6 million for forest products, $5.98 billion for manufactured goods, and $430.29 million for other goods.

This year, Myanmar's top export countries are listed China, Thailand, Japan, India, the USA, Spain, Germany, the UK, ROK and the Netherlands. – KK/GNLM

Of the seven export groups, agricultural exports showed an increase of $953.74 million against a year-ago period whereas exports of livestock, forest products, minerals, fishery products and finished industrial goods drastically declined.

TEPCO not to restart nuclear plant hit by safety flaws until FY 2022

Reactors at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant, a facility on the Sea of Japan coast plagued by security issues, will not be restarted until fiscal 2022 at the earliest, a new business plan released by its operator showed Wednesday.

In the first revision of the document in four years, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. also outlined plans to invest up to 3 trillion yen ($27 billion) by fiscal 2030 for decarbonization efforts.

The plan is designed to raise funds for compensation, decontamination and decommissioning following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. As in the previous plan formulated in 2017, the company has maintained its goal of generating future annual profits of 450 billion yen after annual decommissioning and compensation costs of around 500 billion yen.

TEPCO President Tomoaki Kobayakawa said at a press conference that the understanding of local residents would be a prerequisite for restarting nuclear power plants.

Touching on scandals that have recently come to light such as inadequate security measures at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in Niigata Prefecture, Kobayakawa underscored that "restoring (public) trust is a company-wide issue." A number of cases of unauthorized access have occurred at the plant since January 2018, with the country's nuclear regulator earlier this year effectively banning TEPCO from restarting the plant until corrective actions are taken.—Kyodo ■

California firm to bury 10,000 miles of power lines to stop wildfires

Pacific Gas and Electric Company crews work to restore power near fire-damaged Cardinal Newman High School in Santa Rosa, California on October 14, 2017. **PHOTO: DAVID MCNEW / GETTY IMAGES /AFP/FILE**

CALIFORNIA'S largest energy utility firm will bury 10,000 miles of power lines in a massive bid to prevent its equipment igniting more deadly wildfires, its CEO said Wednesday.

Pacific Gas and Electric's faulty power lines sparked the deadliest blaze in the state's modern history, which swept through the northern Californian town of Paradise in 2018, killing 86 people.

PG&E equipment was again blamed this week for one of the largest fires now blazing in California -- the Dixie Fire -- after a tree fell on a power conductor on the day the blaze began.

Announcing the measure, CEO Patti Poppe said the decision to bury the lines had been brought forward due to the "emotional toll" of the Dixie Fire, which is burning in the wildfire scars of the Paradise blaze.

"We are committing today to undertake one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of our state," said Poppe at a press conference.

"We are committing to bury 10,000 miles of lines, starting in our highest fire threat districts and our highest risk areas. We start today."

The project is expected to take a decade and cost tens of billions of dollars. California utilities have buried power lines before, but never approaching this scale.

Uncleared land around high-voltage lines has been blamed for triggering many of the massive fires that have swept California in recent years, although a significant part of last year's record fire season was triggered by lightning strikes.—AFP ■

Novartis sales rise as clients restock post-lockdown

SWISS pharmaceutical giant Novartis said on Wednesday its second quarter sales grew by nine per cent, boosted in large part by clients replenishing supplies after dipping heavily into their stocks during pandemic lockdowns last year. Net profit jumped by 49 per cent from the same period last year to $2.9 billion (€2.4bn), which the company said was due to lower financial charges. Net sales came in at $13 billion in the quarter that ran from March through June, a nine per cent gain when currency variations were stripped out. Increases in volumes would have implied a 13 per cent sales gain, but reduced prices and increased competition from generics reduced this figure to nine per cent. Of that, Novartis estimates four percentage points came from clients stocking up after cutting back orders last year at the height of the pandemic.While pharmaceutical companies might at first glance be expected to have benefited from the pandemic, companies like Novartis saw sales drop last year.

An exhibitor of Novartis examines a visitor's retina at the Medical Equipment & Health Care Products area of the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China, 7 Nov. 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LI JING/FILE**

The company said doctor visits, surgeries and cancer treatments declined as people avoided hospitals during the first wave of the pandemic, thus weighing on sales of medicines. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (126S/129N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (126S/129N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-7-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (167W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (167W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-7-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mexican president says vigilante groups unacceptable

MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Tuesday that his government will not accept armed self-defence groups that say they have formed to protect themselves against criminals.

His comments came after members of a new vigilante movement named "El Machete" (The Machete) showed off weapons including automatic rifles at a parade at the weekend in southern Mexico.

"In no case will the formation of so-called self-defence groups be accepted," Lopez Obrador told reporters. "It's our responsibility to guarantee peace and calm and we are doing it." Although such groups say they are taking up arms because of insecurity in parts of the country, the real reason may be political and criminal power struggles, he said. It is necessary to establish where these organizations get their weapons, Lopez Obrador added.—AFP ■

South Korean climber feared dead after historic Pakistan summit

A South Korean climber was feared dead Tuesday just days after becoming the first disabled person to climb all 14 of the world's highest mountains, officials in Pakistan said.

Kim Hong-bin went missing Monday after falling into a crevasse while descending from the 8,051-metre (26,414-foot) Broad Peak, in the Karakoram range, Karrar Haidri, of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, told AFP.

Broad Peak is the 12th highest of the world's 8,000-metre-plus mountains.

Haidri said when Bin reached the top of Broad Peak Sunday, he joined the exclusive club of top climbers who have summited all 14, becoming the 44th person to achieve the feat.

But coming down, he fell "towards the China side", Haidri added. He said Kim was the first disabled climber to join the so-called "eight-thousander club", having lost all his fingers during a climb of Mount Denali in Alaska in 1991.—AFP ■

Indian parliament disrupted over Pegasus snooping claims

INDIA'S parliament was disrupted for the second day running on Tuesday by noisy opposition calls for an investigation into reports of snooping on politicians and others with Israeli-made spyware Pegasus.

The parties, led by the main opposition Congress, shouted slogans and raised a ruckus in both houses of parliament that had reconvened Monday after being cut short in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Shaktisinh Gohil, a Congress spokesman, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government should clearly say whether it used Pegasus to spy on dozens of politicians, journalists, activists and critics.

India's Congress party members were detained by security personnel as they took part in a demonstration against an alleged surveillance operation using the Pegasus spyware. **PHOTO: AFP**

"If yes, then the government should order a joint parliamentary committee probe to investigate the entire matter," he told reporters in New Delhi.

Congress also held demonstrations in the heart of the capital before police intervened and detained several protesters.

Carrying banners, toy binoculars and magnifying glasses, the demonstrators accused the ruling party of ordering the hacking of smartphones.

More than 1,000 Indian phone numbers were among tens of thousands worldwide selected as possibly of interest to clients of NSO Group, maker of the Pegasus spyware, according to an investigation by a group of media outlets. The identities behind around 300 of the numbers were verified by the international consortium of media outlets and included Modi's main political rival, Rahul Gandhi of Congress. Others included Indian politicians, journalists, activists and government critics, as well as India's newly appointed IT minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw.—AFP ■

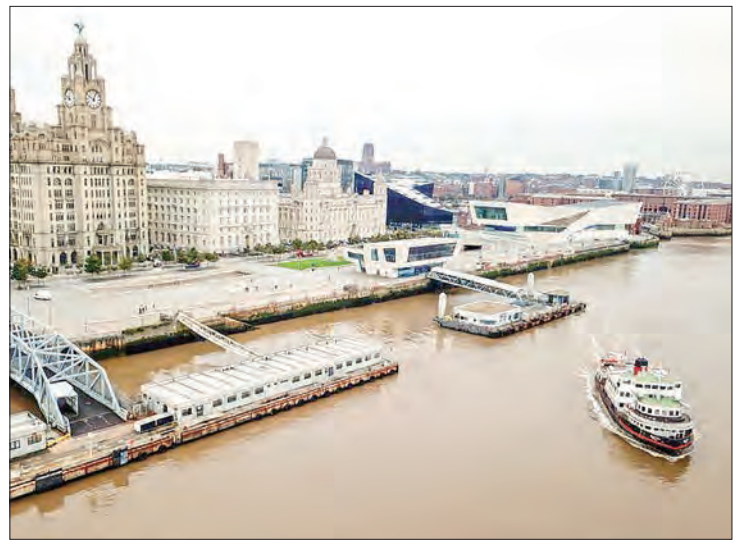
Liverpool's historic waterfront removed from World Heritage List

THE UN's cultural agency UNESCO on Wednesday voted narrowly to remove Liverpool's waterfront from its list of world heritage sites, citing concerns about overdevelopment, including plans for a new football stadium. At committee talks chaired by China, 13 delegates voted in favour of the proposal and five against — just one more than the two-thirds majority required to delete a site from the global list.

"It means that the site of Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City is deleted from the World Heritage List," Tian Xuejun, chairman of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, declared.

It is only the third such removal, after previous decisions affecting Oman and Germany.

Over two days of committee discussions, delegates heard that the redevelopment plans, including high-rise buildings, would "irreversibly damage" the heritage of the historic port in northwest England. The International Council on Monuments and Sites, which advises UNESCO on the heritage list, said the UK government had been "repeatedly requested" to come up with stronger assurances about the city's future.—AFP ■



Liverpool's newly elected mayor Joanne Anderson said she was "really disappointed" in the decision and would try to appeal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chinese army warns dam battered by storms could collapse

This aerial photo taken on 5 July 2021 shows water being released from the Xiaolangdi Reservoir Dam in Luoyang in China's central Henan province, which has been hit by severe storms and torrential rain. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Chinese army warned that a stricken dam in the centre of the country "could collapse at any time" after being severely damaged in torrential storms that killed at least three people and brought the region to a standstill. Weather authorities have issued the highest warning level for central Henan province as downpours caused widespread disruption and the evacuation of residents of flooded streets.

On Tuesday evening the regional unit of the People's Liberation Army warned that the relentless downpour had caused a 20-metre breach in the Yihetan dam in Luoyang — a city of around seven million people — with the risk that it "may collapse at any time." The PLA's Central Theater Command said it had sent soldiers to carry out an emergency response including blasting and flood diversion. "On 20 July, a 20-metre breach occurred at the Yihetan dam ....the riverbank was severely damaged and the dam may collapse at any time," it said in the statement. Floods are common during China's rainy season, which causes annual chaos and washes away roads, crops and houses.

But the threat has worsened over the decades, due in part to widespread construction of dams and levees that have cut connections between the river and adjacent lakes and disrupted floodplains that had helped absorb the summer surge.—AFP ■

US rejects Turkish two-state proposal for Cyprus

THE United States on Wednesday rejected Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's proposal for two states in Cyprus, urging continued efforts for a united island with two zones.

"We think only a Cypriot-led process - bizonal, bicommunal - will bring peace and stability in Cyprus," Victoria Nuland, the under secretary of state for political affairs, told a Senate hearing.

Erdogan on a visit to divided Nicosia on Tuesday called for two separate states on the island, brushing aside a UN-backed goal of two zones with separate regional administrations that would remain a unified state. He also took another step to open the ghost town of Varosha in defiance of UN resolutions, a step that already drew a strong US rejection.

Nuland said she spoke to Turkish officials in Ankara on Wednesday to urge a reversal of the "provocative" decision.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken separately spoke to Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides to condemn the announcement by the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

"This is unacceptable and inconsistent with UN resolutions. We're pushing for a strong UNSC response," Blinken wrote on Twitter, referring to the UN Security Council.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded in response to an abortive coup engineered by the then military junta in Athens that aimed to unite the island with Greece.

A view of the abandoned town Varosha (Maraş) in northern Cyprus, 2 Sept. 2019. **PHOTO: İHA/AFP**

While there has been limited headway in resolving the dispute, Cyprus has been at peace under the status quo.—AFP ■

Israeli army fires into Lebanon after rocket attacks

United Nations peacekeepers stand next to a Hezbollah flag raised on the Lebanese side of the border fence with Israel, near the northern Israeli settlement of Shtula. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAEL shelled Lebanon early Tuesday in response to earlier rocket attacks, the Israeli army said, as the United Nations urged all sides to show "maximum restraint".

The Israeli army said "two rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory", with one intercepted by air defences. The other hit open ground.

"In response... (Israeli) artillery struck in Lebanese territory," the army said.

A Lebanese security source told AFP the rockets were fired at Israel from the Qlaileh area of southern Lebanon, where a third rocket was also found.

The source said the Lebanese army had not identified the group responsible for the launch. The head of Israel's army Aviv Kohavi, speaking at a northern military base in footage provided by the army, said Israel would "respond either openly or in secret, or both at the same time, to every violation of our sovereignty".

The UN peacekeeping force in the border region, UNIFIL, said it had boosted security in the area and "launched an investigation" in collaboration with Lebanon's military. "UNIFIL is in direct contact with the parties to urge maximum restraint and avoid further escalation," it said in a statement.

The last time rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israel was in May, during an 11-day conflict between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip.

In recent weeks, Israeli security officials have expressed growing concern over the deepening economic crisis in Lebanon and its ramifications for border security.—APF ■

Hungary calls referendum on controversial LGBTQ law

HUNGARY'S Prime Minister Viktor Orban said Wednesday that a referendum would be held to gauge domestic support for a controversial LGBTQ law, after the European Commission launched legal action against Budapest over the measure.

"Brussels has clearly attacked Hungary in recent weeks regarding the law", Orban said in a video posted on his Facebook page.

The legislation, which includes a ban on the "depiction or promotion" of homosexuality and gender reassignment to under-18s, has drawn scorn across Europe.

It has been billed by Budapest as a way to protect children, but opponents argue that it conflates paedophilia with homosexuality and stigmatises the LGBTQ community.

Orban said the referendum would comprise five questions, including asking citizens if they agree that schools should be permitted to "talk about sexuality to their children without their consent". It will also ask participants if they support "the promotion of sex reassignment treatment for minors" or the "unrestricted exposure of children to harmful sexual content".

He urged all participants to answer "No" to the questions.

No date has been set for the referendum, which he presented as a list of demands that the European Union would like to impose on Hungary. —AFP ■

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban said Wednesday that a referendum would be held to gauge domestic support for a controversial LGBTQ law, after the European Commission launched legal action against Budapest over the measure. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump ally charged with acting as foreign agent

THOMAS Barrack, a close ally to former US president Donald Trump and one of his top fundraisers, was arrested and charged Tuesday for not disclosing his lobbying on behalf of a foreign government.

The Justice Department unsealed an indictment in New York federal court accusing three suspects, including 74-year-old Barrack, of failing to register as agents of the United Arab Emirates as they attempted to influence Trump on foreign policy during the presidential campaign.

"The defendants repeatedly capitalised on Barrack's friendships and access to a candidate who was eventually elected president... to advance the policy goals of a foreign government without disclosing their true allegiances," Acting Assistant Attorney General Mark Lesko said in a statement.—AFP ■

Norway marks 10 years since massacre by neo-Nazi

NORWAY on Thursday marks the 10th anniversary of the worst massacre in its modern history, as church bells toll for the 77 people murdered by neo-Nazi Anders Behring Breivik.

The Scandinavian nation had been mostly spared from extremist violence until July 22, 2011, when Breivik set off a bomb in Oslo that killed eight people before going on a shooting spree at a summer camp for left-wing youths on the island of Utoya.

"I was 16 years old and I couldn't decide which funerals to go to because there were so many," said Astrid Eide Hoem, a survivor who has since become head of the Labour Party's youth league (AUF), which organized the camp.

"I had never lost anyone close to me before, but also now, being in my mid-20s, I think about what would have become of them, the job they might have had, the children..."

A morning memorial ceremony at the government headquarters, church masses and another ceremony on Utoya in the afternoon, will mark the anniversary. At noon (1000 GMT), church bells nationwide will ring.—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.

France thrashed by Mexico in Olympic opener as Spain held

FRANCE'S bid for the Olympic glory of men's football got off to a nightmarish start with a 4-1 defeat to Mexico on Thursday, as a strong Spain side stumbled to a scoreless stalemate with Egypt.

Sylvain Ripoll's France is looking for its first Olympic medal since gold in 1984, but collapsed in the second half at Tokyo Stadium. Mexico took the lead at Tokyo Stadium just two minutes after half-time via Alexis Vega, before Sebastian Cordova doubled the lead in the 55th minute. 35-year-old captain Andre-Pierre Gignac, whose last game for the French senior team was the Euro 2016 final against Portugal, pulled one from the penalty spot with 21 minutes to go.

But all thoughts of a comeback were dismissed when Uriel Antuna and Eduardo Aguirre snatched up late for 2012 champions Mexico. France now faces an uphill task to emerge from Group A with a top two place, ahead of games against Covid-stricken South Africa on Sunday and hosting Japan on July 28. Spain also struggled in Sapporo, as a six-player team that reached the Euro 2020 semi-finals dominated possession but created few chances against Egypt.

France's bid for men's Olympic football glory got off to a nightmare start with a 4-1 defeat by Mexico on Thursday, while a strong Spain side stuttered to a goalless stalemate with Egypt. **PHOTO: AFP**

They came closest to scoring when Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos, who recently spent two seasons on loan at Arsenal, crashed a first-half shot into the post. — AFP ■

Van Gaal to coach Dutch football team: report

DUTCH football and Louis van Gaal have closed a deal that will see the "Iron Tulip" return for one last stint as national coach, a news report said late Wednesday. Van Gaal, 69, has agreed to lead the talented but inexperienced Dutch eleven to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, the tabloid De Telegraaf reported. The Royal Dutch Football Federation and Van Gaal, "have just reached an agreement that will see the new national coach set off on his third stint," the paper said.

After years as a "temporary pensioner in Portugal, he inevitably has pushed back his retirement again," it said. The KNVB did not immediately confirm the report. The no-nonsense manager's appointment follows the resignation of Frank de Boer late last month after the Netherlands' dismal Euro 2020 last-16 elimination by the Czech Republic.

Since then, the KNVB has scrambled to find a replacement ahead of the team's next international against Norway on September 1.— AFP ■

Alaba has big shirt to fill at Real Madrid

DAVID Alaba has taken the shirt number worn by departed Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos because, he said on Wednesday, the club told him it was the only one available.

Austria's Alaba, who can play in defence or midfield, was unveiled by Real wearing the number four worn for 16 seasons by Ramos.

"It's a number that is a great motivation for me and one I want to honour," Alaba said, adding Real told him four "was the only number available".

"Ramos wore that number and became a leader. It's something that's in everyone's head," said Alaba. "I want to be David Alaba," he added. Ramos, 35, has joined Paris Saint-Germain. He led Madrid to four Champions League and five La Liga titles.

Alaba, who is 29, won the Champions League twice and the Bundesliga 10 times in 12 seasons with Bayern Munich.

"It's a dream come true for me, this is the best club in the world," he said of the move to the Spanish capital. Alaba said he had an "excellent relationship" with Carlo Ancelotti who was at Bayern for 18 months and has taken over as Madrid coach.— AFP ■

David Alaba has taken the shirt number worn by departed Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos because, he said on Wednesday, the club told him it was the only one available. **PHOTO: AFP**