

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No 172/2021
4th Waxing of Wagaung 1383 ME
11 August 2021

Closing and withdrawal of criminal cases within hearing

1. The State Administration Council released Order No 147/2021 of releasing the culprits from designated cases dated 20-7-2021 and released them from the cases to effectively control, contain and give treatment for infection of current COVID-19 and to ensure sympathy over the culprits facing the long detention days for lack of going to the trials due to the disciplines related to COVID-19. This order was hereby released in accordance with the Section 419 of the Constitution to close and withdraw the cases of remaining culprits on long detention days with compassion in line with the restrictions and to further take preventive, control and treatment measures of COVID-19.
 2. Except those prosecuted in the cases related to the Counter-Terrorism Law, the Money Laundering Law, the Anti-Human Trafficking Law, the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law (except Para 2 (f) and (g) of Order No 147/2021), the Unlawful Association Act, the high treason (Section 122 of the Penal Code), the sedition (Section 124 (a) of the Penal Code),
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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.

Virtual meeting held to clarify progress of current political situations to Myanmar dipolmats

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing co-hosted a virtual coordination meeting between Myanmar Ambassadors, permanent representatives and consuls general from the Asia Pacific Region on 11 August 2021, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the Meeting, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing briefed them about current political situations, developments and highlighted the policy matters. Subsequently, Myanmar



Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Ko Ko Hlaing clarify progress of current political situations of Myanmar to Ambassadors and diplomats of Myanmar embassies.

mar Ambassadors, permanent representatives and consuls general discussed and presented ongoing missions work plans and Union Ministers gave guidelines on work plans and instructed the necessary measures.

The meeting was also attended by deputy minister, permanent secretary and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

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fugitives, the cases directly submitted prosecution to the court and the cases that relevant prosecuted organizations submitted proposals to the respective courts before 30 September 2021 not to close the cases with firm evidences, all criminal cases within hearing for the culprits prosecuted at relevant courts for any crimes on 1 February 2021 and before that date shall be closed and those culprits released from the cases.

3. However, only when those who faced loss and grievance in the criminal cases related to murders, rapes, causing loss and grievance to others and causing money or property loss to individual person or many persons do not submit the complaints not to close the cases, not later than 30 September 2021 to the relevant courts, shall the cases be closed and the culprits released. When the persons themselves facing loss and grievance submitted the complaints not to close the cases, the relevant courts shall continue the hearing the cases from the respective stages. The word which means the persons themselves facing loss and grievance is the persons themselves facing loss and grievance, their legal wife or spouse and offspring only. If the persons themselves facing loss and grievance are not married, it means the persons themselves facing loss and grievance and their parents and siblings.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

3,739 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 11 August, total figure rises to 341,300

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 341,300 after 3,739 new cases were reported on 11 August 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 256,671 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 12,452 after 218 died. —MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Health Ministry receives 1,000 40-litre oxygen cylinders from Chenxi Chinyang Co Ltd

THE Ministry of Health received a total of 1,000 40-litre oxygen cylinders donated by Chenxi Chinyang Co Ltd yesterday afternoon.

At the donation ceremony, the official from the company explained the purpose of donations. Union Minister Dr Thet Khine Win expressed words of thanks for donation of oxygen cylinders, adding the oxygen cylinders will be distributed to the COVID-19 treatment centres and general hospitals across the country as soon as possible, and returned a certificate of honour. — MNA



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khine Wine presents certificate of honour to an official of Chenxi Chinyang Co Ltd for donation of oxygen cylinders.

Preparatory Meeting on 3rd Inter-Governmental Russia-Myanmar Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation and Business to Business Virtual Matching holds

A Preparatory Meeting on the 3rd Inter-Governmental Russia-Myanmar Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation and Business to Business

Virtual Matching was held via video conferencing at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations yesterday afternoon. The meeting was led

by U Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations from Myanmar side and Mr Andrei Iunak, Counsellor of Economic and Commercial Affairs from the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from the Russian side.

In the meeting, the Deputy Minister discussed follow up activities of bilateral trade and investment promotion which were proposed by both sides during the visit of delegation led by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Provisional Government of the Republic of

the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation last week of June 2021. He also updated on the preparatory work for the 3rd Inter-Governmental Russia-Myanmar Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation and Business to Business Virtual Matching scheduled to organize in December and September respectively this year. Then he proposed the priority sectors to be discussed in upcoming Virtual Business to Business Matching and proposed the potential participants from public and private sector.

After that, Mr Andrei Iunak, Counsellor of Economic and

Commercial Affairs discussed the arrangement of the 3rd Inter-Governmental Russia-Myanmar Joint Commission and Business to Business Virtual Matching, and the priority areas from Russian side in order to promote bilateral economic cooperation.

The meeting was joined by the director general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and officials as well as Professor Mr Vadim Saltykoskiy, Deputy Chief of Committee for Economic Cooperation with Asian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. — MNA



Deputy Minister U Than Aung Kyaw attends Preparatory Meeting on the 3rd Inter-Governmental Russia-Myanmar Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation and Business to Business Virtual Matching.

Emphasis must be placed on development tasks while prioritizing peace and stability, especially political stability

THEY are carrying out the government tasks in a smooth process. It is necessary to consider extension of new sectors. The unrests and terror acts based on vote-rigging in the 2020 election are being combated. Emphasis must be placed on development tasks while prioritizing the peace and stability, especially political stability. The provisional government temporarily takes the responsibility of the country, and when the emergency period runs out, the election will be held under the law. Undertakings will be carried out to hand over the State duty to the government emerged by the election in accord with the Constitution.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 13/2021 of the State Administration Council made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 2 August 2021)

Enchanting Myanmar health and safety protocol website launches

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism held the “Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol” Website Launching Ceremony yesterday evening through video conferencing.

At the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Htay Aung spoke about the immediate priorities of the Myanmar Tourism Strategic Recovery Roadmap (MTS-RR) drawn up by the ministry to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that has adversely affected Myanmar’s tourism sector, including to build trust in Myanmar as a safe tourist destination and to improve health and safety measures.

The “Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol” programme is aimed to provide tourism services with the COVID-19 Safe Service Certification System and to enhance the im-



Hotels and Tourism Ministry holds Website launching ceremony for enchanting Myanmar health and safety protocol.

age of Myanmar’s tourism industry through the safe tourism services.

The Website has now been set up as a key component for the successful implementation of the three steps in the programme. The launching ceremony aimed to make it widely

known and understood by all those involved in the tourism sector.

The Union Minister urged all hotel and tourism service providers in various regions and states to ensure that all the staffs can participate in health and safety training conducted by the Ministry, and to help register on the website.

The Director-General of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism presented the report on the ministry’s implementation status and further activities of the “Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol” Programme in detail. The Managing Director of Secure Link Co., Ltd explained the Website and the participants asked questions.

Afterwards, the Union Minister made concluding remarks and attended to the need.—MNA

15th ASEAN Navy Chiefs’ Meeting held online

THE Royal Brunei Navy hosted the 15th ASEAN Navy Chiefs’ Meeting via video conferencing yesterday. During the meeting, Brunei Navy Chief First Admiral Spry Bin Haji Serudi@Haji Seruji firstly made the opening remark.

The leaders then approved the meeting record of 14th ANCM. The ANCM Joint Secretary explained the regional maritime security affairs and the Navy Chiefs discussed under the topic called Blue Economy: “We care, We prepare, We prosper.”

During the meeting, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung discussed the COVID-19 control activities under

the leadership of government, regional maritime security and cooperation work for Blue Economy as an ASEAN member country.

Then, the ASEAN Navy Chiefs exchanged views on co-operation in maritime security measures, ASEAN Teamwork to ease the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in new normal and plans to implement Blue Economy concepts.

They also discussed outcomes of the ANTEEP Working Group meeting, the 4th International Maritime Security Symposium (IMSS-2021) and the 17th Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) including future work plans of the ASE-

AN Multilateral Naval Exercise (AMNEX) and ASEAN Navies. The meeting also focused on the 16th ANCM to be organized in Indonesia in 2022, the 17th ANCM and the 2nd ASEAN

Multilateral Naval Exercise (AMNEX) in the Philippines.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung attends 15th ASEAN Navy Chiefs’ Meeting online.

Public request by Ministry of Health

ONLY when the people cooperate will the work process achieve success in a short time for effective prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 among the people. As such, all the people are requested to abide by the following points: -

1. Stay at home as much as possible.
2. Don't accept the guests at the house. You don't visit other houses.
3. The older persons above 65 or those suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart must be worn masks in the house. They must be placed at well-ventilated sites.
4. Wear masks if you go outside without fail. Systematically wash hands. Take a six-foot distance from others. Avoid visits to the rooms where ventilation is not good.
5. Avoid the crowds.
6. If possible, go shopping once a week. Don't buy anything from the vendors who don't systematically wear masks.
7. Take care of carrying the virus to the houses whenever return home from outside. Systematically discard the used masks and single disposable equipment outside the houses. Avoid close contact with family members before changing clothes or washing the body.
8. As the vaccines for your quota is the best, accept vaccinations for full time. Despite receiving the vaccination, you should abide by the protective ways.
9. Systematically cooperate in prevention, control and treatment of the disease with manpower, money, materials and expertise.

Ministry of Health (2-8-2021)

Two dead, three arrested, three others injured during police raid in Botahtaung Township

THE police arrested two men and one woman together with the explosives, and one man and one woman died in jumping from the apartment building and another three men were injured in Botahtaung Township on 10 August.

Acting on tip-off, the police raided the apartment located in No 6 Ward of Botahtaung Township.

They arrested two men including Thiha Kaung Sett and one woman together with 16 assorted homemade bombs and explosives.

During the raid, four men and one woman left in the room



16 assorted homemade bombs, explosives and other materials are seized from terrorists in police raid in Botahtaung Township.



jumped from the apartment building to escape from the police raid. Of them, one man and one woman died on the spot, and three men had injuries. They were taken to the Tatamadaw hospital (1000-bed) for medical treatment.

With regard to the death of suspects, inquests were filed in line with the police procedure, and further investigation is being conducted over the arrestees and related persons to be taken action under the law.—MNA



Terrorists kill one villager at COVID-19 medical checkpoint in Myaing Township

ONE villager was shot dead by gun men at the COVID-19 medical checkpoint in Paikthin village, Myaing Township, Magway Region on 9 August.

When a total of five villagers were on duty at the check-point in the evening, about six terrorists came and handcuffed them and got them down on the ground. They set up two guards at the checkpoint, while others went to the village administrator's house to search for the son of the administrator.

They returned to the gate after they had not found the son and shot one of the villagers to death at the gate. It is reported that terrorists drove towards the Pakokku-Myaing road.

U Aung Zeya, who was shot dead, died of injuries, and security forces are investigating to arrest them.—MNA

Import process of medical supplies run as usual

THE Ministry of Commerce is making continuous efforts to import the anti-COVID-19 equipment including liquid oxygen, oxygen gas, household oxygen concentrators, and medicines via sea, air and border routes on public holidays together with the relevant departments in accordance with the SOP

A total of 2,532 oxygen concentrators, 7,226 test kits and 11 tonnes of masks arrived at the Yangon International Airport yesterday, while 15 oxygen concentrators at the international port.

Moreover, 35 tonnes of liquid oxygen on bowzers, seven tonnes of liquid oxygen cylinders, 6,698 empty oxygen cylinders, one oxygen plant, one oxygen generator, 2,888 home oxygen concentrators, 7,226 test kits, 15,960 PPE suits, eight tonnes of gloves and 49 tonnes of masks were imported via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Myawady, Tachilek and Hteekhee border checkpoints.

These materials were transported by 43 vehicles of



Oxygen cylinders and cartons of medical supplies are seen on cargo trucks.

24 companies.

A total of 589 tonnes of liquid oxygen on bowzers, 156 tonnes of oxygen liquid, 65 tonnes of oxygen gas cylinders, 77,804 empty oxygen containers, 16 oxygen plants, 10 oxygen generators, 61,658 home oxygen concentrators, 150,268 test kits, 341,852 PPE suits, 58 tonnes of gloves and 849 tonnes of masks have been imported so far

in August.

In July, a total of 727 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 567 tonnes of liquid oxygen cylinder, 114 tonnes of oxygen gas cylinders, 40,491 empty oxygen containers, 69,146 household oxygen concentrators, eight oxygen plants, 11 oxygen generators, four oxygen filling machines, 322,878 test kits, 1,104 tonnes of masks and 182,975

PPE suits were imported.

From July to 11 August, the liquid oxygen was imported in 63 bowzers. Of them, 46 bowzers led to Yangon, 11 to Mandalay, two to Bago, three to Mawlamyine and one to Thaton. Of 24 oxygen plants, four were distributed to Yangon, another four to Lashio, four to Bago, two to Pakokku and one each to Mandalay, Taunggyi,

Thanbyuzayat, Magway, Hpa-an, Dawei, Wakema, Myittha, Kyaukpadaung and Mawlamyine townships.

The Ministry of Commerce has posted contact persons and department announcements on the Ministry's website, Commerce.gov.mm, to access direct contact with relevant authorities if assistance is needed.—MNA



Cargo trucks are carrying container comprising medical equipment and oxygen containers and other equipment.

COVID-19 medical supplies continuously transported to regions/states

COVID-19 medical supplies including Paracetamol, Multivitamin capsules and other related equipment were transported from Yangon to Myitkyina Township, Kachin State by Tatmadaw aircraft yesterday morning.

Similarly, a total of 36,568 Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines purchased from the People's Republic of China were transported to Patheingyi Township and a total of 97,522 Sinovac vaccines to Mandalay respectively by cold chain delivery logistics.

It is reported that medical supplies will also be distributed to remote areas with the help of Tatmadaw aircraft and Myanmar National Airlines.—MNA

Medical supplies for COVID-19 prevention are being unloaded from Tatmadaw aircraft.



Over 88,000 persons from religions, residents from Sagaing receive COVID-19 vaccinations for first time

OVER 88,000 persons from religions and residents from Sagaing region have received their first does of the COVID-19 vaccine within a week, said Dr Nyi Nyi Lwin, Deputy Region Public Health Department.

The vaccination programme started with the priority group of people in 25 townships of seven districts in Sagaing region. The first COVID-19 vaccines were given to 88,134 people including persons from religions, people of above 65, public service personnel and public from 3 to 9 August.

“We are distributing vaccines to the townships depending on the availability of vaccines and the vaccination activities were carried out as of 9 August. So far, over 88,000 people over the age 65 have been vaccinated. As of 9 August, around 94.4



A health staff injects anti-COVID-19 vaccine into a local.

per cent of people in Sagaing region received the vaccination against COVID-19,” said Dr Nyi Nyi Lwin.

Sagaing region received its first dose of COVID-19 vaccine,

4,847 people on 6 August, 18,393 people on 7 August, 11,966 people on 8 August and 6,950 people on 9 August.

“After receiving the two dose of COVID-19 vaccine, it can reduce the incidence of disease by eight times. Studies have also shown that people who received both doses of the vaccine were protected against getting seriously ill. That is the reason why we urged people to be vaccinated against COVID-19,” he added.

Authorities have administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines in 25 townships from Sagaing, Monywa, Yinmabin, Shwebo, Kanbalu, Katha and Kalin districts in Sagiang region.

The COVID-19 vaccination was carried out in accordance with guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.—Lulay/GNLM

Kyaukse sesame growers happy with reasonable price, bumper yield



Local grower prepares for threshing of sesame in the farmland.

SESAME growers from Kyaukse township, Mandalay region are happy as they are getting bumper yield and good price.

The sesame growers need to compact the soil to grow the sesame. Concerning cultivation, there are many methods of cultivation such as sowing or rowing methods. After growing for 18 days, the growers need to conduct subtraction and separation steps. If

it is necessary, the growers should spray the pesticide and add fertilizers. The harvest of sesame is about 14 or 20 baskets per acre depending upon the land and weather condition, said U Khin Maung Aye, a grower from Kula village.

There are two types of sesame called Talin sesame and Htaung sesame. At present, a basket of sesame is fetching K 4,700. Now, the sesame growers from Kyauk-

se township are happy with making good profit of sesame.

Sesame seeds are mostly used as a garnish, as an ingredient in some foods, and a snack on their own. A popular sesame product is sesame oil, which is an edible vegetable oil derived from sesame seeds. Because of its health benefits, sesame oil is also used in making the traditional medicines.—Thet Maung (Kyaukse)

Bilateral border value between Myanmar-India hit \$ 193 mln

THE border trade between Myanmar and India hit US\$193 million as of 23 July in the current financial year 2020-21 ending September, said a statistical report of Myanmar’s Commerce Ministry.

The border trade during the period increased by \$109 million compared with the same period of the previous FY.

The Myanmar-India total border trade during the period was shared by Myanmar’s export of over \$192 million and its import of \$1.5 million.

Much of Myanmar-India cross-border trade is conducted via Thantlang and Reed camps in Chin state, and Tamu in Sagaing region while a major part of bilat-

eral trade are delivered through ship.

Myanmar mainly exports to India fruits and vegetables, fishery and forestry products while importing from India the medicines, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.

India is one of Myanmar’s top trade partners. The two countries signed a bilateral border trade agreement in 1994.

Meanwhile, Myanmar’s border trade with four neighboring countries, China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh totalled \$6.98 billion shared by \$4.55 million in export and \$2.43 million in import.—ACM/GNLM



Local people and business people from Myanmar are leading to India for trading.

Myanmar records trade surplus on lower import

MYANMAR'S lower import nearly ten months (1 Oct-23 July) of the 2020-2021 financial year have resulted in a positive trade balance of US\$353.644 million, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's exports surpassed imports in international trade although overall trade value declined compared to the same corresponding period of FY 2019-2020.

Nearly ten months, the country's exports were estimated at \$12.3 billion, imports were valued at \$11.95 billion this FY. The external trade drastically sank to \$24.26 billion from \$30.37 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

Myanmar's trade gap was \$1.5 billion in the year-ago period, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

"This is a positive balance of trade. A trade surplus is harmful only when the government uses protectionism," a

trader points out.

Myanmar witnessed a slump in exports and imports triggered by the coronavirus impacts this year against the year-ago period. Both sea trade and border trade dropped. The neighbouring countries tightened the border security and restricted the trading in certain border areas. For maritime trade, disruption in logistic sector, spikes in container rates and banking restriction dragged down the trade.

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

The country's export sector relies much on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. The



An ocean liner docks at port of Yangon to handle loading and unloading of commodities.

country mainly imports essential goods, construction materials, capital goods, hygienic material and supporting products for export promotion and the import substitution.

Myanmar's trade deficit was pegged at \$1.3 billion in the 2019-2020 FY, \$1.14 billion in the 2018-2019 FY, \$1.3 billion in the previous mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$3.9

billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$5.3 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization.—MM/GNLM

Chickpea price up by K25,000 per bag within one month



Chickpea plants bear fruits in the farm.

THE price of chickpea remains in the bull market on the back of strong domestic demand and the price rose by K25,000 per three-basket bag, according to Bayintnaung Wholesale Market.

At present, the price was pegged at K90,000 per bag on 9 August, whereas the chickpea price rose to K115,000 per bag at the present time. The chickpea growers are fetching a good price amidst the low production this year, traders said.

"The export of chickpea came to a halt from the closure of border posts by China. At present, the domestic bean market is positively related to the law of supply and demand," said a trader from Mandalay who shared his opinion.

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

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

The peas are cultivated in October and November and they are harvested in January-April period.

More than 25,190 tonnes of chickpea were exported to foreign markets between 1 October and 23 July of the current financial year 2020-2021, with estimated value of US\$14.87 million, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.—KK/GNLM

Chinese importers daily trade 2,000 cattle on black market

LIVE cattle trade is booming on Myanmar's black market, with 2,000 heads of cattle daily sent to China, said U Soe Naing, chair of Mandalay Region Cattle Exporters Association.

Chinese traders are constantly purchasing the cattle on the black market across border between Myanmar and China, despite the suspension of cross-border trade.

"The illegitimate market is found around Myitkyina and Waingmaw areas. Around 1,500-2,000 heads of live cattle are transported to China's border every day. Those residents in China's border area mostly consume the beef imported from Myanmar," said U Soe Naing.

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

Following about 15,000 heads of cattle were stranded in Muse last year, traders embarked on the illegal sales. Around 6,000 heads of cattle are still stuck in Muse, 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. Those import criteria do not matter on the black market.

Myanmar's live cattle export is deeply relying on the Chinese market due to a good price although Myanmar has other external markets in 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 three-month period.

Live cattle export was allowed in late 2017, with a view to eradicating illegal exports, creating more opportunities for breeders and promoting their interests.

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 the negative impacts of the COVID-19.—NN/GNLM



Cattle are waiting for exporting them to customers through black market.

Improve qualification of leaders to well organize subordinates

THE management is correctly doing things whereas the leadership is doing the correct things. Management and leadership should be in a good balance for ensuring accomplishment of the assigned duties. Hence, leaders need to apply their skills and knowledge in taking management measures at the workplaces without discrimination of the employees.

Ward and village, township and district, region and state as well as Union level administrative bodies have been set up in Myanmar for assigning them with duties and functions in addition to management measures. The acts of one who conducts the direct management beyond the prescribed steps may decline the capacity of other persons from management bodies.

The government allows those from the management bodies to submit their requirements and to make management in their assigned duties. However, anyone is not allowed to do management of their own accord beyond the policies and laws as well as work procedures. Hence, they need to carry out the tasks to have the accomplishment.

Leaders must know the ways of management. They must have capability to utilize the management skills for securing the success of duties by well organizing the subordinates in work processes. If necessary, they have to encourage the subordinates to expedite their best capacity in work.

As such, the leaders need to have a wider scope of knowledge how to manage manpower, materials and money in implementation of the projects. In this regard, the leaders must forge the commanderly spirit and brotherly spirit to deploy the subordinates in workplaces. It is necessary to take care of creating equalized chances among the subordinates. If so, disunity can be removed from the workplaces.

Proper management and leadership will be an encouragement for workplaces as well as individual life of employees. Qualified leaders have the capacity of operating the workplaces while providing welfare to the employees. The carrot and stick motivation based on the family spirit will be an exhortation for the workplace participants.

Leaders must try to win the trust of the followers. They should not give orders but suggestions to the subordinates in work procedures through the organizational way. Whatever it may be, leaders must have capability to clearly make decisions for the best way of work procedures.

■ ■ ■

Qualified leaders have the capacity of operating the workplaces while providing welfare to the employees. The carrot and stick motivation based on the family spirit will be an exhortation for the workplace participants.

China approves first mixed-vaccine trial as Delta spreads

There are several types of Covid vaccines, including those using an inactivated or weakened virus to generate an immune response, and more cutting-edge RNA- or DNA-based jabs that use engineered versions of the coronavirus' genetic code to create a protein that safely prompts an immune response.

CHINA'S drug regulator has approved the country's first mixed-vaccine trial, a company involved in the study said, as the rapid spread of the Delta variant raises concern about the efficacy of domestically produced jabs.

The trial will test the efficacy of combining an "inactivated" vaccine made by China's Sinovac with a DNA-based one developed by US pharmaceutical company Inovio, a statement issued on Tuesday said.

The statement was put out by Advaccine Biopharmaceuticals Suzhou, Inovio's trial partner in China.

Preclinical work has found that "two different vaccine applications... produce an even stronger and more balanced immune response", Advaccine

chairman Wang Bin said in the statement.

There are several types of Covid vaccines, including those using an inactivated or weakened virus to generate an immune response, and more cutting-edge RNA- or DNA-based jabs that use engineered versions of the coronavirus' genetic code to create a protein that safely prompts an immune response.

Five out of the seven vaccines approved in China are two-shot inactivated vaccines.

Their published efficacy lags RNA jabs by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, which have pre-Delta success rates above 90 percent.

The World Health Organization has said there is still not enough data to say whether

using two different vaccines together is safe or can boost immunity.

Inovio has not published any efficacy data from its global clinical trials. It is the first DNA-based vaccine to be trialled in China.

China is battling its worst coronavirus outbreak in months, with officials saying many of those infected had already been vaccinated.

This has added to calls for China's two biggest vaccine producers -- state-run Sinopharm and privately owned Sinovac -- to provide data proving their jabs work against the Delta variant.

Beijing is yet to approve any foreign vaccines for domestic use.

Source : AFP



Staff members of Sinovac Biotech, a Chinese biopharmaceutical company, pose for a photo in the quality inspection lab in Beijing, capital of China, March 16, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Delta Variant Reignites US Mask Debate

The health authority is basing their recommendation on data that shows that vaccinated people infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus more easily than those infected with earlier variants. Now, many businesses have also reverted back to requiring masks.



A woman wearing a mask walks past a Walmart store in Washington, DC on July 15, 2020. PHOTO: ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS / AFP

THE recent surge of COVID-19, driven by the Delta variant, has reignited political controversy around mask-wearing in the United States (US), with some governors

opposing all measures to make masks mandatory despite advice from health authorities.

The dispute feels familiar, harkening back to the early days of the pandemic when masks be-

came a symbol of political affiliation in the US - the clash led by then-president Donald Trump, who made it a point of pride to be seen without a face covering. More than a year later, the subject has again become particularly sensitive as another school year approaches.

"This should be something that a parent is ultimately making the decision on," Republican Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida reiterated on Tuesday, having banned his state's schools from requiring students to wear masks. "We're going to do whatever we can to vindicate the rights of parents," he said.

Several Florida school districts have announced plans to defy the governor's order and require masks anyway.

In response, DeSantis threatened to cut their funding or even suspend the salaries of school officials.

"That a governor has the authority to say, 'You can't do that' - I find that totally counter-intuitive and quite frankly disingenuous," President Joe Biden, a Democrat, said Tuesday.

High Viral Spread

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) told vaccinated Americans in May that their risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 was low enough that they no longer needed to wear masks.

And in early July, the CDC assured parents that the stance would also apply to vaccinated kids starting the new school year, which usually begins in August or

September. But those recommendations did not account for the highly contagious Delta variant.

Nor did it account for the fact that only about half of all Americans have now been fully vaccinated, and children under 12 aren't eligible yet.

By the end of July, an about-face: mask-wearing was once again recommended in indoor spaces, even for vaccinated people, in areas with high rates of COVID spread. That currently covers about 90 percent of the country.

The health authority is basing their recommendation on data that shows that vaccinated people infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus more easily than those infected with earlier variants.

Now, many businesses have also reverted back to requiring masks.

Walmart, the biggest retailer in the US, has re-imposed mask mandates on employees, two and a half months after telling vaccinated workers they didn't have to wear them.

'Two Countries'

The pandemic is currently especially severe in the south-eastern United States, which is also the region with the lowest percentage of vaccinated residents.

"The people that are unvaccinated are much less likely to wear masks," said Northwell Health public health expert Eric Cioe-Pena. "We don't have the buy-in from the very people that we need the buy-in for."

Source : AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Naing of the Legal Advice Department under the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 11 August 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 12 August 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon- Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reached (30-35) mph. Seas will be weak to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon- Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-6) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 August 2021:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 August 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 August 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Blobs in space: Slime mould to blast off for ISS experiment

ASTRONAUTS aboard the International Space Station are set to welcome a most unusual guest, as “the Blob” blasts off into orbit on Tuesday.

An alien on its own planet, the Blob is an unclassifiable organism -- neither fish nor fowl. Nor is it plant, animal or fungus.

As such, *Physarum polycephalum* -- a type of slime mould -- has long fascinated scientists and will now be part of a unique experiment carried out simultaneously by astronauts hundreds of kilometres above the Earth and by hundreds of thousands of French school

students.

The slime mould first appeared on Earth around 500 million years ago, and defies conventional biology because it is made up of one cell with multiple nuclei.

While most organisms grow and reproduce through the division and multiplication of cells, *Physarum polycephalum* does not.

“It is a single cell that grows without ever dividing,” explains Pierre Ferrand, professor of Earth sciences and life seconded to French space agency CNES, one of the people behind the project.



‘I’ll be curious to see if it develops by forming pillars,’ says Blob specialist Audrey Dussutour. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Another oddity: “When most organisms make do with two sex types, the Blob has more than 720. It is an organ-

ism ‘with drawers’ which tells us that life consists of multitude originalities,” he says.

What one's cell can do

A yellowish, spongy mass, the slime mould lacks a mouth, legs or brain.

Yet despite these apparent disadvantages, the mould eats, grows, moves -- albeit very slowly -- and has amazing learning abilities.

Because the Blob’s DNA floats freely around inside its cell walls -- rather than being contained inside a nucleus -- it can “slough off” parts of itself at will. — AFP ■

Sicily’s Mount Etna taller than ever after six months of activity



The crater has been churning out smoke and ash since February, while posing little danger to surrounding villages. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

MOUNT Etna’s southeastern crater has grown in height after six months of activity, Italy’s vulcano monitoring agency said Tuesday, making Europe’s tallest active volcano taller than ever.

The famous volcano’s youngest and most active crater has risen to a new record of 3,357 metres (11,000 feet) above sea level, said INGV, the National Institute for Geophysics and Vulcanology, based in the Sicilian

city of Catania.

“Thanks to the analysis and processing of satellite images, the southeast crater is now much higher than its ‘older brother’, the northeast crater, for 40 years the undisputed peak of Etna,” the INGV wrote in a press release.

Some 50 episodes of ash and lava belching from the mouth of the crater since mid-February have led to a “conspicuous

transformation of the volcano’s outline”, with its dimensions calculated through satellite images, it said.

The northeastern crater of Etna reached a record height of 3,350 metres in 1981, but a collapse at its edges reduced that to 3,326 metres, recorded in 2018.

The crater has been churning out smoke and ash since February, while posing little danger to surrounding villages. — AFP ■

Disaster-struck Turkey faces toll of climate change

FROM flash floods to forest fires, drought to “sea snail”, Turkey is bearing the brunt of increasingly frequent disasters blamed on climate change, putting pressure on President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to act.

Wildfires that have killed eight people since late July across southern coastal regions, ravaging forests and turning villages to ash, followed the growth of a slimy mucus in the Sea of Marmara that destroyed marine life.

Deadly floods in the northeast followed an arid spell that dried up dams, endangering water supplies. Sinkholes caused by water mismanagement are encroaching on farmers’ homes.

Experts warn the vast, geographically diverse country risks fighting rolling disasters if it does not forcefully confront climate change, which is warming sea temperatures

in regions such as the Mediterranean.

A landmark UN report this week warned that global warming is occurring far faster than forecast.

The issue is turning increasingly political, with polls showing it registering highly with up to seven million members of Generation Z who will be able to vote in the next election, slated for 2023.

Experts and environmentally-conscious politicians put ratifying the 2015 Paris Agreement adopted by 196 countries on top of Turkey’s to-do list.

Turkey is one of only six nations, including Iraq and Libya, yet to formally approve the accord.

“This is the first step. We must become a part of the global fight against climate change,” said Greens of Turkey Party spokeswoman Emine Ozkan. — AFP ■



Experts warn the vast, geographically diverse country risks fighting rolling disasters if it does not forcefully confront climate change. **PHOTO: AFP**

UNEP urges robust action on climate crisis to save livelihoods

THE international community should take decisive steps to reverse global warming and the accompanying threat to vital ecosystems that underpin livelihoods, a senior United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) official said on

Monday.

The planet and its inhabitants are facing unusual peril unless bold actions are taken by governments, industries and communities to tame the climate crisis, UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen said.

“We must treat climate change as an immediate threat, just as we must treat the connected crises of nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste as immediate threats,” she said in a statement released in Nairobi. — Xinhua ■

Facebook shuts down anti-vaccine influencer campaign

FACEBOOK on Tuesday said it shut down a disinformation operation which sought to spread Covid-19 vaccine hoaxes by duping social media influencers into backing false claims.

The leading social network labeled the operation a “disinformation laundromat” which sought to legitimize false claims by pushing them through people with clean reputations.

Influencers who caught onto the sham turned out to be the undoing of a deceitful influence campaign orchestrated by marketing firm Fazze in Russia,

according to Facebook.

Facebook said that in July it removed 65 accounts at the leading social network and 243 accounts at photo-centric Instagram that were linked to the campaign, and banned Fazze from its platform. Fazze is a subsidiary of a AdNow, an advertising company registered in Britain, according to media reports. The operation targeted primarily India and Latin America, but also took aim at the United States, as governments debated approving vaccines to fight the pandemic.— AFP ■



Facebook said it shut down a campaign that sought to spread vaccine hoaxes by recruiting unwitting social network influencers -- what the company called a “disinformation laundromat”. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

India's COVID-19 tally crosses 32 million

INDIA'S COVID-19 tally surpassed the 32-million mark, rising to 32,036,511 on Wednesday, as 38,353 new cases were registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data.

Besides, as many as 497 deaths due to the pandemic since Tuesday morning took the death toll to 429,179.

There are still 386,351 active COVID-19 cases in the country with a fall of 2,157 active cases during the past 24 hours.—Xinhua ■

Portugal to vaccinate 12- to 15-year-olds against COVID-19

THE Portuguese Health Directorate on Tuesday recommended that adolescents aged 12 to 15 be vaccinated against COVID-19. Portugal's Director-General of Health Graca Freitas said the decision was taken after analyzing “new data made available in recent days,” referring to “more than 15 million adolescents vaccinated in the United States and the European Union.”

Luis Graca, a member of the technical commission on COVID-19 vaccination, said that the move aims to “reduce the transmission of the virus” and ensure the “well-being of young people.”—Xinhua ■

S.Korea's daily COVID-19 cases hit record high at 2,223

SOUTH Korea's daily COVID-19 cases hit a record high due to the continued virus spread in the Seoul metropolitan area, the health authorities said Wednesday. The country reported 2,223 more cases of the COVID-19 for the past 24 hours, raising the total number of infections to 216,206. The daily caseload topped 2,000 for the first time since the country's first case was found in January last year. It was sharply up from 1,537 in the prior day, hovering above 1,000 for 36 straight days. The daily average tally for the past week was 1,755.—Xinhua ■

Berlin throws a party to drum up vaccine tempo



People wait to receive their vaccination against the coronavirus during a long night of vaccinations as a DJ plays his music in the background at the Arena Treptow vaccination centre in Berlin. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

THE German capital renowned for its clubbing scene is throwing three vaccination parties this week, giving patrons jabs

to the sound of electronic music.

The site is Arena club -- which had been transformed into one of Berlin's five main vaccination centres over the last year, after it, like other similar venues, was forced shut to curb coronavirus transmission.

After delivering well over a million jabs a day at its peak, Germany is now seeing the takeup for inoculation against the coronavirus slow dramatically, according to figures from the Robert Koch Institute for disease control and prevention.

In a bid to incentivise more to take the jab, Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday agreed

with regional leaders to end free Covid tests from October 11.

In the Arena club, the scene is like a high-school disco with very limited dancing. Patients who have just had their vaccines sit spaced out on chairs under strobing lights, while one of the DJs -- some of them well known figures of Berlin's underground and some who have volunteered in the vaccination centre itself -- works away on a set of turntables.

In all, about 420 people were vaccinated against the coronavirus at the Arena centre on Monday, the Berlin ministry for health said.— AFP ■

Australia's second-largest city extends lockdown

FIVE million people in Australia's second-largest city will remain under stay-at-home orders for at least another week after authorities extended a lockdown Wednesday after failing to curb Melbourne's latest Covid outbreak.

The city entered its sixth pandemic lockdown last Thursday after a fresh Delta variant cluster emerged at a Melbourne school and quickly spread.

Daniel Andrews, the premier of the state of Victoria, said lockdown rules will be extended until at least August 19, after 20 new cases were detected overnight including several “mystery” cases.

“There are too many cases, the origins of which are not clear to us... for us to safely come out of lockdown now,” he said.

In Sydney, more than five million people are enduring their seventh week under stay-



Australia's second-biggest city entered its sixth pandemic lockdown last week. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

at-home orders, currently scheduled to remain until the end of August.

The state of New South Wales recorded 344 new cases

Wednesday, taking the total for an outbreak that began in Sydney in mid-June to more than 6,100 cases.

Hundreds of thousands of

people outside Sydney -- including in Newcastle, Byron Bay and most recently, Dubbo -- are in lockdown after cases emerged in recent days.—AFP ■

Singapore lifts GDP forecast as export markets get vaccine boost



Singapore expects its economy to benefit from the rollout of vaccines worldwide. **PHOTO: AFP**

SINGAPORE on Wednesday upgraded its growth forecast for this year as the trade-reliant economy's key export markets pick up strength thanks to rapid coronavirus vaccine rollouts.

The prosperous city-state, one of the world's most open economies, suffered its worst ever recession last year as it was hammered by the pandemic.

But stronger overseas demand is helping to power a rebound, which is being closely watched as Singapore is seen as a bellwether for the health of global trade.

The economy is now expected to grow 6.0-7.0 percent for the full year, from an earlier forecast of 4.0-6.0 percent made in May, the trade ministry said.

While Covid-19 cases continue to rise globally because of the fast-spreading Delta variant, vaccination rates have increased, particularly in the United States and Europe, allowing them to press on with reopening, the ministry said.

This will offset a bleaker picture in Asia, where vaccination rates are slower and curbs on movements have been reimposed, it added.

"On balance, the recovery in external demand for Singapore for the rest of the year remains largely on track," the ministry said. For the second quarter to June, Singapore's economy grew 14.7 percent on-year, taking first-half growth to 7.7 percent, it said.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

German economic sentiment continues to worsen in August: ZEW

THE Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) announced on Tuesday that its indicator of economic sentiment in Germany continues to fall, dropping by 22.9 points from July to 40.4 points in August.

The third consecutive monthly decline in economic sentiment points to "increasing risks for the German economy," such as from a possible fourth wave of COVID-19 starting in the autumn, said ZEW President Achim Wambach.

However, the current economic situation in Germany was assessed as better than in the previous month, with an increase of 7.4 points from July to 29.3 points in August. This improvement, "which has been ongoing for months, shows that expectations are also weakening due to the higher growth already achieved," Wambach said.

The indicator for the current economic situation in the eurozone climbed to 14.6 points in August, 8.6 points higher than in July, but expectations regarding economic development decreased for the third time in a row, falling to 42.7 points.—Xinhua ■

Pakistan's tourism industry makes headway amid COVID-19 challenges

PAKISTAN is endowed with a myriad of natural wonders as well as historical and religious tourist sites that attract a large number of both local and foreign tourists every year.

However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic direly affected Pakistan's tourism sector in 2020. Despite the limited inflow of tourists from abroad owing to pandemic-related travel restrictions, local tourists have boosted the local tourism industry this year.

Pakistani experts and government officials believe that as Pakistan has a huge potential for tourism, all-out efforts should be made to further ramp up the thriving tourism sector and attract not only local tourists but also people from all over the world once the pandemic subsides.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said that the promotion of tourism in the country is one of his government's top priorities to generate revenue and job opportunities.

"The promotion of tourism will not only create economic activity in the local areas, but will also have a positive impact on the national economy," the prime minister said recently.—Xinhua ■

US to reopen Boeing-Airbus bidding war over refuellers

THE US Air Force is set to reopen a bidding war between Boeing and arch-rival Airbus over the replacement of its ageing fleet of refuelling aircraft essential to Washington's ability to project power beyond its borders.

In a tortuous and scandal-riven procurement process, during which two contracts were scrapped, Boeing finally snagged a \$35-billion (30-billion-euro) deal in 2011 to develop and supply 179 KC-46 refuellers by 2029.

Even though the project was plagued by cost overruns and delays, Boeing looked set



Boeing secured a \$35-billion deal in 2011 to develop and supply 179 KC-46 refuellers to the US Air Force by 2029. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

to walk away with the next phase of the project to replace the Air Force's fleet -- without

which a large proportion of its capacity would be grounded. — AFP ■

Sailing boats and cycle rickshaws in oil-rich, fuel-light Venezuela region

MARACAIBO is known as the center of Venezuela's oil industry, but a chronic fuel shortage has left fisherman Franklin Romero using a sailing boat, and bus driver Manuel working in a cycle rickshaw.

Venezuela sits on the largest proven oil reserves in the world but has fallen from a high of producing more than three million barrels of crude a day in 2014 to just over 500,000 today, meaning the country needs to import fuel.

Experts blame the government of President Nicolas Maduro for incompetent management and corruption. Under



Franklin Romero fixed a homemade sail to his boat due to lack of fuel for the motor. **PHOTO: AFP**

the blazing sun of Venezuela's northwestern Zulia state, Romero shows off the handmade oars

he uses to propel his boat on Lake Maracaibo, one of the largest in South America.—AFP ■

TikTok tops Facebook as most downloaded app of 2020

TIKTOK was the world's most downloaded app last year, overtaking Facebook and its messaging platforms, market tracker App Annie said Tuesday.

The Chinese-owned video app surged in popularity despite efforts by former president Donald Trump to ban it or force a sale to US-based investors, according to the research firm.

TikTok, owned by China-based ByteDance, is believed to have one billion users worldwide including more than 100 million in the United States, and its short-form videos are especially popular with young smartphone users.

US President Joe Biden in June revoked executive orders from his predecessor seeking to ban TikTok and Chinese-owned WeChat from US markets on national security concerns but ordered a review of the potential risks of foreign-owned internet services.

While political debate about the video-snippet sharing sensation roiled, TikTok climbed from the fourth most downloaded app in 2019 to the top spot last year, according to App Annie data.

On the way, TikTok stepped over Facebook and two of the US internet giants texting apps Messenger and WhatsApp, the market tracker determined. TikTok's popularity has prompted Facebook-owned Instagram to add video features to ride the hot trend.

Meanwhile TikTok last month began letting users post videos up to three minutes in length, tripling the prior cap to stay ahead of competitors. —AFP ■

Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific posts \$972 mn first-half loss

STRUGGLING Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific on Wednesday said its losses in the first half of the year narrowed to \$972 million but warned its outlook remained uncertain as the coronavirus pandemic continues to hammer international travel.

The figure is an improvement on the \$1.3 billion loss suffered in the same period last year and reflects a concerted cost-cutting regime that has seen headcount slashed and overseas pilot bases closed.

Despite the steep loss, shareholders were buoyed by the results with Cathay surging 3.6 percent in Hong Kong trade.

Chairman Patrick Healy said 2021 continued to be the "toughest period" in the airline's 70-year his-



Cathay's losses, while steep, were an improvement on the same period last year. PHOTO: AFP

tory, but the progress of global vaccination drives provided some encouragement for the industry.

"Covid-19 will continue to have a severe impact on our business until bor-

ders progressively open and travel constraints are lifted," he warned.

With no domestic market to fall back on, Cathay Pacific has been among the worst hit of the major

global airlines.

In the midst of the pandemic last year Hong Kong's government came to the rescue with a major bailout.

Hong Kong has kept

coronavirus cases low by effectively sealing itself off to most of the world for the past 18 months, a move that has kept people safe but crippled the travel industry.

Earlier this month authorities lifted some of those restrictions meaning visitors without work visas or residency would now be able to travel to the city. But they will still have to undergo between seven and 21 days of hotel quarantine depending on where they have come from.

Cathay Pacific carried just 157,000 passengers in the first half of the year, 96 percent fewer than in the same period in 2020. The company made just \$96 million from passenger flights during that period.—AFP ■

Wages rise in US as companies scramble for staff

AN acute labor crunch amid the coronavirus pandemic is boosting US wages, with many large chains now paying \$15 an hour, a minimum level long sought by Democrats and labor activists.

The disruption of Covid-19 has led to record job openings, but also millions of unemployed workers, some of whom dropped out of the labor force to stay home to take care of children.

But some workers

have used the pandemic to retire or try to change careers.

Economists say that so far, the wage bump has not resulted in troubling inflation.

"For the first time since the late 1990s, low-wage workers have a little more leverage to demand higher pay," said David Cooper, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a progressive Washington think tank. Facing a sudden jump in business as the US

economy reopened, restaurants, retailers and other employers have struggled to fill open positions, and have boosted pay, and even offered signing bonuses or other perks to new workers. Last week, pharmacy chain CVS became the latest big chain to announce plans to lift its minimum wage to \$15 an hour, joining a group that already includes Target, Chipotle and Amazon, among others. The new policy will take effect at CVS in July 2022.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0181N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0181N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-8-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V YU BRIGHT

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V YU BRIGHT VOY.NO. (V.2111)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-8-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

No.(2) Mining Enterprise
Invitation for Open Tender

1. No. (2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites for tenders to sale for the following materials.

Sr.	Materials Classifies	Weight (M/T)	(F.O.B)	Tender Closing Date/Time
1.	Electro Refined Tin (ERT)	39.4135	Thanlyin	9.9.2021 (13:00) pm
2.	Pyro Refined Tin (PRT)	60.1030		

2. No.(2) Mining Enterprise could provide necessary documents to interest companies and contact to No.(2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw, Ph:+95-(0)67-3409391, E-mail; metwo@e-monrec.gov.mm, within office hours.

Tender Committee
No.(2) Mining Enterprise

NEWS IN BRIEF

Czech film festival to honour Michael Caine

ENGLISH actor Michael Caine will receive the top prize at the postponed Czech film festival in the city of Karlovy Vary starting later this month, organisers said on Tuesday.

The prolific 88-year-old Oscar winner known for his roles in *Alfie* (1966), *Sleuth* (1972) and *The Cider House Rules* (1998) will get the Crystal Globe award for his “outstanding contribution to world cinema”.

Hollywood star Johnny Depp, best known for the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series, will be among the stars attending the festival.

Czech film director Jan Sverak, who won an Oscar for the best international feature film with *Kolya* in 1996, will get the festival president's award.

The 55th edition of the Karlovy Vary Film Festival will take place on August 20-28 after being postponed from July because of the COVID-19 pandemic.—AFP ■

Twitter Suspends Pro-Trump US Lawmaker Marjorie Taylor For Covid Misinformation

TWITTER said Tuesday it had suspended the account of controversial US lawmaker Marjorie Taylor Greene, a staunch supporter of former Republican president Donald Trump, for a week over a “misleading” tweet on coronavirus vaccines.

The tweet in question, sent on Monday, said the US Food and Drug Administration should not give final approval to anti-coronavirus vaccines, with Greene saying they were “failing” and did not curb the spread of the virus.

Twitter labeled the message “misleading” and suggested that users consult information provided by US health authorities about vaccines and mask-wearing.

“The tweet you referenced was labeled in line with our Covid-19 misleading information policy,” a Twitter spokesperson said in a statement to AFP.

“The account will be in read-only mode for a week due to repeated violations of the Twitter rules.” The platform's rules on Covid misinformation state that a seven-day suspension comes with a fourth violation of the site's terms of use.—AFP ■

Pyongyang warns of ‘serious security crisis’ over US-Seoul drills



Anti-war activists hold placards reading “Stop War Exercises,” during a rally against planned South Korea-U.S. annual joint military exercises near the U.S. embassy in Seoul on August 5, 2019. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

SEOUL will face a “serious security crisis” for going ahead with its joint military drills with

the United States, a senior Pyongyang official threatened Wednesday, saying the South

had missed its opportunity to improve inter-Korean ties.

The statement by Kim Yong Chol came just a day after Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, demanded Washington withdraw its forces from the peninsula.

The US and South Korean militaries began their preliminary training Tuesday in the run-up to next week's yearly summertime exercise, which the nuclear-armed North has long considered a rehearsal for invasion.

Pyongyang will make the Seoul authorities realise “what a serious security crisis they will face”, Kim Yong Chol said in a statement released by the

official KCNA news agency.

The South had answered the North's “good faith with hostile acts” after “letting go the opportunity for improved inter-Korean relations”, he added.

Kim is a senior official in the ruling Workers' Party and acted as leader Kim Jong Un's envoy ahead of a summit in Hanoi in 2019, meeting then-president Donald Trump in Washington.

The summit collapsed over sanctions relief and what the nuclear-armed North would be willing to give up in return, and talks have since been largely at a standstill, while Pyongyang has retreated behind a self-imposed curtain of coronavirus isolation.—AFP ■

Italy's citizenship law back in focus after Olympics wins

ITALY'S enthusiasm over its Olympics success, driven in part by multicultural athletes, has once again reignited debate over its citizenship law and the bureaucratic hurdles faced by thousands of young people.

The debate comes on the heels of Italy's best performance in history at the Olympic Games, with 40 medals from a diverse band of athletes from a variety of backgrounds, including the country's new star, Texas-born sprinter Lamont Marcell Jacobs.

The debate was sparked anew after the head of Italy's National Olympic Committee, Giovanni Malago, complained of the bureaucratic headaches confronting Italian-born athletes who want to compete for their country, but lack citizenship.

Under its current path to citizenship, Italy is an outlier in



Gold medallists Italy's Lorenzo Patta, Italy's Lamont Marcell Jacobs, Italy's Eseosa Fostine Desalu and Italy's Filippo Tortu celebrate on the podium during the victory ceremony for the men's 4x100m relay event during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. PHOTO: AFP

Europe, providing rights based on blood ties rather than based on where children are born – an idea known as “ius soli”, or

“right of the soil”. Children born in Italy to foreign parents must await their 18th birthdays before applying for citizenship, begin-

ning an arduous process that can take four years, one that Malago described as “a Dante-esque circle”.—AFP ■

Nicaragua opposition leader flees to Costa Rica to avoid detention

THE head of Nicaragua's opposition party Citizens Alliance for Liberty said Tuesday she had left the country for Costa Rica, fearing she would be added to the list of rival politicians arrested by President Daniel Ortega's government.

“Nobody is safe anymore,” said Carmella Rogers, also known as Kitty Monterrey, in a televised interview with Telenoticias in Costa Rica – her first pub-

lic appearance in several days.

“(Staying) didn't make sense, they were going to take me to jail or they were going to deport me.” Last week, officials canceled the CxL head's national identity card and passport.

“I've been in hiding since Friday,” Monterrey said. “I was looking for a way out that had to be gradual to get here in a safe way. It was difficult and I'm tired, but here I am.”—AFP ■



Kitty Monterrey has dual citizenship, which is against the electoral law. PHOTO: AFP

Texas Republicans approve arrest of Democrats who fled to block voting bill: reports

A top Texas lawmaker late Tuesday signed arrest warrants for 52 absent Democrats who walked out of the state’s House of Representatives last month in an effort to block a restrictive voting bill, US media reported.

Republican state lawmakers in Texas voted earlier in the evening to allow the arrests.

The warrants, signed by Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan, are set to be delivered to the House sergeant-at-arms Wednesday morning, the Dallas Morning News reported, citing Phelan’s spokesman.

The motion to bring back the absentee lawmakers passed 80 to 12, with only one Republican voting against it. Dozens of Democratic lawmakers fled Texas in July, traveling to Washington with the intention to run out the clock on a special session called



Texas Democratic lawmakers fled their state in a bid to derail a Republican-led voting restrictions bill that critics say is blatant voter suppression. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

by Governor Greg Abbott in a bid to ram through the voting bill.

The special session had to be called after the lawmakers walked out in May to torpedo Republican plans for voting restrictions that President Joe Biden had decried as voter suppression and an

“assault on democracy.”

Their absence left the Texas House short of a quorum needed to pass anything. At least two dozen of the Democratic lawmakers remain in Washington, according to the Morning News. Texas House Democratic Caucus leader Chris Turner said it is “fully

within our rights as legislators to break quorum to protect our constituents,” according to the Morning News. “Texas House Democrats are committed to fighting with everything we have against Republicans’ attacks on our freedom to vote,” he said in a statement.—AFP ■

Afghanistan’s Ghani to rally forces in key northern city as Taliban advances

AFGHAN President Ashraf Ghani flew to the besieged northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif Wednesday to rally his beleaguered forces, with Taliban fighters having now taken more than a quarter of the country’s provincial capitals in less than a week.

Ghani arrived in Mazar as the Taliban captured Faizabad overnight, making it the ninth city to be overrun since Friday.

The Afghan leader held talks with Mazar’s long-time strongman Atta Mohammad Noor and infamous warlord Abdul



A cyclist rides past a booth with a Taliban flag in the main square of the northern city of Kunduz. PHOTO: AFP

Rashid Dostum about the defence of the city, as Taliban fighters inched closer to its outskirts. The loss

of Mazar would be a catastrophic blow to the Kabul government and represent the complete collapse of

its control over the north — long a bastion of anti-Taliban militias.

Hours before Ghani arrived, pictures posted on official government social media accounts showed Dostum boarding a plane in Kabul en route to Mazar, along with a contingent of commandos.

Fighting in Afghanistan’s long-running conflict has escalated dramatically since May, when the US-led military coalition began the final stage of a withdrawal set to be completed before the end of the month.—AFP ■

Canadian Michael Spavor jailed for 11 years in China for spying

A Chinese court on Wednesday jailed Canadian businessman Michael Spavor for 11 years for spying, a sentence swiftly condemned by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as “unacceptable and unjust.” Spavor was detained in 2018 along with com-

patriot Michael Kovrig on what Ottawa has said are politically orchestrated charges after Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Canada on a US extradition warrant.

Relations between the two countries have hit rock bottom, with China

also accusing Canada of politicising legal cases.

Spavor “was convicted of espionage and illegally providing state secrets”, Dandong city’s Intermediate People’s Court said in a statement.

“He was sentenced to 11 years in prison.” The

Canadian ambassador to China, who was present in the courtroom for the verdict, linked the verdict and the upholding on Tuesday of the death sentence against another national to Meng’s ongoing hearings in Vancouver.—AFP ■

OBITUARY

U Khin Maung Lwin

Consultant Statistician, WHO, South East Asia (retired)

88 Years

Beloved husband of the late Daw Tin Tin Myaing, father of U Tin Aung Lwin (Ottawa, Canada), father-in-law of Daw Nilar Aung Gyi, and grandfather of Arka Aung Lwin and Huntha Aung Lwin, passed away on 6 August 2021 in Yangon, Myanmar.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo resigns after harassment claims

EMBATTLED New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced his resignation on Tuesday after 11 women accused him of sexual harassment.

“I think that given the circumstances, the best way I can help now is if I step aside and let government get back to government,” Cuomo said in a live address.

“My resignation will be effective in 14 days.”

The 63-year-old Cuomo denied the claims of sexual harassment outlined in a report released last week by the New York Attorney General’s office. But he said he wanted to “deeply, deeply apologize” to any women who may have been offended by his actions.

“I have been too familiar with people,” he said. “I do hug and kiss people casually, women and men. I have done it all my life.” “In my mind I’ve never crossed the line with anyone,” he added. “But I didn’t realize the extent to which the line has been redrawn.”—AFP ■

Brazil’s Bolsonaro flexes muscles with military parade

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro drew criticism Tuesday for presiding over a military parade outside the presidential palace, a show of strength as he fends off sinking popularity and a raft of investigations.

Smiling with the military top brass at his side, the far-right leader stood atop the palace steps as a long convoy of tanks and armored vehicles filed through the Brazilian capital. Critics said the display was reminiscent of Brazil’s 1964-1985 military dictatorship, for which Bolsonaro, a former army captain, is openly nostalgic. “This is pathetic... Our democracy has the means to defend itself from a coup-mongering outburst,” said Senator Omar Aziz, chair of a Senate committee investigating the government’s widely criticized handling of Covid-19.

Bolsonaro, 66, is also facing investigations over his attacks on Brazil’s electronic voting system, which he alleges -- without evidence -- is riddled with fraud. The Supreme Court and Supreme Electoral Court have ordered him investigated for potential crimes in his unrelenting campaign against the system, which Brazil has used since 1996.—AFP ■

Draw ceremony for AFF Suzuki Cup postponed

THE ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) recently decided that an official draw ceremony to be held this month for the upcoming AFF Suzuki Cup will be postponed amidst the Covid-19 pandemic surge.

The new schedule for the ceremony will be announced soon, AFF football authorities said.

“The Official Draw was originally planned to take place in Singapore, before Singapore reverted to stricter measures under Phase 2 (Heightened Alert). With several of the coun-

try’s key events being postponed as a result of the enhanced restrictions, AFF, as a responsible event organiser, has decided to reschedule the AFF Suzuki Cup Draw as well,” ASEAN football officials added.

AFF President, Major General Khiev Sameth said, “Singapore has done an excellent job in managing the ongoing pandemic. We understand that the restrictions are in place to keep the Singapore community safe and this is of utmost importance. In line with this, we have made the considered decision to

delay the Official Draw.”

Malcolm Thorpe, Managing Director, South East Asia at SPORTFIVE, said, “We understand and support AFF’s decision to postpone the Draw. For AFF and for us, the health and safety of everyone connected with the event will always be the top priority.”

“The AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 has been scheduled to take place between 5th December 2021—1st January 2022. Further details of the event will be shared in due course,” officials added.—GNLM ■

Olympic rings in Tokyo removed, to be replaced with Paralympic logo

THE Olympic symbol monument, consisting of five interlocking rings colored blue, yellow, black, green and red, was taken down in the Tokyo Bay area Wednesday as the 17-day international sporting event ended over the weekend.

The giant floating rings monument on a concrete platform set up at Odaiba Marine Park will soon be replaced with the “Three Agitos” symbol for the Paralympics, scheduled to be held from Aug. 24 to Sept. 5.

“I had worries at first about going ahead with the Olympics amid the coronavirus pandemic, but I (now) feel it was good to have it held as the strong performances by young athletes cheered me up,” said Hiroto Sato, 58, who was watching the removal of the monument from a nearby commercial facility.

The Olympic monument, around 33 meters wide and 15 meters tall and weighing some



Work begins to remove an Olympic rings monument in Tokyo’s Odaiba waterfront area on Aug. 11, 2021, three days after the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

69 tons, was first unveiled in January last year but was taken down for maintenance after a decision was made to postpone the games for one year due to the pandemic. It was reinstalled in December.

Lit up at night, the monument played a role in creating momentum for the Olympics, which started on July 23 and

ended Sunday.

The marine park, which offers panoramic views of the Tokyo skyline, overlooking the Rainbow Bridge and Tokyo Tower, served as a venue for triathlon and marathon swimming events during the Olympics. It will host competitions by para triathlon athletes. —Kyodo News ■

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.

Boxing: Ioka to take on Mexican Rodriguez in 3rd title defense



WORLD Boxing Organization super flyweight champion Kazuto Ioka said Tuesday he will make his third title defense against second-ranked Mexican Francisco Rodriguez Jr. on Sept. 1 at Ota City General Gymnasium in Tokyo.

Ioka will be fighting for the first time since beating top-ranked Japanese compatriot Kosei Tanaka on New Year’s Eve.

Kazuto Ioka poses for a photo at an online press conference on Aug. 10, 2021. **PHOTO: SHISEI BOXING GYM/ KYODO**

He was embroiled in a false-positive drug test controversy following the bout, but was cleared of wrongdoing after the Japan Boxing Commission was found to have handled his pre-match sample negligently.

“I separate (the scandal) from the essence of boxing. I want to display a difference in class as champion,” Ioka said in an online press conference.

Ioka holds a 26-2 record with 15 knockouts, while Rodriguez is 34-4 with 24 KOs and one draw.

Rodriguez unified the WBO and International Boxing Federations’ minimumweight title in 2014 when he beat Japanese boxer Katsunari Takayama.—Kyodo News ■