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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Govt to construct new bridges in An Township

THE Ministry of Construction is now constructing three bridges in An Township of Rakhine State. They are Kyweku Bridge on Tattaung road, Mintak Bridge on An-Mintak road and Ruchaung Bridge on Tattaung-Ru Village-Tamanduu. Currently, arrangements are being carried out to build An Creek Bridge that spans Layyinkwin Ward and Myauk-bak Ward, according to Construction Team (2) of Bridge Department.

The 960 ft long and 30 ft wide Kyweku bridge can accommodate HI93, and the cost of the construction will be K4,800 million and K2,487 million for the approach road of the bridge. The construction works started on 1 October 2019 and were slated for



Construction site of the Kyweku Bridge (view from Nyaung Chaung Creek bank).



completion in September 2022.

Similarly, Mintak Bridge with 400 ft in length and 20 ft in width can accommodate HS20-44, and it will cost K1300 million. The bridge was constructed on 3 May 2020 and slated for completion in September 2022.

The Ruchaung Bridge is 120 ft in length and 12 ft in

width, and it can withstand 20

tonnes of truck. The estimated cost was K840 million. The construction was started on 1 June 2008 and expected to be completed in September 2021.

Moreover, the government made a plan to construct the An Creek Bridge, which is 720 ft in length and 30 ft in width,

using K3,240 million.

If the construction works of these four bridges complete, they can promote the transportation and socio-economic status of the local populace, said the officials of Bridge Special Team (8) of the Bridge Department.—Win Ei Mon (IPRP)/GNLM

### 31 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 May, total figure rises to 143,035

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 143,035 after 31 new cases were reported on 14 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,072 have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

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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*

# Need to choose quality and high-yield crops and pedigree animal species of agriculture and livestock sectors to occupy domestic and international markets

COVID-19 causes the decline of the economy across the world. Foodstuff production must be undertaken without fail among the businesses. Myanmar needs to successfully develop agriculture and livestock sectors based on its advantages. The Senior General stressed the need to choose the quality and high-yield crops and pedigree animal species of the agriculture and livestock sectors to occupy the domestic and international markets. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation researches the production of quality strains of crops.

*(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)*

# MoPF discusses progress of State macroeconomy

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance yesterday held a coordination meeting. It focused on suggestions to be reported for short- and medium-term plans by assessing the figures and data based on the progress of the State macroeconomy.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein said State's macroeconomic situation was affected by the outbreak of Covid-19 and political changes. He stressed the need to analyze and report the GDP, foreign exchange rate, export and import situation, foreign investment, currency inflation rate, investment of State-owned sector, fi-

ancial balance and supply of the budget needs, levying taxes, disbursement of loans to the private sector and paying back the loans. Such reports must be submitted weekly, monthly, quarterly and biannually.

Deputy ministers and heads of department discussed the collection of the macroeconomic index for the State, formation of task forces, duty and functions, collaboration with other departments, facts about Myanmar sustainable development plan (MSDP), Covid-19 economic relief plan (CERP), and assessment measures based on three economic objectives of the State Administration Council. — MNA



The MoPF coordination meeting in progress.

## Statement on fake news



1. The fake news pretended to be a press release issued by the Union Election Commission dated 12 May 2021 was posted on social network (Facebook). It says that all former Hluttaw representatives who competed in the 2020 general election may take out their election registration fee (deposit for joining the election) as of 1 June.
2. The Union Election Commission carries out tasks on the deposit for joining the election under the relevant Hluttaw rules 38. Such a statement was fake news, not released by the Union Election Commission.

*Union Election Commission*

## Tatmadaw provides treatment to over 200,000 outpatients

TATMADAW keeps providing healthcare services for the patients at the military hospitals and temporary treatment centres in the townships of regions and states.

The Tatmadaw medical teams comprising Tatmadaw doctors, specialists, medical assistants and nurses have given medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 203,784 outpatients and 62,474 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medics, medical assistants and nurses have conducted 9,507 major operations and 4,835 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment to the severe cases. These hospitals managed for the birth of 12,171 babies to date. Of those, 4,835 cases are done in the caesarean section and 7,264 cases in standard delivery. Moreover,

Northern Command Commander Brig-Gen Myat Thet Oo and party comforted locals, military officers, other ranks and police members who took treatments at the local military hospital in Myitkyina of Kachin State. He provided foodstuffs to them.

Similarly, Maj-Gen Aung Aung, Commander of South-West Command, and party comforted monks and locals who had treatments at the military hospital in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region. Southern Command Commander Brig-Gen Htein Win and party also comforted locals, military officers, other ranks and their families who took medical treatments at the military station hospital in Toungoo of Bago Region. In addition to providing medical care to patients in need of hospitalization, Tatmadaw is making arrangements for the well-being of hospitalized patients and caregivers. — MNA



# Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo meets with Chairman and members of Shan State Investment Committee

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Aung Naing Oo met with the Chairman and members of Shan State Administration Council and Shan State Investment Committee members at the Shan State Administration Council's meeting room in the morning of yesterday.



At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the investment promotion, facilitation and protection measures that to be undertaken by Shan State Investment Committee in accordance with the Myanmar Investment Laws, Rules and procedures. He encouraged the State Investment Committee to promote the investment by establishing an efficient mechanism for monitoring, facilitating and providing

necessary assistance to the existing investments which were permitted by MIC and endorsed by State Investment Committee. The Union Minister shared the information that the Myanmar Investment Commission is formulating the investment policies and strategies in line

with the five-point Road Map and nine objectives of the State Administration Council and recommended the priority areas of the State investment promotion programme, particularly in manufacturing, agriculture sector, renewable energy and MSMEs development by designing quick-

win projects. The Union Minister discussed the facilitation and streamlining of the investment approval process in accordance with the investment law and rules, which is crucial for investment promotion. He called for investment-re-

lated government agencies to provide necessary assistance to the investors and to facilitate the local business in the manufacturing and services sectors.

Then, the Chairman of Shan State Administration Council and the Chairman of Shan State Investment Committee discussed the investment promotion activities undertaken by Shan Committee and explained the future development programme. After that, the Union Minister fulfilled the needs of the States Committee and responded the queries made by committee members.

The meeting was attended by members of the Shan State Investment Committee and officials from the Shan State office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—MNA

## Myanmar Competition Commission holds 1/2021 meeting

THE Ministry of Commerce hosted the 1/2021 meeting of the Myanmar Competition Commission via videoconferencing yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Pwint San, in his capacity as chairman of the commission, said the Competition Law was enacted in 2015 in order to protect the businesses for the development of the State economy and foreign investment.

The law supports the local and foreign trade, economic and investment development, and sustainable development of the country.

The Union Minister then highlighted the performance of commission for businesses and urged the attendees, including the representatives of ministry, organizations, and NGOs, to discuss their difficulties.

The meeting also discussed the work plans being implemented based on the decisions of the 2/2020 meeting, complaint settlement programmes, and cooperation works with the partner organizations.—MNA



## Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

FROM 10-5-2021 to 14-5-2021, local/foreign donors contributed 13.411 million Kyats to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA 013733 and foreign currency account EDC 600012 opened at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 14-5-2021 is as follows:

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List	
	Kyat
Account opening balance on 10-5-2021	30,789,153,115.39
Received amount of money from (+)10-5-2021 to 14-5-2021	13,410,500.00
Closed balance on 29-4-2021	30,802,563,615.39

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List	
	USD
Account opening balance on 10-5-2021	178,140,149.53
Received amount of money from (+) (10-5-2021 to 14-5-2021)	-
Closed balance on 7-5-2021	178,140,149.53

### 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

### 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 Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube and Radio Myanmar will broadcast the press conference live.—MNA



# Paper-reading session on conservation of ancient cultural heritage continues

THE second and final day paper-reading session on conservation of ancient cultural heritage took place at the Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint(Retd), Deputy Minister U Aye Tun and U Tun Ohn, Deputy Minister (Retd) Daw Sandar Khin and invited guests attended the paper-reading session.

In the morning, Daw Ohnmar submitted the paper on case study on the maintenance of fine arts works in the Bagan area, Daw Zar Zar Lin on expe-

riences in the care of ancient buildings and Daw Khin Swe Win on records on inspection of the current situation of old buildings bearing mural paintings in Pinya-Inwa cultural heritage area.

In the afternoon, Daw Ei Thanda read the paper on seven sites for building the royal palace in the booth of Yadanarbon era, Daw Ohnmar Aung on the preservation of Bagan Ananda Temple in cooperation with ASI of India, U Ye Yint Oo on the renovation of Pagoda No 1239 in Bagan together with Cologne Institute of Conservation Science and Daw Hmu Sandar Khin on safeguarding measures of intangible cultural heritage. — MNA



# Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn meets hoteliers, tourism officials

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Ohn held talks with chairpersons and officials of Myeik District Hoteliers Association, Tourism Entrepreneur Association and Restaurant Entrepreneur Association in Myeik yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted that the Myeik Archipelago of Taninthayi Region is a tourist destination that attracts both local and foreign visitors.

It has natural islands out of more than 800 islands and Sea Gypsies Mawken or Salon people. The hotel and tourism industry is related to other sectors. If the tourism sector is revived, there would be certain job opportunities for local people. It can promote the socio-economic status of



all people from all walks of life. The government, people and private entrepreneurs should cooperate to support the tourism sector. He then

urged the participants to discuss the tourism development programmes in Myeik District openly.

The Director-General of

the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism explained COVID-19 vaccination programmes for hotel staff, Hotel Guest List Management System, and the

plans to develop new tourist destinations.

The Union Minister and party then met the Chairmen and officials of Kawthoung District Hoteliers Association, Tourism Entrepreneur Association and Tour Guide Association in Kawthoung and discussed tourism development programmes.

The Union Minister also discussed with Taninthayi Region Administration Council Chairman U Tin Aung about tourism sectors and inspected the upgrading work of Victoria Entertainment Resort.

Kawthoung Township of Taninthayi Region is located at 125 ft above sea level. The visitors pay a visit there for its beautiful islands and underwater beauty. — MNA

# MoALI holds meeting of vacant, fallow and virgin land management central committee

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation held a meeting of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Central Committee on the application for the mining works yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman of the VFV Land Management Central Committee Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi and officials from the Mining Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and

Environmental Conservation.

The meeting discussed the opinions and remarks of the relevant ministries on the application for mining under the existing laws of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management, crimes and punishments, mining and operation licence according to the Myanmar Mining Law and sample worksheets for mining applications.

After receiving the licence for mining operations on va-



cant, fallow and virgin lands, land tax exemption is granted for testing and feasibility studies. A five-year land tax exemption is granted for mining works.

The VFV Land Management Central Committee has been permitting operation on the vacant, fallow and virgin lands as per the existing laws in order to develop businesses, including agriculture and livestock farming, with the efficient use of the lands. — MNA



# Union Ministers U Tin Htut Oo, Dr Pwint San inspect fruit and vegetable factories in Nay Pyi Taw

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo and Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San jointly inspected the value-added fruits and vegetables production factory operated by Myanmar Golden Produce Co., Ltd in Myintzu Thaka street of Dekkhinathiri Industrial Zone in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their visit, Daw Lei Lei Oo and other factory officials clarified the value-added fruits and vegetables, including Seintalone mango production processes and distribution system to local and foreign markets.

The Union Ministers talked about their visit to the factory to encourage the agro-based value-added products production sectors. The offi-

cial will cooperate with the ministries concerned for raw materials, production and export industries.

Moreover, it will also contact the Economic Attache appointed in the foreign countries to ensure foreign market, solid and new markets.

The officials will also make efforts in order to create an organization that can provide agrochemicals and technology for the farming sector. They then inspected the factory compound.

The Union Ministers and party also inspected the vegetable dryer operated by Myanmar Agri Co., Ltd on the detour in Kyein Inn Village of Pynmana Township in Dekkhina District of Nay Pyi Taw. - MNA



# MoC holds meeting on road/bridge development, future implementations



THE Ministry of Construction held the coordination meeting on the development of roads and bridges, standardization and future implementation on 12 May in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister U Shwe Lay addressed the meeting. Deputy Minister U Min Htein, Permanent Secretary U Aung Myint Oo, officials from the Highways Department discussed their sectors, and the Union Minister coordinated the meeting.

The Quarterly Coordination Meeting of the Highways Department was held yesterday morning through videoconferencing following the COVID-19 health guidelines.

At the meeting, the Union Minister instructed all to form the B.O.T Task Force in order to increase road and bridge taxes

while the nation-building work was being carried out. The B.O.T companies should be supervised to upgrade the roads and get full revenue. He added to take step by step action systematically against those who use the land owned by the government without permission.

He also added to pay attention to the environmental conservation and the need to plant big trees suitable for the area along the roadside in the rainy season to make the environment green.

Directors of the respective regions and states presented the status of completing work, ongoing projects and future implementation, availability of funds by fiscal year, difficulties encountered in the workplace and staffing issues. - MNA

# Daily speedboats run from Monywa to towns in upper Chindwin river

FOUR Speedboats are running to the towns upstream of Chindwin River from Monywa every day. Three run at 5 am every morning, and one runs at 1 pm.

"We embark cargo if there is no passenger. The speed boat service has been stopped since 9 May due to the regional

situations.

We hope to resume it on 16 May," said Ko Myo, terminal officer of the Shwe Nadi Speed Board association.

It costs a passenger K40,000 for Monywa-Hkamti trip, K30,000 for Monywa-Homalin, K25,000 for Monywa-Phaungpyin, K20,000 for

Monywa-Mawlaik, K15,000 for Monywa-Kalaywa and K10,000 for Monywa-Mingin.

There are 46 lines of passenger ships and 346 passenger ships, and 19 lines of cargo ships and 604 cargo ships, according to the Inland Water Transport, Sagaing Region. - Lulay/GNLM





## Shwelinpan Industrial Zones create job opportunities for locals

THERE are currently 29 industrial zones in Yangon Region and 12 zones in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, and most are clothing factories. With the most garment factories, the Shwelinpan Industrial Zone offers excellent convenience for its workers.

The garment factories make orders from Southeast Asian countries. The business people also expect to operate their businesses as usual via streamlined circulation of the cash in local and payment for foreign orders.

“The employers and employees are not afraid of work. They are afraid of not being able to work. Then, the business is such an operation with a financial system between two countries. So the financial stability affects the wages of the workers. The garment industries are mainly run in



Hlinethaya Industrial Zone was the first zone established in Yangon Region. The Shwelinpan Industrial Zone was the last one.

May and June. There are orders in the monsoon. But there is still no reply to begin the operations. The country exports various tex-

tiles and garments to the EU and Asia. So Shwelinpan Industrial Zone creates job opportunities for the workers,” said an official

of Shwelinpan Industrial Zone.

Hlinethaya Industrial Zone was the first zone established in Yangon Region. The Shwelinpan

Industrial Zone was the last one. The Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, located beside the Hline river, attracts foreign investors and is still a destination for migrant workers. There are more than 120,000 workers at over 400 factories in Shwelinpan Industrial Zone. About 300 factories resume the operations while 100 ceased operations due to worker shortage problems. Most of them are garment factories. The Yangon Region Administration Council Office provides One-Stop Service to be able to resume the operations of 29 industrial zones of Yangon. The respective industrial zone management committees also help the business people.

The Hlinethaya Industrial Zone also creates job opportunities for factory workers. —KaNu/Nyein Thu/GNLM

## Live fishery exports to recover when international flights resume



Fish are farmed in an artificial pond in Ayeyawady Region where fish and shrimp farming businesses are likely to receive funding as part of an EU aquaculture project.

EXPORTS of prawns and crabs to foreign markets have been declining since the COVID-19

pandemic in April 2020. However, they have continued to operate without a hitch. With the opening

of international flights in the third wave of the COVID-19 disease, the fisheries export sector will

recover.

The government promotes the domestic consumption of livestock and fisheries. It boosts exports, while private entrepreneurs are trying to gain access to foreign markets compared to other countries in the region.

Myanmar has gained access to live shrimp and crab markets in China and Hong Kong over a few years. It generates foreign currency, and exports were temporarily suspended due to the flight difficulties in the third wave of COVID-19. “Live shrimps and crabs are shipped within 24 hours by flight. We are ready to operate the business once the international flights resume,”

said an official from the Super Search Capital (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd. The business was also operational during the first wave of COVID-19, and it could resume as soon as transportation is convenient. Fisheries, shrimp and crab are transported from Kawthoung to Yangon and then to the market country via flight.

Millions of people consume Myanmar’s exports to China, and the Myanmar market in Hong Kong is thriving. Despite rising demand, exports of live fishery products have been suspended due to transportation constraints, will return to normal if flights suspended due to the global epidemic open. — Nyein Thu/GNLM

## Elephant lovers provide foods online in Palin Kan Thayar elephant camp

ELEPHANT lovers from across the country are feeding the elephants in Palin Kan Thayar elephant camp online. However, according to U Myo Min Ko, Assistant Manager from the camp, the camp is closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

The Palin Kan Thayar elephant camp, located near the west Palin village beside the Myingyan-Pakokku road in NyaungU Township, was opened by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation and the camp is temporarily shut down since 25 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. During the closure of

the elephant camp, the number of people feeding the elephant buffet has increased to more than 175 times, and there are more bookings online.

A total of 22 elephant camps have been opened in regions and states of the country, and the elephant feeding can be done by contacting the elephant camps’ pages. The buffet includes sugarcane, grass, banana, pumpkin, watermelon, cucumber, mango, coconut and corn and seasonal crops. It costs K30,000 to K50,000 per meal, and K100,000 can be donated for seven elephants a day.

Those who would like to donate can contact Assistant Manager U Myo Min Ko (Phone number: 09 793820532). The ele-



A total of 22 elephant camps have been opened in regions and states of the country, and the elephant feeding can be done by contacting the elephant camps’ pages.

phant camps set up for the development of town-based tourism are in short supply. Elephants in

forest and mountain camps are not difficult to find feedstuff and water, explained Daw Nine Nine

Ayar, a ranger at the Palin Kan Thayar elephant camp. — Ko Htein/GNLM



# Let's prepare farming works before coming monsoon

Now is time to make preparations to launch the farming works to be ready when the monsoon falls in our land Myanmar within a few days.

They thoroughly know their works. They know when they should start harrowing their farmlands, when they should irrigate their farmlands, when they should broadcast seeds, when they should transplant saplings in their farms, how to nurture the saplings and when they should harvest the crops.

Everybody needs to try to understand the agricultural works, including paddy cultivation, to some degree. They have to practise the cultivation of vegetable plants on their own lands. Actually, we all have an obligation to green the planet.

and the summer. In fact, they have non-stop work processes in their fields. If their work process stops, it is uncertain for food sufficiency. Everybody needs to try to understand the agricultural works, including paddy cultivation, to some degree. They have to practise the cultivation of vegetable plants on their own lands. Actually, we all have an obligation to green the planet.

Hence, we all should participate in cultivation starting from the forthcoming monsoon. Let's begin the works without delay!

Indeed, the farmers are grateful to all. They produce crops with the aim of ensuring food for all. They invest their strengths, sweat, souls and time in the cultivation of crops. So, we should assess thing whether they get benefits from their farms. Now is the summer. But, the summer is getting older and older. The end of summer is the start of the monsoon. The farmers need raindrops to be used in their paddy and crop fields. To be able to shape their farmlands as they like, agricultural aid and necessary inputs, including irrigation facilities and raindrops, should be kept in the hands of the farmers. Only when the farmers possess the mental and physical powers to shape their farmlands so as to have a high yield for various kinds of crops will the whole country have food sufficiency. As such, it is necessary to encourage the farmers for making preparatory tasks for agricultural tasks. After taking a short break, those farmers have possessed new strengths to start their works. If they get things they need, they can do all-year-round agricultural tasks without taking a break in two other seasons -- namely the cold season

# COVID Catastrophe Could Have Been Prevented: Panel

The catastrophic scale of the COVID-19 pandemic could have been prevented, an independent global panel concluded Wednesday, but a "toxic cocktail" of dithering and poor coordination meant the warning signs went unheeded.

THE Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR) said a series of bad decisions meant COVID-19 went on to kill more than 3.3 million people so far and devastate the global economy. Institutions "failed to protect people" and science-denying leaders eroded public trust in health interventions, the IPPPR said in its long-awaited final report.

Early responses to the outbreak detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019 "lacked urgency", with February 2020 a costly "lost month" as countries failed to heed the alarm, said the panel.

To tackle the current pandemic, it called on the richest countries to donate a billion vaccine doses to the poorest.

And the panel also urged the world's wealthiest nations to fund new organisations dedicated to preparing for the next pandemic. 'Delay, Hesitation And Denial'

Requested by World Health Organization (WHO) member states last May, the report, "COVID-19: Make it the Last Pandemic", argued that the global alarm system needed overhauling to prevent a similar catastrophe.

"We have identified failures

at every stage and we do believe that it could have been possible to prevent this pandemic," panel co-chair and former Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said.

"We cannot simply point to one individual who is ultimately responsible," she said.

The report said the emergence of COVID-19 was characterized by a mixture of "some early and rapid action, but also by delay, hesitation, and denial.

"Poor strategic choices, unwillingness to tackle inequalities and an uncoordinated system created a toxic cocktail which allowed the pandemic to turn into a catastrophic human crisis."

The threat of a pandemic had been overlooked and countries were woefully unprepared to deal with one, the report found.

Sirleaf said: "The world had been warned that this would happen. This should never happen again. This must be the last pandemic to cause destruction on the scale we are witnessing today."

Vaccine Ultimatum

The panel said the WHO could have declared the situation a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) - its highest level of alarm - on 22



A medical staff member administers a dose of the COVID-19 coronavirus CoronaVac vaccine to a resident of the Klong Toey community in Bangkok on 11 May, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

January, 2020.

Instead, it waited eight more days before doing so.

Nevertheless, given countries' relative inaction, "we might still have ended up in the same place", said former New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark, the report's other chairwoman.

It was only in March after the WHO described it as a pandemic - a term that is not part of its alert system - that countries were jolted into action.

As for the initial outbreak,

"there were clearly delays in China - but there were delays everywhere", she added.

In the near term, the panel said rich, well-vaccinated countries should provide the 92 poorest territories in the COVAX scheme with at least one billion vaccine doses by 1 September, and more than two billion by mid-2022.

G7 industrialised nations should pay 60 percent of the US\$19 billion (15 billion euros) required to fund vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics via the WHO's Ac-

cess to Covid Tools Accelerator programme in 2021, it added.

Fellow G20 nations should provide the rest - and while Clark said there were positive signs emanating from the whole group, she added: "The end of the pandemic sadly is not in sight".

The WHO and the World Trade Organization (WTO) should also get major vaccine-producing countries and manufacturers to agree voluntary licensing and technology transfers for COVID-19 vaccines, the panel said.

"If actions do not occur within three months, a waiver of... intellectual property rights should come into force immediately."

Invest Billions, Save Trillions

To tackle future outbreaks and pandemics, the panel called for a Global Health Threats Council made up of world leaders, plus a pandemic convention.

The G20 should also create an International Pandemic Financing Facility, able to spend US\$5-10 billion a year on preparedness, with US\$50 to US\$100 billion ready to roll in the event of a crisis.

"Ultimately, investing billions in preparedness now will save trillions in the future, as the current pandemic has so clearly illustrated," Clark told reporters.

"Do nations really want to go through all this again?" she asked.

The panel also proposed an overhaul of the WHO to make it less cautious and give it more authority to send expert missions into countries immediately without waiting for their approval.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he would work with member states "to build a stronger WHO and a healthier, safer, fairer future for all of us".

SOURCE: AFP

# Renewable energy powers ahead in 2020: report

Renewable energy grew at its fastest rate in two decades, driven primarily by gains in China and wind power, the International Energy Agency said in a recent report.



This photo shows solar panel installations and a wind turbine at the Phu Lac wind farm in southern Vietnam's Binh Thuan province. PHOTO: AFP

AROUND 280 gigawatts (GW) of electricity production capacity was added last year, a 45-per cent increase from the amount added in 2019, according to the IEA.

That was the biggest gain since 1999, and equivalent to total power production capacity in the 10 Southeast Asian nations in the ASEAN trade bloc.

"The increase in 2020 is set to become the 'new normal', with about 270 GW of renewable capacity on course to be added in 2021 and almost 280 GW in 2022" the IEA said on 11 May, as nations step up their shift to renewable energy production to meet their obligations to reduce production of greenhouse gasses. Renewable energy account-

ed for 90 per cent of new electricity generation installed last year.

"Shifting power generation to renewable sources is a key pillar of global efforts to reach carbon neutrality," said the agency which advises developed nations on energy policies.

"But CO2 emissions are set to rise this year because of a parallel rise in coal use, underscoring the major policy changes and investments in clean energy needed to meet climate goals," it added.

The IEA noted that nations pushed forward with plans for renewable production at a record rate despite the Covid-19 pandemic temporarily reducing demand. New wind turbine installation nearly doubled last

year to 114 GW. While the IEA expects the growth rate to slow down a bit in the coming years, it expects they will still be 50 per cent higher than during the 2017-2019 period.

Installation of new photovoltaic solar panels should also continue to break records, hitting 160 GW by 2022.

"Wind and solar power are giving us more reasons to be optimistic about our climate goals as they break record after record," said IEA chief Fatih Birol.

China's share of the new renewable energy production installed hit 50 per cent last year as projects were rushed to completion ahead of subsidies being phased out, the agency said.

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 ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာဝံ့ချိန်ဖို့ ပံ့ပိုးလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။ 01 860 4530

## Trademark Caution

The Global New Light of Myanmar

PLEASE CALL 09 251 022 355. Includes a QR code and a globe icon.

09 251 022 355

သတင်းစာပတ်သတ်ချက်များအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြေးမုံ The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်းချသတင်းစာများ မှာယူပတ်သတ်ခြင်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် အခက်အခဲများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။



## Files opened against health staff 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.

Sri	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	U Htein Lin Aung (Senior Nurse)	Rakhinegyaung Station Hospital	Dala Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
2	Daw Hay Mon Aung (Nurse)	Ngaputaw Hospital	Ngaputaw Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
3	Daw Hsu Sandar Win (Nurse)	Shwebo Hospital	Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
4	Daw Aye Chan Phyo (Nurse)	Kawlin Hospital	Kawlin Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
5	Daw Htet Htet Aung (Nurse)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
6	Daw Khin Htay Myint (Nurse)	Letpadan Hospital	Letpadan Town, Bago Region	505-a	
7	Daw Wut Hmon Shwe Sin (Nurse)	Letpadan Hospital	Letpadan Town, Bago Region	505-a	
8	Nang Ti Sein (Nurse)	Myawady General Hospital	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
9	Daw Khin Swe Latt (Senior Nurse)	Mawlamyine Hospital	Mawlamyine Town, Mon State	505-a	
10	Daw Khin Hnaung Yi (Nurse)	Htantabin Hospital	Ngazun Township, Mandalay 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 under the law for the supporting those nurse 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 teachers 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.

Sri	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Thiri Mon	Assistant Lecturer, Mandalay Technological University, Patheingyi Township	Myaung Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
2	Daw Khin Win Sein	Branch Clerk, Office of the Township Education Officer, Kawlin Town	Kawlin Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
3	U Thiha Swe	Headmaster, BEHS-Branch (Taungyoegwin) Gyobingauk Town	Gyobingauk Township, Bago Region	505-a	
4	Daw Khin May Nyein	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Manncut), Tangyang Township	Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
5	Daw Pyae Pyae	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (Singaung), Okpo Township	Okpo Town, Bago Region	505-a	
6	Daw Thazin Nwe Nyein	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEHS (East Waw), Waw Township	Waw Town, Bago Region	505-a	
7	Daw Sandar	Headmistress, BEPS (Panbingon), Letpadan Township	Letpadan Township, Bago Region	505-a	
8	Daw Nilar Hlaing	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-Branch (Nagartwin-Paukpin), Monywa Township	Monywa Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
9	Daw Khine Kyu	Deputy Primary Assistant Teacher, BEHS-Branch (Nagartwin-Paukpin), Monywa Township	Monywa Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
10	Daw Zin Mar Win	Deputy Primary Assistant Teacher, BEHS-Branch (Nagartwin-Paukpin), Monywa Township	Monywa Town, Sagaing 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



## 2 village administrators killed in Thantaunggyi, Kayin state

TERRORIST groups deliberately assassinated a village administrator and a clerk to undermine the administration and the rule of law and instilling fear among the people in Thantaunggyi township, Kayin State, yesterday morning.

The incident happened while the victims were shopping in the village shop. The terrorists attacked them with small arms and fled away, killing U Yazar Win Shwe and Saw Sae Wah with gunshot wounds to the abdomen and right cheek.

It is reported that the security forces are investigating the case to take effective legal action against the perpetrators. —MNA



## Armed insurgents attack police outposts, Myanma Economic Bank branches



THE armed insurgents attacked the outposts of police and security forces and Myanma Economic Bank in some townships.

On 13 May, about six terrorists attacked the police station in Myaung Township of Magway Region with handmade bomb and gun.

The bomb exploded about 50 ft from the police station. No casualties and damages were reported.

Similarly, about 140 armed insurgents attacked the Myanma Economic Bank in Mindat Town-

ship of Chin State many times with guns and handmade bombs. The terrorists moved back due to the counter-attack of security forces. Two police were injured in the attacks.

Moreover, the armed insurgents threw three handmade bombs to Myanma Economic Bank in Myoma Ward (2) of Kanpetlet Township of Chin State.

The bomb exploded at the fence of the bank while another one between the bank area and two-storey Myoma market. The third bomb did not explode, and

the police kept it.

Moreover, the unscrupulous persons also attacked Myoma police station with guns and bombs.

On 14 May, the insurgents also threw one handmade bomb to Myanma Economic Bank. No casualties and damages were reported.

The security forces will accelerate the security measures to arrest the armed insurgent groups that attacked the police outposts and Myanmar Economic Bank branches. —MNA

## Two men died in bomb blast of terrorists in Shan State

TWO men died of handmade bomb blast in Aye Thayar of Taunggyi Township in Shan State (South) yesterday.

The security forces conducted patrol for community peace and rules of law near Taunggyi Technological University in Aye Thayar Industrial Zone in No (87) area of No 10 Ward. Meanwhile, two men riding a motorcycle threw one handmade bomb and ran away. The bomb exploded near

the vehicle of security forces, and it destroyed the doors of the car. Khin Maung Kyi, who lives in No (10) Ward, died on the spot due to the explosion and Ko Htee (aka) Kyaw Naing, who lives in No (12) Ward, succumbed to his injuries at Aye Thayar Hospital with injuries.

The security forces accelerate investigation to arrest the terrorists who committed bomb attack. —MNA



## A man injured by homemade mine, shot dead on way to hospital

A man injured by a homemade mine explosion was shot dead by rioters on the way to hospital on 13 May in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region.

Three men were injured during the mine explosion in front of the house number (Ma/1076). Security forces searched the area, and an ambulance carried the injured persons to transport them to the Dawei General Hospital. When the ambulance arrived at

the intersection of Daung Ngu bridge road and strand road, a group of 30 rioters stopped the ambulance, seized their phones and shot U Pe Than, 57, one of the injured persons, to his chest with a percussion lock firearm. He died on the way to the hospital.

It is reported that security forces are investigating the case to take action against the terrorists under the law. —MNA





## Mangosteen growers in Kawkareik happy with high yield, good price

MANGOSTEEN growers from Kawkareik township are satisfied with the excellent result of this popular seasonal fruit as they are getting a reasonable price this year.

The mangosteen is grown chiefly in Pharkya, Laukkai, Thatamaindaut villages from Taunggyarinn village-tract and Hteesukee village from Winka village, Kawkareik township, Kayin State.

“The mangosteen price is rising this year like last year. But this year, the yield of mangosteen is better than last year. The fruit traders from across the country reached the farmlands to buy the fruits. The fruit is priced depending upon



The mangosteen from the villages is delivered to Kawkareik and Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Toungoo, Taunggyi, Myawady Hpa-an towns.

the size and quality. At this time, the price of mangosteen is ranging K 90-K 200 per fruit,” said a local mangosteen grow-

er from Pharkya village.

The mangosteen is being sold at the seasonal fruit selling shops. The farmers also

send them across the nation.

The sale of mangosteen is not quite well this year as last year at the fruit display shops. But

the fruit traders are demanding the fruits these days. At least ten mangosteen baskets containing 300 fruits or 500 fruits in each basket are sent across the region daily. The basket can include 300 fruits or 500 fruits, depending upon the size of the fruit. But, the price is the same, fetching K 60,000 per basket,” said a seasonal fruit grower from Kodain village.

The mangosteen from the villages is delivered to Kawkareik and Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Toungoo, Taunggyi, Myawady Hpa-an towns, according to the fruit merchant from Kawkareik. — Saw Aung Myo Lwin (IPRD)/GNLM

## Mango exporters struggling due to COVID-19 impact

MANGO traders are battered by the downturn in cross-border trade between Myanmar and China owing to the impacts of the coronavirus.

The local currency depreciation stimulates significant exports, yet the mangos are priced lower than the actual market price on the back of low demand. At present, mango is traded under a driver-substitution system. China stepped up food safety measures on imported goods following the coronavirus resurgence in the border, according to Khwar Nyo Trading Co., Ltd.

Traders also bear the high cost of the coronavirus test. Only those traders and packaging tested negative will be allowed for cross-border trade. That is why mango traders are worried about the possible detection of the virus on the packages.

Low demand amid the coronavirus resurgences in Shweli (Ruili) drove the mango prices down this year as against the year-ago period.

This year, the mango price showed downticks, coupled with a high transport rate. A mango box is worth around 60-110 Yuan per carton, whereas it fetched about 160 Yuan last year.

“As China is stepping up the coronavirus containment measure, there are only a small number of buyers in border market,” said a trader from Shweli.

“This year, exports to Muse border dropped. However, mango with good packaging is sent to various regions and states in the country. The mango reached most of the buyers through dig-

ital platform previously. Ban on mobile Internet and wireless broadband Internet limited the digital sales,” said U Kyaw Soe Naing, secretary of Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association.

The mango growers are urged to supply quality mango to maintain the market reputation and observe market conditions. The mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification. The Agriculture Department has been instituting criteria for long-term organic farming, Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association stated.

Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers the Seintalone type.

Typically, Myanmar’s mangoes are primarily shipped to China. The mangoes were shipped to Singapore and Russia in the previous years. This year, they are still trying to penetrate those external markets,” U Kyaw Soe Naing elaborated.

Ayeyawady Region possesses enormous mango plantation acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second-largest producer with 43,000 acres, and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. According to the association, there are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region. — KK/GNLM

## Muse border trade drastically fell after China tightens border security



The closure of the Mang Wein checkpoint wreaked havoc on the Muse trade. The trade value through Muse land border was down by \$337 million compared to the corresponding period of last FY.

THE trade between Myanmar and China through the Muse land border in the past seven months (Oct-Apr) plummeted to US\$2.6 billion from \$2.94 billion registered in the year-ago period.

The cross-border trade via Muse ground to a halt after China tightened the border security and made policy changes in light of the COVID-19.

China temporarily shut down Mang Wein and Chinshwehaw checkpoints in early April. According to Muse Rice Wholesale Centre, Myanmar’s Muse border trade came to a standstill following the closure of Mang Wein border checkpoint triggered by the detection of the coronavirus cases in the border area.

A Myanmar citizen who tested positive for COVID-19 was found in Kyalgaung precious stone market on 29

March. It prompted China to restrict border access at the Mang Wein checkpoint, a major border crossing between Muse and Kyalgaung areas.

Consequently, there is no trade flowing in and out of the country via the Muse-Mang Wein border. Furthermore, trade through the Kyinsankyawt border, a major checkpoint for fruit exports, is down by 80 per cent, traders said.

The closure of the Mang Wein checkpoint wreaked havoc on the Muse trade. The trade value through Muse land border was down by \$337 million compared to the corresponding period of last FY, the Ministry of Commerce’s data showed.

Suspension in border trade harmed perishable fruits. The policy changes in China’s border exacerbated Myanmar’s exports amid the COVID-19 resurgences, said a Muse trader.

Prior to the Mang Wein checkpoint closure, Myanmar daily sent about 2,000 tonnes of rice and 40,000 broken rice bags to China.

At present, Myanmar’s rice export to China through the Muse land border has stalled amidst the coronavirus concerns. Moreover, the exports of seasonal fruits such as watermelon, muskmelon and mango are declining.

This Mang Wein post plays a pivotal role in trading between Myanmar and China. Myanmar exports rice, broken rice, onion, chilli pepper, pulses and beans, food commodities and fishery products to China. In contrast, electrical appliance, equipment, medical device, household goods, construction materials and food products are imported into the country via Mang Wein. — KK/GNLM



## Industrial drone developer ACSL to form joint venture in India

JAPANESE drone developer Autonomous Control Systems Laboratory Ltd. will establish a joint venture to manufacture and sell drones for industrial use in India.

Tokyo-based ACSL will have a 49 percent stake in the \$1 million venture with Indian local startup Aeroarc Pte. Ltd., which will own the remaining 51 percent. ACSL said the necessary procedures for the launch of ACSL India Pte. Ltd. are scheduled to be completed by June.

The new venture will be located in New Delhi and will manufacture industrial drones developed

by ACSL for sale through Aeroarc's networks. Post-sale services will be undertaken by Aerodyne Group of Malaysia, which has a 49 percent stake in Aeroarc.

The cybersecurity risks associated with drone-related business operations require Indian companies to have a majority stake in a joint project with foreign businesses. Sources close to the deal said ACSL's strength in the field of security countermeasures was behind the latest decision to link up with Aeroarc.

Aeroarc was founded



Japanese drone developer Autonomous Control Systems Laboratory Ltd. will establish a joint venture to manufacture and sell drones for industrial use in India. PHOTO:AFP

in June 2019 by Indian firm Arc Ventures and Aerodyne Group, a major drone services provider operat-

ing in 35 countries. Arc Ventures holds 51 percent of Aeroarc. (NNA/Kyodo) — Kyodo News ■

## Ellen DeGeneres to end long-running talk show beset by toxic workplace accusations



TV show host Ellen DeGeneres, seen here on in September 2015 in New York, is an LGBTQ icon in America. PHOTO:AFP

ELLEN DeGeneres, a star of daytime American talk show culture, said Wednesday she plans to call it quits after 19 seasons anchoring a TV staple that has become tainted by toxic workplace allegations.

The 63-year-old host, writer, producer, actress and comedian won dozens of Emmy awards for "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" and has been a pioneer of the LGBTQ community in the United States since she came out as gay in 1997.

On Wednesday, she insisted that her decision to bring the curtain down on her afternoon show after a final season ending in 2022 had nothing to do with allegations in the past year of

a workplace environment rife with bullying, racial discrimination and sexual harassment. Former and current staffers alleged that "Ellen" has been a torrid place to work.

The show has also been hit by slumping ratings. DeGeneres told trade publication the Hollywood Reporter on Wednesday that the accusations "destroyed" her. "All I cared about was spreading kindness and compassion, and everything I stand for was being attacked," she said.

"When you're a creative person, you constantly need to be challenged. And as great as this show is, and as fun as it is, it's just not a challenge anymore," DeGeneres added. — AFP ■

## Women money changers at heart of Djibouti's street economy

THEY are a familiar sight on the busy streets of Djibouti: women clutching handbags bulging with dollars, euros, riyals and rupees, the money changers keeping the informal economy ticking over.

Perched on plastic chairs, feet propped on wooden steps, these "sarfley" as they are locally known are vital to the global cast of migrants, traders and soldiers passing through this tiny nation at the crossroads of Africa and Arabia.

Trading in money offers a safe, reliable way es-

pecially for women to feed their families, in a conservative country where they lag men in education and literacy.

"I have it all. Euros, English pounds, Turkish lira, dollars, Indian rupees, anything," said Medina, who offered just her first name, flashing a purse she estimated held the equivalent of one million Djiboutian francs (\$5,600/4,700 euros) in multiple currencies.

Customers and traders alike say that economic life would suffer a lot more friction without the money changers. — AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UK pubs face recruiting struggle ahead of indoor reopening

PUB and restaurant owners across England will breathe a sigh of relief on Monday, as months of coronavirus restrictions are lifted, allowing them to serve groups of six or two households inside.

For the last month, they have only been allowed to serve food and drinks outside, making indoors an attractive option for punters who have shivered during an exceptionally cold spring.

"I can't wait," said James Berridge, a television director. "When restaurants and pubs and clubs will really open, we're going to be there, indoors."

"On a beautiful day... it's fine outdoors. We're in the UK. As soon as it rains, we need to be inside, by the fire, having a pint."

But just days before the long-expected reopening, Polina Minkova, the manager of The Guildford Arms in southeast London, has been struggling with a major problem.

"It has been very difficult to get staff," she told AFP. Qualified, experienced workers in particular are in short supply, including for senior positions in the kitchens.

Monday is a major step in the reopening of the badly hit hospitality and leisure sectors, with museums, hotels and sports stadiums all expected to welcome back visitors. — AFP ■

### Instagram lets users pick preferred gender pronouns

INSTAGRAM on Wednesday began letting English-language users enhance profiles to show new gender pronouns they want applied to them in conversation.

The photo-centric social network became the latest internet service to broaden beyond basic "he" or "she" references to pronouns preferred by those with alternate gender identities.

"Add pronouns to your profile," Instagram said in a tweet.

"The new field is available in a few countries, with plans for more."

Instagram users can opt to have pronoun choices shown publicly, or just to friends at the service, according to a demonstration of the option by AFP in the United States.

Pronoun options included "them" and "theirs" along with nonbinary "co," "ze" and others shared at a resource center page at the University of California, Davis, website. — AFP ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DA PING VOY. NO. (059)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DA PING VOY. NO. (059)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLUE WAYS

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLUE WAYS VOY. NO. (2104)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES  
PTE LTD**



## Sudan PM hopes to settle \$60 bn foreign debt this year

PRIME Minister Abdalla Hamdok hopes Sudan can wipe out its staggering \$60 billion foreign debt bill this year by securing relief and deals at an upcoming Paris conference that could bring much-needed investment.

The seasoned UN economist-turned-premier took office at the head of a transitional government shortly after the 2019 ouster of president Omar al-Bashir whose three-decade iron-fisted rule was marked by economic hardship, deep internal conflicts, and biting international sanctions.

In the past two years, Hamdok and his government have pushed to rebuild the crippled economy and end Sudan's international isolation.

"We have already settled



Sudan's debts to the Paris Club, which includes major creditor countries, is estimated to make up around 38 percent of its total \$60 billion foreign debt. **PHOTO: AFP**

the World Bank arrears, those of the African Development Bank, and in Paris, we will be

settling the International Monetary Fund arrears," Hamdok told AFP at his office in Khartoum.

Arrears due to the African Development Bank were

cleared through a bridging loan worth \$425 million from Sweden, Britain and Ireland, while debts to the World Bank were paid off with a \$1.1 billion bridging loan from the US.

"Paris also is home to the Paris Club, our biggest creditors... and we will be discussing debt relief with them," Hamdok said.

Sudan's debts to the Paris Club, which includes major creditor countries, is estimated to make up around 38 percent of its total \$60 billion foreign debt.

Hamdok and top Sudanese officials will be attending Monday's Paris conference along with by French President Emmanuel Macron, and World Bank and IMF representatives. —AFP ■

## Greece launches tourism season, eyes pandemic recovery



Anyone travelling to Greece must show a vaccination certificate or a negative Covid-19 test result. **PHOTO: AFP**

GREECE kickstarts its tourism season on Friday, with both the government and travel operators hoping the lure of sun, sand and sea will bring a sorely needed revenue boost after last year's miserable holiday season.

"We are raising anchor," Tourism Minister Harry Theoharis declared as he launched the holiday season Thursday evening from the ancient Greek temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion, near Athens.

"We leave behind the dark clouds of fear and insecurity," he added, saying that foreign tourists were eager to return to the country to take in the sunshine and turquoise waters.

The announcement couldn't come soon enough for restaurateurs and cafe owners eagerly preparing for patrons to come back after suffering so

long under coronavirus lockdown measures.

"We're hoping for a good season ... and for people to choose our country and our island," said Alexandros Koukourakis as he set up tables and chairs at his restaurant near the old town of Chania, on the island of Crete.

"We are putting behind a difficult period while still taking precautionary measures."

According to government regulations announced on Wednesday, anyone travelling to Greek islands by sea or air must show a vaccination certificate or a negative Covid-19 test result.

Europe's leading tour operator TUI has scheduled 120 flights to Greece until the end of May, with the first six touching down on Friday and another 15 on Saturday. —AFP ■

## Oil demand drops as virus surges: IEA

OIL demand dropped last month as the coronavirus surged in India and elsewhere, the IEA said Wednesday, in a reminder that the global recovery from the pandemic remains fragile.

Nevertheless, the International Energy Agency said in its latest monthly report that its outlook for a strong rebound in energy demand in the second half of the year remains unchanged as expanding vaccination programmes allow the global economic recovery to power ahead.

The IEA said that global oil demand fell by 130,000 barrels per day in April from March, and remains lower than at the end of last year.

"The recovery in global oil demand remains fragile as surging Covid cases in countries such as India and Thailand offset recent more positive

trends in Europe and the US," it said. The IEA lowered slightly its forecast for overall demand growth this year, to an increase of 5.4 million barrels per day (mbd), due to the pandemic's continued grip on much of the world at the beginning of the year.

However, it still sees demand nearly recovering to

pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year. It forecasts global oil demand to reach 99.6 mbd in the fourth quarter of this year, not far off the 100.6 in the final quarter of 2019.

But the IEA doesn't forecast supply to rise as sharply as demand with OPEC+ producers not fully ramping up production. —AFP ■



Outlook for a strong rebound in energy demand in the second half of the year remains unchanged. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Italy fines Google €100m for abuse of market position

ITALY'S anti-trust authority said on Thursday it had fined Google more than €100 million for shutting out a rival's smartphone app offering recharging of electric vehicles.

The authority said Google, whose Android operating system and Google Play app store dominate the Italian market, had abused its market position by blocking an Enel X app for users of electric vehicles. The regulator added it would require Google to make Enel X's app available on Android Auto, which mirrors features of an Android device,

such as a smartphone, on a car dashboard screen.

The fine of €102,084,433.91 is for a violation of article 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which regulates monopolies and issues involving restriction of competition.

Italy found Google did not allow Enel X Italia to develop an Android Auto-compatible version of its JuicePass app. JuicePass offers services relating to recharging electric vehicles, such as finding the nearest charging station and reserving a space there. —AFP ■





# CONDOLENCES

In Memory of A Life So Beautifully lived

## DATO' CHEAH SAM KIT

(1947-2021)

Served as Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar

2002 - 2006

*There are no goodbyes for us.*

*Wherever you are, you will always be in our heart.*

*Mahatma Ganthi*



### *Friends of Late Dato' Cheah*

- |                          |                       |                    |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Datuk Zahairi Baharin | 14) David Woon        | 27) David Teng     |
| 2) Jeff Foo              | 15) Terence Soh       | 28) Richard Koh    |
| 3) Alvin Iaw             | 16) Ryan Neu          | 29) Jasudasen      |
| 4) Lee Beng Ho           | 17) Dennis Yeo        | 30) James Po       |
| 5) Julian                | 18) Joe Chua (Nylect) | 31) Amara Singam V |
| 6) Suegene               | 19) U Min Sein        | 32) Chia Wing Huat |
| 7) E. Kang               | 20) Freddy Oh         | 33) Gilbert Lee    |
| 8) Lim (Nylect)          | 21) Jamie Teo         | 34) Eric Mok       |
| 9) Lay Goon              | 22) Ng Cheong Yew     | 35) Wong Yif Fan   |
| 10) Michael Howe         | 23) Thomas Lim        | 36) Jagath Guru    |
| 11) Ong Toon Liang       | 24) Stephen Heng      | 37) Terry Lye      |
| 12) Ghim Wee             | 25) Soh Puay Khon     |                    |
| 13) Richard Loh          | 26) Kenix Tok         |                    |



## Brandon Vera to defend ONE Heavyweight title against Arjan Bhullar today

FILIPINO ONE Heavyweight world champion Brandon Vera will defend his belt against Indian superstar Arjan Bhullar at ONE: DANGAL main event at Singapore Stadium in Singapore today.

The event will start at 4:30 pm (Myanmar Standard Time) on 15 May (today). Fights will be streamed live on the ONE Championship YouTube Channel and ONE Super Mobile Application, ONE Championship officials said.

In the co-main event or Men's Muay Thai Bantamweight fight, Tawanchai of Thailand will take on Sean Calncy of Ireland.

In the Women's Atomweight

Mixed Martial Arts Fight, Bi Nguyen of Viet Nam will face Ritu Phogat of India.

In the Men's MMA Catchweight bout, Gurdashan Mangat of Canada will take on Roshan Mainam of India.

ONE: DANGAL fights will be broadcast live to more than 150 countries, and fans can watch via television, tablet, computer, or mobile device, said ONE's source. The full event stream will be available on ONE's YouTube channel and the ONE Super App.

Also, the first two bouts will be streamed on ONE's Facebook and Twitter pages. —GNLM



Photo: ONE Championship

## Japan to expand virus emergency as 350,000 sign 'Cancel Olympics' petition

JAPAN'S government was expected to widen a virus state of emergency on Friday, just 10 weeks before the Tokyo Olympics, as campaigners submitted a petition with more than 350,000 signatures urging the Games be scrapped.

With Tokyo and other areas already under emergency orders until the end of May, three more regions -- including northern Hokkaido, which will host the Olympic marathon -- are set to join them.

The widening emergency,

aimed at combatting a fourth wave which is putting Japan's medical system under strain, comes with public opinion firmly opposed to holding the Games this summer, fearing further infections.

Kenji Utsunomiya, a former

candidate for Tokyo governor, urged Games organisers to "prioritise life" as he submitted the 351,000-signature petition to city authorities.

"I think the Olympics this time is about whether we prioritise life or a ceremony and event

called the Olympics," Utsunomiya said, urging Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike to push for cancellation. The petition is also being sent to the IOC and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) as well as local organisers and the national government. — AFP ■

## Chelsea's England eyes changing of the guard in Champions League final



Chelsea striker Bethany England (centre) believes English clubs can become a dominant force in the women's Champions League. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

CHELSEA striker Beth England believes beating Barcelona to win the women's Champions League on Sunday could "open the door" for English clubs to regularly conquer Europe.

Only one English side, Arsenal in 2007, have ever been crowned European champions of the women's game, but the grip once enjoyed by French and German clubs has been loosened by greater investment from the Premier League and La Liga giants.

For the first time since Arsenal's success 14 years ago, the winner of the Champions League will not come from France or Germany. England has helped the Blues see off German giants Wolfsburg and Bayern Munich to reach the final in Gothenburg for the first time.

Paris Saint-Germain ended Lyon's run of five successive Champions League titles before running into a dominant Barca side in the semi-finals. —AFP ■

## Real Madrid blow away Granada to keep pressure on Atletico

REAL Madrid kept the pressure on Atletico Madrid by thrashing Granada 4-1 on Thursday to reduce the gap to two points at the top of La Liga, with two games left to play.

A draw or defeat for Real Madrid would have given Atletico the chance to win the title on Sunday by beating Osasuna but goals from Luka Modric, Rodrygo, Alvaro Odriozola and Karim Benzema secured a comfortable victory at Los Carmenes.

Atletico could still be crowned champions this weekend if they overcome Osasuna and Real Madrid fail to win away at Athletic Bilbao but the Spanish title race has been full of surprises and still nothing is guaranteed.

"We're still in it," said Real coach Zinedine Zidane. "There are two games left, we have to deliver and today we delivered."

"We can only keep putting pressure on Atletico and hope

they don't win both of their games," added goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. "We are close, there is no margin for error."

Even third-placed Barcelona are still in the running, even if Tuesday's 3-3 draw away at Levante leaves them needing an incredible swing of results if they are to overturn a four-point deficit in two

games.

The theme of Real Madrid's challenge in recent weeks has been survival, their squad stretched to its limits by injuries and absences but a particularly youthful team produced a vibrant display to see off a Granada side that earlier this month beat Barca at Camp Nou. — AFP ■



Real Madrid kept the pressure on Atletico Madrid by thrashing Granada 4-1 on Thursday to reduce the gap to two points at the top of La Liga, with two games left to play. PHOTO: AFP