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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 13 May 2021

## Announcement of Union Election Commission

11 May 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 Myanaung, Kyangin, Maubin, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon, Kyaiklat and Dedaye townships of Ayeyawady Region.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 1,151,044 eligible voters in these seven townships of Ayeyawady Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 1,126,634 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 130,821 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 16,585 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 156,940 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
3. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

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## Kitchen crops on alluvial land of Sindewa Creek give family incomes to local farmers

LOCAL farmers from Myingyan, Taungtha and Popa areas in Mandalay Region are enjoying fruits of cultivation that focuses on growing kitchen crops in addition to the onion along with the alluvial land of Sindewa Creek.

They relied on the cultivation of onion alone along both banks of Sindewa Creek in the past. Now, their income for daily life is higher because of growing kitchen crops such as roselle, rabbit green, Luffa gourd, Brinjal, Solanum molongena and bitter melon on a manageable scale after harvesting onion.

“Growers can earn income from selling of kitchen crops in domestic markets even though they cannot sell out the onion. If local farmers can be provided with agricultural techniques, loans and inputs, they will be convenient for living standard without the need to sell onion in the monsoon,” said U Than Swe, an agricultural technique observer from Natsaunt Village in Taungtha Township.



The alluvial land on both banks of the creek is very fertile soil for the cultivation of various kinds of crops.

In the past, local people bought kitchen crops sent by those from various areas of Shan State. Now, they are engaged in the cultivation of such crops on a manageable scale. Particularly, local farmers from Htanpinchan, Natsaunt and Inte villages in Taungtha

Township plant the crops on the vast croplands.

“We can earn income for families from the cultivation of kitchen crops. Now, local farmers grow the crops on a manageable scale. I plant roselle and rabbit green in early Tabaung. Within one month,

I have sold some two tonnes of plants on sale. People from other villages buy our crops,” said farmer U Kyaw Hsan Win of Natsaunt Village in Taungtha Township.

Currently, local people grow onion and kitchen crops as well as chrysanthemum plantations on the bank of Sindewa Creek.

The alluvial land on both banks of the creek is very fertile soil for the cultivation of various kinds of crops. —Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-printing House)/GNLM



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## 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.

## 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.

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Anti-Terrorism Central Committee Declaration of Terrorist Groups Notification No 2/2021

12<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tagu 1383 ME  
8 May 2021

The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has issued this order with the approval of the State Administration Council in exercising sub-section (e) of Section 6 and sub-section (b) of Section 72 of the Anti-Terrorism Law.

1. Unlawful Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH and National Unity Government NUG formed by CRPH constantly incited Civil Disobedience Movement-CDM participants to commit violent acts. Many riots occurred in many places of the country due to their incitements. They perpetrated bombing, arson, manslaughter, and intimidation to disrupt the state administrative machinery due to the influence of the leaders of CRPH and NUG. Moreover, NUG established People Defence Force-PDF. Violent acts occurred in the name of regional defence forces instigated by NUG and PDF. It is found that their acts to join CDM, threatening non-CDMs, inciting students and teachers not to go to schools, supporting terrorist acts and perpetrating such terrorist acts violate Section 3 (b) and Sub-section 13 of the Counter-Terrorism Law – acts with the intent to cause fear in public, to force Government or any internal and external organization to do an illegitimate act or to refrain from doing a lawful act, and other acts, stipulated by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 23 on 4 June 2014.
2. Therefore, unlawful associations – Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH, National Unity Government-NUG, People Defence Force-PDF and all their subordinates have been declared as terrorist groups.

*Chairman*  
*Anti-Terrorism Central Committee*

## Voting frauds and plans to take action for errors on voter lists scrutinized in two region and state will be presented to the country

THE State Administration Council is an organization taking responsibility in an interim period. So, priority must be given to implementing short-term projects with a broader consideration for the State, ... the need to implement the projects depending on the five-point road map. Voting frauds and plans to take action for errors on voter lists scrutinized in two region and state will be presented to the country.

*(Excerpt from the speech to the Management Committee meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 11 May 2021)*

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 127/2021

2<sup>nd</sup> Waxing of Kason 1383 ME

12 May 2021

### Substitution of Rakhine State Administration Council Member

THE State Administration Council has substituted Col. Min Than, BC 23158, member of the Rakhine State Administration Council, with Col. Kyaw Thura, BC 25775, empowered with authority and duties of Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Region (or) State under section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,

**Aung Lin Dwe**  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

## MRTV to broadcast press conference 5/2021 of Information Team live

THE press conference 5/2021 of the State Administration Council will be held at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 15 May. The Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube and Radio Myanmar will broadcast the press conference live.—MNA

## Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on country's economy meets



THE 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Committee (4/2021) to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy was held yesterday morning.

The meeting was chaired by U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the working committee Deputy Ministers, from Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Ministry of Commerce, Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and representatives of the Ministries concerned joined the meeting.

In the meeting, the Chairman of the Working Committee

highlighted that State Administration Council had rectified the terms of reference (TOR) of the Working Committee for more effective implementation. The Chairman also discussed further processing measures on policymaking, liberalization and streamlining of procedures, coordination and cooperation among the ministries in accordance with the Committee's functions to assist smooth operation of the businesses.

The meeting also discussed relief measures carried out by ministries concerned, future plan of actions and issues raised by the business community. — MNA

## State Administration Council Information Team to hold press briefing 5/2021

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press briefing on 5/2021 at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 15 May. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference. — MNA

## Training and technology needed for fisheries industry: Union Minister

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo held a meeting with the Chairman of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and officials of fishery-related associations on Tuesday.

The Union Minister said the meat and fisheries industries play a key role in the livestock sector for the country's food security and foreign incomes. The ministry will improve the fisheries sector, including freshwater and salt-water fisheries industry, to develop the skilled and qualified human resources and establish organizations to conduct fishery research and technology.



Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo chairs meeting on the development of the fisheries industry on 11 May 2021.

Currently, there are only small-scale researches as there is no firm research de-

partment and a separate fund for livestock and fisheries industries. The amount of allo-

cated budget for research is still meagre.

Although the private sec-

tors conduct some research, it still needs to perform several kinds of research on the genus of freshwater and salt-water fish.

In the prawn farming sector, fryshrimps are still imported from foreign countries. So the government and private should cooperate in implementing the shrimp production industry.

The Union Minister then discussed the study on the life-cycle of catfish at Maubin and Twantay fisheries camps, sustainable fish production, domestic food security, and plans to double the marine-product exports in the short term.—MNA

## MoHT minister inspects hotels, tourism buildings for promotion of Chinese tours



UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Ohn made an inspection tour of construction and upgraded works of hotels and tourism-related buildings in Yangon yesterday.

During the inspection tour, the Union Minister inspected the former Myanmar Shopping Mall, a three-story building on Sule Pagoda road owned by the ministry under renovation for a long-term lease.

The Union Minister also inspected the Myanmar Tourism Bank, Myanmar Tourism Federation office, and the operation of the Yangon Region branch of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited the HAGL Myanmar Center Project by Hoang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar Co., Ltd, which leases state-owned land under the B.O.T system and the Melia Hotel that is

included in the project.

The project covers an area of 18.132 acres and includes international standard hotels and commercial buildings on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon.

During the meeting with the Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion Committee members, he said the State Administration Council had reopened hotels in the whole country following the COVID-19 guidelines. He urged the attendees to discuss possible ways to promote Chinese tours according to the COVID-19 regulations, as Chinese tourists will be able to yield income for the country and local employment opportunities.

The meeting discussed preparation plans to facilitate the smooth flow of Chinese tourists in each sector. The Union Minister coordinated the meeting.—MNA

## Contract signed to transfer duties and responsibilities of State-owned cinemas in Taunggyi

THE duties and responsibilities of the State-owned cinemas – Mya Thu Kha cinema (Taunggyi) and Aung Thiri cinema (Lashio) were transferred in Taunggyi yesterday afternoon.

At the contract signing ceremony, Chairman Dr Kyaw Tun of the Shan State Administration Council said two transferred state-owned cinemas and Their Htike cinema and Thida Aye cinema in Lashio that have been sold to the private sector would be supervised to screen films. He added that supervision to the screening of 10 cinemas that have

not yet been screened and taking action to the cinemas that could not be screened.

He urged the Ministry of Information to cooperate with the Shan State Administration Council.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint addressed the ceremony, and responsible persons signed the contract. Similarly, the Kayah State Administration Council held the transfer of duties and responsibilities regarding the state-owned Thiri cinema in Kayah State on 11 May. — Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)/GNLM



# MoHS minister Dr Thet Khaing Win meets Myanmar red cross society



UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win met with President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) Dr Maung Maung Myint and the Vice Chair of the MRCS on 11 May in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society explained the humanitarian aids in collaboration with the international fellow Red Cross associations, the status of health care assistance in conflict areas and financial and technical assistance by the international partners to MRCS, community-based activities for the COVID-19 control activities and the support of the region

and state red cross societies in implementing the COVID-19 vaccination programme in the country.

The Union Minister expressed words of thanks for the community-based health care activities, humanitarian aids. He said his ministry is making an effort to resume the regular operation of hospitals and clinics. He pointed out Tatmadaw's assistance in healthcare services to the people and the COVID-19 vaccination programme in respective states and regions.

He urged cooperation with his ministry in providing humanitarian aids in conflict areas and for the COVID-19 vaccination programme.—MNA

# Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine discusses signing of Myanmar-Thai MoU to protect migrant children

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement presided over a meeting for signing MoU to protect children affected by migrating between Myanmar and Thailand yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine explained the benefits of MoU, especially for migrant Myanmar children.

She also said Thailand is the leading destination of Myanmar migrant workers for its proper economic growth. But some of the children or newly born children in Thailand will face some difficulties to get the fundamental rights in full, like in the education and health sectors. Myanmar and Thailand are

members of ASEAN and CRC. So the two countries can establish practical cooperation in protecting children rights. Then, the MoU will enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries.

During this government term, the needed processes to sign MoU will be carried out as quickly as possible.

Then, the relevant department heads clarified the drafted procedures of MoU, remarks of ministries concerned and Thailand officials, Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) to be conducted after signing MoU and pilot project areas in Myawady-Mae Sot out of designated areas like Myawady-Mae Sot and Kawthoung-Ranong.—MNA



# Yangon Region Investment Committee allows investment of Myanmar citizen, foreign investment

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee approved an investment of Myanmar citizen and a foreign investment which can create job opportunities for 635 local people.

The committee held the 4/2021 meeting at its office in Yankin Township yesterday, attended by the committee chairman Yangon Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe.

The committee allowed K2,500 million investments for the production of quality rice and broken rice for ex-



port purpose and US\$1.643 million foreign investment for the manufacturing of the garment industry through the CMP system.

The chairman, members U Aung Than Oo, U Htay Aung and Secretary Director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration and the directors from Environmental Conservation and Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization discussed matters related to reports of three companies.—Hsan Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/ GNLM

## Announcement of Union Election Commission

11 May 2021

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### Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	Myanaung	211	170,887	182,306	13,645	1,569	20,432
2	Kyangin	94	75,640	76,856	3,215	623	8,966
3	Maubin	311	247,844	235,169	37,154	4,854	37,402
4	Pantanaw	217	201,655	212,391	34,626	2,686	25,872
5	Nyaungdon	244	170,168	135,376	12,056	3,499	28,214
6	Kyaiklat	260	129,165	128,578	7,493	1,056	14,006
7	Dedaye	181	155,685	155,958	22,632	2,298	22,048
	Total	1,518	1,151,044	1,126,634	130,821	16,585	156,940

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Myanaung, Kyangin, Maubin, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon, Kyaiklat and Dedaye townships of Ayeyawady Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators in accordance with Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.

5. According to the inspection, a total of 1,518 polling stations in these seven townships took out 1,297,130 ballots and used 874,412 ballots. It left 397,897 ballots instead of 422,718 ballots. The difference was 32,341 ballots and it found 7,520 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

### Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myanaung	211	192,298	130,372	61,926	57,342	6,195	1,611
2	Kyangin	94	85,566	60,640	24,926	24,244	2,051	1,369
3	Maubin	311	277,897	178,685	99,212	89,434	10,527	749
4	Pantanaw	217	223,306	159,654	63,652	60,992	3,025	365
5	Nyaungdon	244	193,994	135,607	58,387	55,220	4,841	1,674
6	Kyaiklat	260	150,714	104,025	46,689	45,748		
7	Dedaye	211	192,298	130,372	61,926	57,342	6,195	1,611
	Total	1,518	1,297,130	874,412	422,718	397,897	32,341	7,520

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships of Ayeyawady Region, the numbers of eligible voters are more 24,410 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens who turned 18 in 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).

7. There are 130,821 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI "Preparation of Voting Roll" stated "Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time." But, there were 16,585 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 156,940 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of Ayeyawady Region.

8. Findings in these seven townships were as follows:

(a) There were 887,149 eligible voters and used 874,412 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 12,737 less than the numbers of voters.

(b) It found 32,341 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots

(c) It found 7,250 extra ballots at some polling station

(d) They did not follow the Hluttaw Election Law Section 66(h) and separately returned the ballot receipts/ remaining ballots to township election sub-commission after the election.

(e) Some village-tract election sub-commission did not inform the additional voters lists to the township election sub commission and permitted the voters to cast votes by filling their names in Form (1). In some village-tract, they removed the original names of voters and substituted with new ones.

(f) Those under the age of 18 were allowed to put in the voter lists

(g) The non-identity voters were on the voter lists and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any national identity cards

(h) They conducted measures that violate the law when they began advance ballot

(i) They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near

9. It found voting frauds in Myanaung, Kyangin, Maubin, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon, Kyaiklat and Dedaye townships of Ayeyawady Region. The shortage/extra ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Union Election Commission

## Three killed, over 1,000 houses destroyed by natural disasters in Ayeyawady

NATURAL disasters have destroyed over 1,000 houses and killed three people in the Ayeyawady region in four days, it is learnt.

During the four days from 6 to 9 May, the region was destroyed by lightning strikes and storms.

"More than 250 houses collapsed while the strong winds blew off 850 roofs. And, more than 11,000 households were hit hard by the strong wind, leaving two injured and three dead. The five religious edifices were also affected. Three people were killed by lightning strikes, includ-

ing one in Pyapon district and two in Patheingyi district. In comparison, two people were injured by strong winds, including one each in Myaungmya district and Labutta district," said an official from the Department of Disaster Management in the Ayeyawady region.

During the period, all six districts of the Ayeyawady region were affected by the natural disaster. Among them, Maubin district is mostly damaged, followed by Hinthada district. The regional authorities also give awareness of what the public should do or should not do during

the strikes of the strong winds and lightning.

The Department of Disaster Management provided humanitarian aids worth over K48 million. The department is still providing relief aids to other remaining affected areas. — Aye Chan Moe/GNLM

## Daily Newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

# Trade Department extends licence exemption deadline for 99 export-import items by 7 June

THE Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce extended the licence exemption deadline for 99 exports and imports until 7 June 2021, according to the MOC's notification dated 4 May.

The department has notified that exporters and importers do not require to seek licences for 37 HS code lines for exports and 62 lines for imports by 7 June 2021 to facilitate the trade.

Export items with licence exemption include onion, garlic, rice, broken rice, raw sugar, refined sugar, natural rubber and cotton. The exemption covers the following import goods; flour, soybean seed, palm oil, food commodity, cement, gasoline, diesel, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer and lubricant.

Previously, a two per cent withholding tax on exports and imports was temporarily exempted in border trade, owing to the difficulties to pay tax amid



The department has notified that exporters and importers do not require to seek licences for 37 HS code lines for exports and 62 lines for imports by 7 June 2021 to facilitate the trade.

the closure of private banks. At present, the exempt status is revoked starting from 1 May.

Next, the department cut

the red tape for imports of CMP raw materials and some previously imported pharmaceuticals.

However, tax cut and licence exemption tackle the trade slowdown amid the heightened border security measure

triggered by the new wave of the coronavirus and the lack of money in circulation, an exporter shared his opinion. — HH/GNLM

## Summer green gram growing using underground water gets good price

THE growers from NyaungU township, Mandalay region, are growing the summer green gram using underground water. According to the local growers, the summer green gram is being harvested and fetch K39,000 per basket.

“The growers from village-tracts in Nyaung-U township started sowing the summer green gram in March using un-

derground water. After sowing for one and a half months, the green gram started to sprout and blossom. After two months, it started to yield to be sold. During the harvest season, each acre of green gram needs around 20 labourers, and each labour is required to pay K3,000 per day. Each harvested green gram is dried for a day and sold back at the Pakokku brokerage,” said U

Zaw Win, a green gram grower from Ywarthitgone village.

Each basket of summer green gram contains 19 visses, and it fetches K39,000. The summer green grams are sold for the same prices this year as last year. According to the local growers, the growers are happy with getting handsome price over the summer green gram. — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM



Each basket of summer green gram contains 19 visses, and it fetches K39,000.

## Dollar appreciates on record high against Kyat, rising above K1,700

THE hard bullish currency has been gaining in the local forex market. A US dollar against Kyat reached the fresh high above K1,700 in history on 12 May, as per local money changer.

On 2 February, a dollar value stood only at K1,335, and then, it dramatically rose to K1,720 on 12 May.

The exchange rate between the US dollar and Myanmar Kyat showed a large gap of K380 over the past three months.

In a bid to control the sharp daily gains of the US dollar, the Central Bank of Myanmar reportedly sold about 6.8 million dollars on 3 February, 6 million dollars each on 22 and 27 April in the auction market.

The currency intervention is required to steer the own currency value. It is one of the responsibilities of the CBM to control the price. That is why the CBM practised the foreign exchange intervention.

The local forex market's data showed that the dollar

exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

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

# Beware of possible natural disasters in early monsoon

**P**EOPLE residing in various areas of the nation wish to fall the monsoon as quickly as possible because of increasing the daytime temperature.

The month of May, an interim period between the summer and the monsoon, is the last month of the summer in Myanmar. Hence, people are suffering from the impacts of both seasons, with frightening the outbreak of fire as the most prominent danger in the late summer and flooding, thunderbolts, landslides and storms in the early monsoon.

During the period, residents of deltaic areas and those from central Myanmar may face high temperature and the blowing of strong winds.

Whatever it may be, all the people need to notice the possibilities of climatic conditions before doing everything for the safety of their lives.

In Myanmar tradition, ancient Myanmar people forecast the climatic conditions with the points which conditions of cumulonimbus cloud could be seen from about 25 miles' distance whether it may be rained or not, and condition of strong winds could be seen from about eight miles' distance whether it may blow or not.

Whatever it may be, all the people need to notice the possibilities of climatic conditions before doing everything for the safety of their lives.

The winds with the vapour content that come from the seas may blow the inland areas of Myanmar several times. When the atmosphere bears higher relative humidity, blowing of such kind of winds may be stronger. As such, the strong winds may hit some areas with the rate of 30-40 miles per hour of speed.

The blowing of strong winds depends on the cumulonimbus cloud structure, which forms in three conditions with the deep layer of unstable air, the warm and moist layer and raising the warm moist air layer. Generally, cumulonimbus cloud formation may happen in the afternoon to trigger the strong winds with possible thunderbolt and lightning.

An official of Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology gave remarks that strong winds may blow the deltaic area and central Myanmar, where the cumulonimbus clouds may form on a daily basis.

The department has forecast that the monsoon will enter Myanmar after 18 May. It is noticeable that strong winds may stir Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, central Myanmar and Shan State.

# Will Liberal Democracy or Western Style Democracy Succeed in Myanmar?

By Dr Wai Zoe (Washington DC)

**C**ULTURES are not universal. Traditions are not universal. Thoughts are not universal.

Asians will think in accordance with Asian cultures and traditions. Caucasians will think in accordance with Caucasian cultures and traditions. South Americans will think in accordance with South Americans cultures and traditions.

It is legal in New York City for a woman to walk down the famous Broadway road bare chested. That cannot and will not be allowed in many cities in the United States itself!

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. During the time the Declaration was drafted and when it was adopted in 1948, many countries in the world were under the rule of the colonial powers. If the Declaration were to be drafted today, in a far more progressive interconnected society, content of the Declaration would not be the same.

Lately, other countries have started to question whether all that is in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights truly applies to

every single human being and for the benefit of the people the world over.

China's top diplomat, Yang Jiechi, said it best in recent China-US high-level meeting in Alaska. Yang said "I don't think the overwhelming majority of countries in the world would recognize that the universal values advocated by the United States or that the opinion of United States could represent international public opinion" Yang further said "Those countries would not recognize that the rules made by a small number of people would serve as the basis for the international order". So well said.

United States was founded in 1776. American President Abraham Lincoln issued Emancipation Declaration freeing the slaves on 1 January 1863. Yet, until 1965 voting Rights Act, every citizen in the United State was not allowed to vote. Freedom and democracy American people enjoy today did not happen overnight. Rome was not built in a day! Along the way, the American underwent a civil war as well.

As a result of the legacy left behind by British colonial pow-

er, Myanmar has not been a true peaceful nation since the independence. In a typical "divide and rule" strategy, when the British left Myanmar, it made sure to leave behind a divided society. Armed insurgency has been taking place continuously in some parts of Myanmar since independence. Outside interferences make sure at every turn that these armed insurgencies are never to be settled.

To leapfrog from that position and transform Myanmar into western style democracy will only mean the map of Myanmar will no longer be the same. Perhaps that is ultimate objective of the outside forces. That way, outside elements can install their own satellites in different parts of a divided Myanmar which would mean a threat to neighboring countries. Chaos in the region can be caused continuously from these "satellite" bases. Theat should never be allowed to happen in Myanmar. Myanmar would to great service to herself and to the neighbours keeping the country as one united country. As it is with the United States as perfect example, democracy in Myanmar can only be built step by step.

Even when a true disciplined

democracy is established in Myanmar, it will be based on Myanmar values and traditions. Myanmar is predominantly Buddhist country. But every major religion is practiced in Myanmar, and Myanmar is one of the handful of countries in the world where holidays for every major religion is observed.

One need not to look deep into history, or does it take a rocket scientist to know how outside interference endless civil wars and long lasting instability to the country.

## Let us focus on Afghanistan

This was the war US President Bush declared in 2021 as "we will not fail" US president Obama said in 2009 about the Taliban, "you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you". This is the longest American war at the peak in 2010 had more than 100,000 American and allied troops.

United States has announced its soldiers will leave Afghanistan by September 2021, after 20 years and 2 trillion dollars of cost. Not to mention claiming countless lives of civilian, women, children and yes, soldiers. As the US announced its September withdrawal, Taliban control or contest nearly half of the country. The Taliban has outlasted!

This is the war, when not being able to capture the top Taliban leadership in 2001, American President Bush pivoted from the military campaign to a herculean effort to transform Afghanistan's tribal society into democracy.

The Americans built a US\$300 million Kabul-Kandahar highway meant to be the symbol of the "new Afghanistan". The most visible sign of American commitment to rebuilding Afghanistan. 17 years after the completion of the highway, it is a glaring symbol of American's failures now dubbed as "highway to Hell".

Let us all remember former United States Secretary of State Madeline Albright answered as "worth it" to a question about the loss of life of 500,000 Iraqi children caused by the western sanctions over Iraq. Talk about compassion!

The US, together with the UK, completely illegal and under the false pretenses invaded Iraq in 2004 anyway. More than 17 years later, at an enormous cost, Iraq is nowhere near a stable country.

In 2011, foreign interference toppled the government in Libya. Libya is still in civil war ten years later.

## Then there is Syria. Say no more!

The list just goes on and on about how the country is left in perpetual ruins, stripped of sovereignty and national dignity, when outsiders are allowed to penetrate under the pretext of installing democracy. In doing so, its citizens and especially the most vulnerable become disregarded collateral damage.

Any solution for Myanmar will have to come from within. The more outside interference can be deterred the better and the quicker to bring stability to Myanmar and with stability, Myanmar people will begin to enjoy prosperity.

Some Asian countries offer very good examples of how countries built based on local cultures and traditions can develop and prosper. There are definitely lessons to be learnt from successful new democracies also which rightfully built their democracies based on solid economic base, social foundations and culture needs. Myanmar should follow their examples.

(The views and opinions in the article are those of the author).

# Indian Covid-19 variant found in 44 countries: WHO

The World Health Organization said Wednesday that a variant of Covid-19 behind the acceleration of India's explosive outbreak has been found in dozens of countries all over the world.

**T**HE UN health agency said the B.1.617 variant of Covid-19, first found in India in October, had been detected in more than 4,500 samples uploaded to an open-access database "from 44 countries in all six WHO regions".

"And WHO has received reports of detections from five additional countries," it said in its weekly epidemiological update on the pandemic.

Outside of India, it said that Britain had reported the largest number of Covid cases caused by the variant.

Earlier this week, the WHO declared B.1.617 — which counts three so-called sub-lineages with slightly different mutations and characteristics — as a "variant of concern".

It was therefore added to the list containing three other

variants of Covid-19 — those first detected in Britain, Brazil and South Africa.

The variants are seen as more dangerous than the original version of the virus because they are either being more



Covid variants are seen as more dangerous than the original version of the virus because they are either more transmissible, deadly or able to get past some vaccine protections. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

transmissible, deadly or able to get past some vaccine protections.

## 'Rapid increase'

The WHO explained Wednesday that B.1.617 was added to the list because it appears

to be transmitting more easily than the original virus, pointing to the "rapid increases in prevalence in multiple countries".

WHO also pointed to "preliminary evidence" that the variant was more resistant to treatment with the monoclonal antibody Bamlanivimab, and also highlighted early lab studies indicating "limited reduction in neutralization by antibodies".

It stressed, though, that "real-world impacts" on the effectiveness of vaccines against the variant for instance "may be limited".

WHO said the spread of B.1.617, alongside other more transmissible variants, appeared to be one of several factors fuelling India's dramatic surge in new cases and deaths.

second-most infected after the United States with nearly 23 million Covid-19 cases, and is currently recording more than 300,000 new cases and close to 4,000 deaths each day.

The new surge in cases has ravaged major cities, including the capital New Delhi and financial hub Mumbai, pushing hospitals to breaking point and leading to severe shortages in oxygen and beds.

"WHO found that resurgence and acceleration of Covid-19 transmission in India had several potential contributing factors, including increase in the proportion of cases of SARS-CoV-2 variants with potentially increased transmissibility," it said.

It also pointed to "several religious and political mass gathering events which in-

creased social mixing; and, under-use of and reduced adherence to public health and social measures".

"The exact contributions of each of these factors on increased transmission in India are not well understood."

WHO stressed that so far, only 0.1 per cent of positive Covid tests in India had been genetically sequenced and uploaded to the GISAID database to identify the variant in question.

By the end of April, B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 accounted for 21 and seven per cent respectively of all sequenced samples from India, it said.

In addition, other more contagious variants are also spreading in the country, including B.1.1.7, which was first detected in Britain.

SOURCE: AFP

## Public information

Yangon Region Administration Council is working with relevant departments to help the businesses in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their small and medium-scaled businesses and investments which are facing some delays and working to do new businesses.

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council

သတင်းစာ ဂျပန်ပတ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာခံချိန်ဖို့ ပံ့ပိုးပေးခြင်းကို ဆက်လက်လုပ်ဆောင်မည်

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> သတင်းနှင့်အလင်းစာပတ်စပို့(ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၅၁၂၀၈၊ ၀၆-၄၄၀၃၀၅၆၂	> ကိုယ်ပြောသတင်းစာတိုက်(စစ်တွေ) ဖုန်း-၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၀၅၁၊ ၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၀၆၀
> နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက်(နေပြည်တော်) ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၆၁၀၇၁၊ ၀၆-၄၄၀၃၀၅၆၂	> ကိုယ်ပြောသတင်းစာတိုက်(တောင်ကြီး) ဖုန်း-၀၈၁-၂၁၂၁၀၅၄
> မြန်မာ့အလင်းစာပတ်စပို့(ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၉၅၅၄၄၁၇၊ ၀၉-၄၄၀၄၂၂၁၄	> ကိုယ်ပြောသတင်းစာတိုက်(မကွေး) ဖုန်း-၀၆၃-၂၀၂၅၀၅၁
> နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၉၅၅၄၄၁၇၊ ၀၉-၄၄၀၄၂၂၁၄	> ကိုယ်ပြောသတင်းစာတိုက်(ကရီးတို) ဖုန်း-၀၈၄-၂၀၂၅၅၄၅
> The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၉၅၅၄၄၁၇၊ ၀၉-၄၄၀၄၂၂၁၄	> ကိုယ်ပြောသတင်းစာတိုက်(ကလေး) ဖုန်း-၀၇၃-၂၀၂၅၀၅၁
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> ကိုယ်ပြောသတင်းစာတိုက်(မော်လမြိုင်) ဖုန်း-၀၇၃-၂၀၂၅၀၅၁၊ ၀၇-၄၄၀၄၂၂၁၄	> ကိုယ်ပြောသတင်းစာတိုက်(မြိုင်) ဖုန်း-၀၇၆-၂၀၄၂၁၀၃

၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ် ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များအားဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း၊ ကြေးမုံ၊ GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR သတင်းစာပတ်စပို့များ



## Files opened against nurses who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State











THE following nurses have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and health staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Yamin Oo (Senior Nurse)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
2	Daw Aye Chan Sabei Aung (Senior Nurse)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
3	Daw Naw Jacque Line (Senior Nurse)	Myawady General Hospital	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
4	Daw Aye Mya Nwe (Senior Nurse)	Thaphanbinseik Rural Health Centre	Okpo Township, Bago Region	505-a	
5	Daw Ngun Kam (Senior Nurse)	PyinOoLwin General Hospital	Nanyun Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
6	Daw Tin Myo Wai (Senior Nurse)	Shwebo Hospital	Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
7	Daw May Zin Oo (Nurse)	Letpadan Hospital	Letpadan Town, Bago Region	505-a	
8	Daw Phyu Phyu Hnin (Nurse)	Kawlin Hospital	Kawlin Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
9	Daw Hnin Si Khine (Nurse)	Thaton Hospital	Bilin Town, Mon State	505-a	
10	Daw Myo Thiri Zaw (Nurse)	Ngaputaw Hospital	Ngaputaw Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those nurses charged, action will be taken against the the persons who admitted them for the supporting those who participated in CDM and CRPH activities. —MNA

## Files opened against education staff who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

THE following education staff have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and education staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Dr Mya Thida Tun	Vice-Principal, Government Technological College (Mingyan), Mingyan Town	Mingyan Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
2	Daw Myint Thanda Oo	Staff Officer, Office of the District Education Officer, Kyaukme Town	Kalay Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
3	Daw Nyo Nyo San	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS -1 Nawngkhio Town	Nawngkhio Town, Shan State(North)	505-a	
4	U Ko Rei	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Prusho Town	Prusho Town, Kayah State	505-a	
5	Daw Wah Wah Ko	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS -1 Kawlin Town	Kawlin Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
6	U Pyae Phyo Maung	Headmaster, BEMS (Kunlong), Naungshwe Township	Naungshwe Township, Shan State (South)	505-a	
7	U Zaw Paw Tun	Headmaster, BEPS(Kabo), TadaU Township	TadaU Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	U Lin Lin Htaik	Headmaster, BEPS(Kwetthit), Pyapon Township	Pyapon Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
9	Daw May Mie Mie Lwin	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Phayathonzu Town	Phayathonzu Town, Kayin State	505-a	
10	U Zaw Hsan	Upper Division Clerk, Mingyan University, Mingyan Town	Mingyan Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those education staff charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those education staff, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff. —MNA

# Armed attacks occurred at security forces camps and public buildings

TERRORISTS opened fire at security forces' bases and public buildings in Kyaikto and Tamu townships on 11 and 12 May.

Due to their bomb attacks on the USDP party office building at around 7:15 pm on 11 May in Kyaikto Township, glasses were shattered, wounding a man inside the building. He was taken to the hospital for medical treatment. Similarly, Kyaikto Myoma Police Station was attacked by weapons at the same time. Due to the defence by the police station, the fire was ceased at 7:40 pm, and the terrorists retreated. After about 15 minutes later, a terrorist opened fire from the

Shwebontha pagoda precinct about 100 feet away from the police station and ran away.

Yesterday morning, a group of 50 terrorists attacked the police station by a small arms fire in Kuntaung village, Tamu Township, Sagaing Region.

The incident resulted in one member of the security forces injured, and one magazine with 15 rounds of ammunition was confiscated.

Security measures have been tightened up, and investigations are carried out to identify the perpetrators and take legal actions against them. —MNA



## Police stop RSO insurgents from escaping into Myanmar territory

THE security forces take security measures in Rakhine state and along the border with Bangladesh daily in order to ensure border security, community peace and stop illegal trespassing and drug trade.

When the police patrolled in Maungtau area, and borderline yesterday, they found

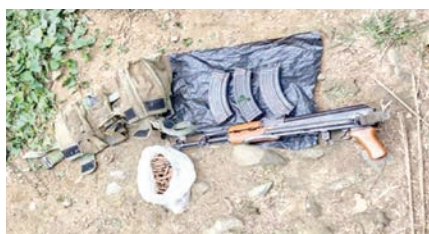
about 50 RSO terrorists attempting to enter Myanmar areas between border post No BP 51 and 52.

There was an attack between the police and terrorists.

The police seized the dead body of an RSO terrorists together with an M22 gun and other materials.

One of the security members was injured and taken to the military hospital in Buthidaung Township.

The security members keep conducting security measures to ensure border security and community peace. —MNA



## Police outpost, government departmental offices set on fire in Sagaing Region

THE insurgents set fire to mobile police outpost, forest department office and Dry Zone Greening Department office in Taw Gyin Village of Taze Township of Sagaing Region on 11 May.

The Taw Gyin mobile police outpost, which was temporarily closed, was burnt at 8:30 pm

while another two buildings at 9 pm. The villagers put out the fire. The buildings and one 12-wheel truck were destroyed in the fire.

The security members investigate to take action against those who committed such fire attack in accord with the law. —MNA



## Homemade mine explodes while planting mine in Botahtaung township

A man was injured in an explosion while planting a homemade mine on 11 May in Botahtaung Township in Yangon.

The incident happened at 6:10 pm in the ward (8), Botahtaung Township and the man was found lying down

near Moe Kaung bakery with wounds on his left eye, fingers and right leg.

Members of the security forces took him to the local Tatmadaw hospital for medical treatment.

He will be prosecuted according to the law.

While searching his house, two keypad phones, two pairs of triple batteries, two six-inch-long steel pipes used to install homemade mines were found and confiscated. —MNA



## Two arrested with anti-State slogans in Tamway, Yangon

ONE women and one man were arrested yesterday as they hanged anti-government slogans on the fence of No (1) Basic Education High School at 6 am in Tamway Township of the Yangon Region.

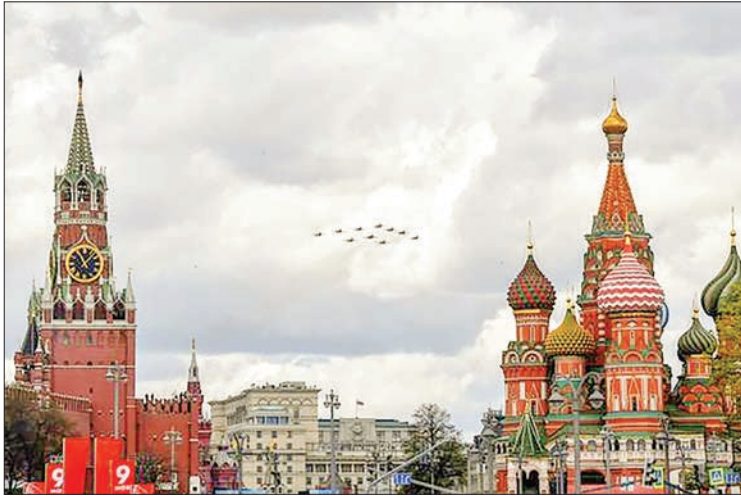
They were arrested when

security forces were patrolling the area. The perpetrators were arrested together with two red spray bottles and 12 anti-government slogans.

It is reported that action will be taken against them under the law. —MNA



# US says reviewing Open Skies as Putin moves to exit



Russian Sukhoi jet fighters fly over the Kremlin and Red Square during rehearsals for the Victory Day military parade as Moscow prepares to exit the Open Skies Treaty trashed by former US president Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE United States said Tuesday it was reviewing the previous administration's withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty as

Russia moved formally to leave the post-Cold War accord meant to build trust.

The United States official-

ly left the pact in November after former president Donald Trump's administration said Russia was violating the agreement that allows the two powers and their allies to monitor one another's airspace.

The administration of President Joe Biden said it was taking another look in consultation with US allies.

"We haven't made a decision on the future of American participation in the Open Skies Treaty. We are actively reviewing matters related to the treaty," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters.

"Russia's own continuing non-compliance with the treaty is one of several pertinent factors as we take stock of things,"

he said.

"As this process continues, we encourage Russia to take steps to come back into compliance with the treaty."

Moscow announced in mid-January it would leave the treaty, saying there was no progress in making it work in light of the US withdrawal. A government database showed on Tuesday that President Vladimir Putin has submitted the bill exiting the treaty to parliament.

A note accompanying it said the treaty had helped "to significantly strengthen trust in the defense sphere," adding that the US withdrawal "upset the balance of interests" of signatory states.

"Serious damage has been

dealt to the observance of the treaty and its role in strengthening trust and transparency," the note also said, adding that as a result Russia's national security was under threat.

Biden took office vowing a firmer line on Russia but has also been more open to international accords after Trump dumped a slew of agreements.

Days after entering office, Biden extended by five years the New START nuclear treaty – the last remaining arms reduction pact between the former Cold War rivals.

**Avoiding miscalculation**

Open Skies was signed soon after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1992 and came into force in 2002. —AFP ■

## US approves its biggest offshore wind farm yet

THE US announced on Tuesday that it had granted final approval for its biggest wind power project yet, which will be located off the coast of the eastern state of Massachusetts.

The "Vineyard Wind" project calls for up to 84 wind turbines to be built 12 nautical miles off Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, two islands off the Massachusetts coast.

The administration of President Joe Biden has set a goal of generating 30 gigawatts of energy from offshore wind by 2030.

The 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind project would provide enough power for 400,000 homes and businesses, the Interior Department said in

a statement.

"A clean energy future is within our grasp in the United States," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said. "The approval of this project is an important step toward advancing the administration's goals to create good-paying union jobs while combatting climate change and powering our nation."

The United States currently relies very little on wind power, with only small wind farms located off the coasts of Virginia and Rhode Island.

Vineyard Wind, a joint venture between Avangrid Renewables and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, said the project will be operational in 2023. —AFP ■



The US announced on Tuesday that it had granted final approval for its biggest wind power project yet, which will be located off the coast of the eastern state of Massachusetts. **PHOTO: AFP**

## China to set separation line with Nepal on Mt. Everest to curb virus

CHINESE authorities have decided to set a line of separation between the country and its neighbour Nepal on Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak, in a bid to curb novel coronavirus infections, local media reported Tuesday.

The authorities have been aiming to prevent the nation's climbers from contacting with those from Nepal on the 8,848-metre mountain, called Qomolangma in China. The border of the two countries is located at the top of Mt. Everest.

China has so far reported zero infections on the north side of the mountain since the climbing season began in early April, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Around 20 Chinese people



Chinese authorities have decided to set a line of separation between the country and its neighbour Nepal on Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak, in a bid to curb novel coronavirus infections, local media reported Tuesday. **PHOTO: KYODO**

have been permitted to climb the mountain from its north side this year.

They are expected to go

for the top after receiving PCR tests or being quarantined for a certain period, according to Xinhua. —Kyodo News ■

## Pipeline shutdown sparks fear of US gasoline shortage

FEARS the shutdown of a major fuel pipeline network would cause a gasoline shortage led to some panic buying and prompted US regulators on Tuesday to temporarily suspend clean fuel requirements in three eastern states and the nation's capital.

While it remained unclear the degree to which supplies would be affected, drivers lined up to fill their tanks at gas stations in the southeast, with some carrying extra containers amid fears of fuel scarcity. A ransomware attack Friday on Colonial Pipeline forced the company to shut down its entire network, but government officials on Tuesday urged calm and said the situation is only temporary.

The operator of the largest fuel conduit system

in the United States, Colonial Pipeline sends gasoline and jet fuel from the Gulf Coast of Texas to the populous east coast through 5,500 miles (8,850 kilometres) of ducts that serve 50 million consumers. The company said it expects to have the pipeline network fully up and running by the end of the week. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said some areas "may feel a supply crunch, as Colonial fully resumes."

However, "there should be no cause for hoarding gasoline, especially in the light of the fact that the pipeline should be substantially operational by the end of this week and over the weekend," she told reporters at the White House. —AFP ■

# US business group warns 42 per cent of members plan Hong Kong exit

MORE than 40 per cent of a top US business group's members in Hong Kong said they plan to leave the city in a survey released Wednesday, highlighting growing concerns over Beijing's sweeping national security law.

China blanketed Hong Kong in a broad security law last year to snuff out dissent after months of huge and often violent democracy protests.

The American Chamber of Commerce survey -- conducted between May 5 and 9 -- found 42 per cent of 325 respondents said they were planning a move away, with a significant majority (62 per cent) citing the national security law as a key reason.

Other reasons given included the city's pandemic control measures, its future competitiveness, the high cost of living and concerns over the quality of



The American Chamber of Commerce survey -- conducted between May 5 and 9 -- found 42 percent of 325 respondents said they were planning a move away. PHOTO: AFP

education as dissent is quashed. "While people share their love for living in this dynamic city, they also reveal growing underly-

ing tensions and nagging fears," said Tara Joseph, AmCham's president. "Previously, I never had a

worry about what I said or wrote when I was in Hong Kong," one respondent wrote in comments published in the survey. — AFP ■

# French court to rule on Air France, Airbus trial over Rio-Paris crash



Flight AF447 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean during a storm on June 1, 2009, in the deadliest crash in Air France's history. PHOTO: AFP

A French court will rule Wednesday whether Air France and Air-

bus should stand trial over the 2009 crash of a Rio de Janeiro

to Paris flight that killed all 228 people on board.

A French court will rule Wednesday whether Air France and Airbus should stand trial over the 2009 crash of a Rio de Janeiro to Paris flight that killed all 228 people on board.

Flight AF447 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean during a storm on June 1, 2009, the deadliest crash in Air France's history.

It took two years to find the wreckage of the Airbus A330 jet, which was eventually located by remote-controlled submarines at a depth of 3,900 metres (13,000 feet).

Investigators determined

the crash was caused by pilot errors, who were disorientated by faulty speed monitoring equipment.

The general prosecutor's office is seeking a manslaughter trial against both Air France and Airbus, going beyond the Paris prosecutor's initial demand that only Air France face manslaughter charges.

Both prosecuting teams contest a 2019 decision to drop the charges by the two investigating magistrates assigned to the case, who said they could not ascribe fault to the companies in what appeared to be a case of pilot error. — AFP ■

# Swedish oat milk producer Oatly eyes \$10 billion IPO

SWEDEN'S Oatly, a pioneer in plant-based drinks, is eyeing a valuation that could exceed \$10 billion in an upcoming initial public offering on Wall Street, the company said Tuesday.

The company, which produces oat-based alternatives to dairy products, such as milk, yoghurt and ice cream, said it had applied to be listed on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "OTLY".

Founded in the 1990s and now operating in about 20 countries, the Swedish company has taken off in recent years, boosted

by the rise of vegan and vegetarian diets, as well as arguments for health and environmental benefits of alternatives to dairy.

In July 2020, Oatly announced that it had raised \$200 million, with the participation of the Blackstone fund, US TV star Oprah Winfrey and actress Natalie Portman, valuing the company at around \$2 billion.

Oatly on Tuesday set the terms for its IPO which would value the company at between \$8.9 billion and \$10.1 billion. There is no date yet for the IPO. — AFP ■



Back by US TV star Oprah Winfrey and actress Natalie Portman, Oatly has taken off in recent years, boosted by the rise of vegan and vegetarian diets, as well as arguments for health and environmental benefits of alternatives to dairy. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Toyota annual net profit jumps 10.3%, further growth forecast

TOYOTA'S full-year net profit jumped 10.3 per cent even as the pandemic hit the auto industry, the Japanese firm said Wednesday, projecting growth despite the ongoing semiconductor crisis.

The global pandemic has hit automakers hard, with demand collapsing as the coronavirus forced people indoors and hit spending.

But the world's top-selling carmaker has bounced back quicker than its competitors, and also successfully weathered a chip shortage that has forced rivals to slash production targets.

Toyota said it generated 2.25 trillion yen (\$20.6 billion) in the fiscal year to March, up from 2.04 trillion yen the year before, beating its own annual forecast. — AFP ■

### SoftBank posts \$45 bn net profit, Japan's highest ever

INVESTMENT giant Softbank Group on Wednesday reported an annual net profit of \$45.8 billion, the best ever for a Japanese company, reaping the rewards of tech share rallies to recover from last year's record loss.

The telecoms firm turned investment behemoth has poured money into some of Silicon Valley's biggest names and hottest new ventures from AI to biotech through its \$100-billion Vision Fund.

"The technology sector, where the company focuses its investment strategies, has been positively impacted by the accelerated adoption of digital services to address the pandemic," SoftBank said in a statement.

"However, there is no guarantee that the current positive impact will be sustained in light of uncertainties associated with the pandemic." Net profit for 2020-21 was 4.99 billion yen (\$45.8 billion), SoftBank said -- exceeding its target and putting it in the ranks of the world's most profitable companies. — AFP ■

# Inflation fears rout global equity markets



Rising commodity prices are already having an effect on Chinese manufacturers. **PHOTO: AFP**

EQUITY markets across the world tumbled Tuesday as fears of spiking inflation set off a wave of selling across most bourses.

London stocks dived over 3.0 per cent at one point before recovering some ground to close 2.5 per cent lower.

Paris fell 1.9 per cent and Frankfurt 1.8 per cent.

Wall Street stocks also retreated, although the Nasdaq finished almost flat following a wave of bargain-hunting.

“European stock markets have taken a beating today over

concerns about rising inflation expectations,” said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

Traders are fearful that surging inflation could force the world’s central banks to wind back ultra-loose monetary policies earlier than forecast and damage the post-Covid recovery.

Earlier, Tokyo and Taipei each dropped more than 3.0 percent, while Hong Kong was off 2.0 per cent.

Data showed a 6.8 per cent rise in Chinese factory gate

prices last month, the biggest jump in almost four years.

That is due to a rally in commodity prices — particularly widely used copper and iron ore -- which has markets concerned that costs will spiral.

“Investors do appear to be freaking out a little bit over the recent sharp rise in commodity prices that we’ve seen in the past few weeks,” said Hewson.

The yield on the 10-year US Treasury rose back above 1.6 per cent, a move typically reflecting concerns about rising prices. —AFP ■

## EU court to decide on Amazon tax appeal

AN EU court will rule Wednesday on an appeal by online giant Amazon against an order that Luxembourg recoup 250 million euros (\$295 million) in unpaid taxes.

The decision will land less than a year after iPhone maker Apple spectacularly won its appeal in the same court against the European Commission’s blockbuster order in 2016 that Apple repay Ireland 13 billion euros.

The French energy giant Engie will also learn the fate of its fight against a similar EU order to repay Luxembourg 120 million euros in taxes.

The cases came in the wake of the 2014 LuxLeaks revelations that unearthed secret deals between Luxembourg and hundreds of companies guaranteeing super low tax bills.

In the Amazon case, in 2017 Europe’s competition chief Margrethe Vestager accused Luxembourg of an illegal deal with the internet shopping giant to pay less tax

than other businesses.

At the heart of the EU’s case is a violation of the so-called “arm’s length principle”, which for tax purposes is meant to ensure that transactions between subsidiaries are based on prices other companies would pay.

At the time of the EU’s case, Amazon said it did “not receive any special treatment from Luxembourg and that we paid tax in full accordance with both Luxembourg and international tax law.”

Win or lose, the EU commission will likely insist that the point of their cases, to expose the practice of profit-shifting, will have been made, with new rules currently being worked on to close loopholes, especially for big tech.

In recent weeks, the United States has embraced the idea of a global minimum corporate tax that would make special deals offered to multinationals a thing of the past. —AFP ■

## Money sent home helps Mexicans survive pandemic recession



Maria Fernanda Camano leaves the money transfer office in Izucar de Matamoros in central Mexico where she receives remittances from her father in the United States. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIKE millions of Mexicans struggling during the pandemic, the money sent home by her father from the United States became a lifeline for Maria Fernanda Camano after she lost her job.

Such remittances, which rose to a record high in March, have helped to cushion the devastating blow to Latin America’s

second-largest economy from the coronavirus.

Camano’s father Victor Hugo has lived for 15 years in California, where he works night shifts as a freight truck driver.

“It made me think: what would have happened if he had stayed here? Maybe he wouldn’t have been able to help me,” said

the 22-year-old former office worker. At one point her father received a telephone call from his employer telling him not to show up to work as the pandemic shut down activities in the United States.

“It was mortifying,” Camano told AFP in Izucar de Matamoros in the central state of Puebla, one of the areas of Mexico that receives the most remittances.

“Fortunately they decided that my father’s job was necessary, so he had more work,” she said, adding that she was “deeply grateful” and worried about the sacrifices he was making.

**‘Economic ravages’**

An estimated 1.8 million households receive remittances from Mexicans living abroad, mostly in the United States.

Some 12 million people born in Mexico live in the US, as well as another 26 million second or third generation Mexicans. —AFP ■

## German investor confidence jumps as third wave eases

GERMAN investor sentiment jumped to its highest level in two decades in May on hopes that consumers will send growth soaring once Europe’s biggest economy finally reopens shops, bars and restaurants. The ZEW institute’s monthly barometer measuring economic expectations rose 13.7 points in May to 84.4, its highest reading since 2000 and by far the highest since the beginning of the pandemic, data showed on Tuesday.

“The slowing down of the third COVID-19 wave has made financial market experts even more optimistic,” said ZEW president Achim Wambach in a statement. “The experts expect a significant economic upswing in the coming six months,” he added.

Restaurants, bars, gyms and cultural venues

have been closed since November and shops since December in Germany, which was still battling with a third wave of infections and a slow vaccine rollout in the first few months of the year.

The inoculation drive has dramatically accelerated in recent weeks, with almost a third of the population now having received at least one jab. Meanwhile, a gradual decline in infection rates led Health Minister Jens Spahn to declare last week that the third wave “appears to have broken”.

ZEW’s assessment of the current economic situation in Germany jumped by 8.7 points to -40.1 — a marked improvement on the previous month but still deep in negative territory. The government also expects an economic upswing in the second quarter. —AFP ■



Europe’s competition chief Margrethe Vestager has accused Luxembourg of an illegal deal with Amazon to pay less tax than other businesses. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Israel declares state of emergency in Lod, blaming 'riots' by Arab minority

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday declared a state of emergency in the central city of Lod as police accused Arab residents of waging "wide-scale riots".

Netanyahu's statement came after an Israeli Arab was killed in Lod the previous night as violence soars between Israel and the Palestinian territories.

According to an AFP photographer, Netanyahu himself went to the city, which is in the suburbs of economic hub Tel Aviv near the Ben Gurion airport, to call for calm.

The city of 77,000 people,



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tours the city of Lod. PHOTO: AFP

including 47,000 Jewish Israelis and 23,000 Arab Israelis, had

confirmed to AFP.

But on Tuesday evening, as protests multiplied across East Jerusalem, the occupied West Bank and also Israeli Arab cities, the situation degenerated in Lod, police said.

"Wide-scale riots erupted by some of the Arab residents and endangering communities," the police said in a statement.

"Vehicle were burnt and damage caused to property."

The government said reinforcements had been deployed after Israeli media reported that three synagogues and several businesses were set on fire in Lod. —AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Death penalty, hate crime charges sought in Georgia spa shootings

PROSECUTORS plan to seek the death penalty and file hate crime charges against the man accused of shooting dead eight people, including six women of Asian origin, in attacks on three spas in the southern US state of Georgia.

Robert Aaron Long, 22, was indicted by a grand jury in Georgia's Fulton County on Tuesday for the murders of four women in a March 16 attack on two spas in the city of Atlanta.

Long, of Woodstock, Georgia, is facing separate charges related to an attack on a spa in Cherokee County the same day that left another four people dead.

The deaths of six women of Asian origin further stoked fears in an Asian-American population already alarmed by a surge in hate crimes during the coronavirus pandemic. —AFP ■

### Several children killed in Russian high school shooting

AT least seven people were killed Tuesday, most of them children, in a shooting at a high school in the central Russian city of Kazan, officials and news agency reports said.

Officials said at least one gunman had been involved and detained, though there were unconfirmed reports of two attackers including one who had been killed.

A police spokesman said officers were dispatched to School No. 175 in Kazan, the capital of the Russian republic of Tatarstan, after reports of shots being fired.

Amateur footage on social media, apparently filmed from a nearby building, showed people escaping from the school by jumping from second- and third-floor windows, with sounds of gunshots echoing in the schoolyard.

Russia's National Anti-Terrorism Committee said seven children had been killed and 16 people wounded. —AFP ■

# Libya's latest unity government faces uphill battle



Analysts warn that despite moves towards peace in Libya, the country could slip back into conflict. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

A new unity government in Libya had raised hopes the war-ravaged North African nation had turned a corner towards peace -- but analysts warn that major stumbling blocks remain.

Thousands of foreign mer-

cenaries are still on the ground, political factions remain deeply divided, and the promise of elections in December seems to be slipping away.

"The honeymoon period of Libya's GNU (Government of Na-

tional Unity) is now long gone," said analyst Emadeddin Badi.

The toppling and killing of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in a 2011 NATO-backed uprising plunged Libya into a bloody, decade-long struggle for power.

After a grim, year-long battle for the western capital of Tripoli, in which rival camps were backed by foreign powers, a truce last summer finally led to a formal UN-mediated ceasefire in October.

That was followed in March by the establishment of a new unity government to replace rival administrations in east and west.

Interim Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah's administration is charged with unifying Libya's institutions and preparing for elections on December 24.

But despite the rare wave of optimism, Libya's deep rivalries are beginning to resurface.

"After an unprecedented breakthrough over the past two months, we have entered a new phase of doubt -- and a resurgence of divisions between east and west," noted analyst Imad Jalloul.

### Foreign forces

Last week, dozens of gunmen staged a show of force at a hotel used as a headquarters by Libya's presidential council in Tripoli.

That came after interim Foreign Minister Najla al-Mangoush, from eastern Libya, angered many in the west by demanding that Turkey withdraw troops it had deployed during the civil war. —AFP ■

# Venezuela asks Spain to extradite convicted opposition politician

VENEZUELA'S Supreme Court on Tuesday sent a request to Spain for the extradition of exiled opposition politician Leopoldo Lopez, who has been sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Lopez was jailed in 2015 for inciting violence amongst protesters against the government of Nicolas Maduro.

The violent repression of demonstrations by security services from February to May left 43 people dead and 3,000 injured, and brought international condemnation of the Maduro regime.

Lopez was transferred to

house arrest in 2017 but was then released by rebel soldiers in April 2019 as part of a failed uprising against Maduro.

He has been living in Spain for the last seven months having left the country from the Spanish ambassador's residence where he took refuge once the uprising crumbled.

Maduro accused the ambassador, Jesus Silva, of "complicity" in the escape and said he would "review" Venezuela's relationship with Spain.

Nonetheless, Spain's representative for Latin America at the foreign affairs ministry, Cris-



Venezuelan opposition figure Leopoldo Lopez fled to Spain in October 2020 after escaping house arrest the year before. PHOTO: AFP

tina Gallach, visited Venezuela in March and urged "a political

solution to the country's crisis". —AFP ■

## Nine teams to compete in 2021 Thai Son Bac Cup

A total of nine teams will take part in the 2021 Thai Son Bac Cup to be held in Viet Nam on 18 May, said the source with the ASEAN Football Federation.

Hanoi I Watabe FC, Hanoi II Watabe FC, Phong Phu Ha Nam I

FC, Phong Phu Ha Nam II FC, Ho Chi Minh City I FC, Ho Chi Minh City II, Son La FC, Vinacomin FC, and Thai Nguyen T&T FC are taking in the list, officials said.

“Women’s Football continue to develop well in the last several

years, and despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament is still being organized,” said Bui Dinh Te of the tourney organizer.

“Following the official draw ceremony held this week at the VFF House in Hanoi, kick-off

has been set for 18 May 2021 with Phong Phu Ha Nam I taking on Son La FC at the Ha Nam Stadium.

The tournament will run on a double round-robin format. Each team is allowed to make a

maximum of five substitutions per match.

The first leg will run from 18 May to 20 June 2021, with the return leg set for 12 July to 13 August 2021,” ASEAN football officials added. —GNLM ■

## ‘Relentless’: Pep hails City after fifth Premier League in nine years



Trophy time: Man City fans celebrate winning the Premier League outside the Etihad Stadium. PHOTO: AFP

MANAGER Pep Guardiola hailed “relentless” Manchester City after they clinched the “hardest” of his three Premier League titles on Tuesday, sparking wild celebrations among supporters who had gathered outside the Etihad Stadium.

City were handed the title when arch-rivals and nearest challengers Manchester United lost 2-1 at home to Leicester, leaving Guardiola’s side 10 points clear with three games

remaining.

“This has been a season and a Premier League title like no other. This was the hardest one,” said Guardiola after City became English champions for the seventh time -- five titles coming in the past nine years.

City missed a chance to celebrate on the pitch at the weekend, losing 2-1 at home to Chelsea with United keeping them waiting by winning at Aston Villa.

But two days later they

were able to savour a title triumph that is all the sweeter given the obstacles they have overcome in a coronavirus-condensed campaign played mostly without fans.

“We will always remember this season for the way we won. I am so proud to be the manager here and of this group of players,” said Guardiola.

It was City’s second trophy in a little over two weeks after beating Tottenham in the League Cup final. —AFP ■

## Solskjaer calls on Man. Utd to strengthen after Leicester loss

MANCHESTER United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer called on the club’s owners to bolster his squad after a 2-1 loss at home to Leicester on Tuesday confirmed Manchester City as Premier League champions.

Second-placed United, who had to beat the Foxes to maintain their fading title hopes, fell behind to Luke Thomas’ 10th-minute goal at Old Trafford.

Mason Greenwood equalised just five minutes later but Turkish defender Caglar Soyuncu’s second-half header saw Leicester to a win that boost-

ed their bid for a Champions League place and set them up for this weekend’s FA Cup final against Chelsea at Wembley.

Defeat left United 10 points behind City, with only a maximum of nine available to the Red Devils from their three remaining league games this season.

The Glazers, United’s Florida-based owners, have been the target of bitter demonstrations by supporters in recent weeks as a result of their role in trying to take the club into the aborted European Super League. —AFP ■



Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer called on the club’s owners to bolster his squad after a 2-1 loss at home to Leicester on Tuesday confirmed Manchester City as Premier League champions. PHOTO: AFP

## German FA in turmoil after embattled president steps down



German FA president Fritz Keller is set to resign following a scandal over comments he made comparing his vice-president to a Nazi judge. PHOTO: AFP

THE German FA (DFB) was in turmoil on Wednesday after its embattled president Fritz Keller said he would step down after comparing his own deputy to a notorious Nazi-era judge.

“President Fritz Keller has made a personal decision...that he is ready in principle to resign,” the DFB said in a statement late Tuesday.

The move came just two days ahead of the DFB’s flagship annual event, the German Cup final, and a month before the European championships.

Keller sparked outrage and calls for his resignation after likening DFB vice-president Rainer Koch to Roland Freisler, the infamous head of the Nazi party’s court in the 1940s,

during a meeting last month.

The 64-year-old later apologized to Koch, acknowledging that his words were “totally inappropriate, notably towards the victims of Nazism”, but ruled out stepping down over the incident.

Yet he is now set to step down next Monday, after facing a DFB tribunal to explain his comments.

Far from settling what appeared to be bitter power struggle between Keller and Koch, the president’s resignation appears to herald a mass clearout of the federation top brass.

In their statement on Tuesday, the DFB announced it was “laying the foundations for a new orientation”. —AFP ■