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MADB announcement to issue 2021-rainy season agricultural loans

1. The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) of the Ministry of Planning and Finance has provided annual agrarian loans to farmers throughout Myanmar since its inception in 1953. Farmers have also worked with the bank for many years to develop Myanmar's agricultural sector by getting a new loan after repaying the old one on time after harvest.
2. The government has extended the deadline for the 2020 monsoon loan to make it easier for farmers who have financial difficulties in repaying the loan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of 15 April 2021, the deadline has been extended to 31 July 2021.
3. At present, the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank in each region/state, district and township will provide 2021 monsoon agrarian loans to farmers from 26-5-2021 to 30-9-2021. It is announced for farmers to contact respective branches of the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank in townships and districts concerned as soon as possible in order to pay off old loans and get new loans for the 2021 monsoon season.

Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank

Gandhama (Chrysanthemum) flower growers use sprinkler system to reduce expenses

THE Gandhama flower (Chrysanthemum flower) growers near Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region cut the costs of money by using a sprinkler system.

The villages around the townships grow the Gandhama flowers and they order the seedlings from PyinOoLwin.

The growers used to rely on the irrigation system every year, and this year, due to the drought, the sprinkler system is used.

"In our area, every Gandhama flower grower uses irrigation system every year which costed us a lot due to the fungal and insects, besides, the profit was a little due to the high cost of fertilizer, labour costs for planting every time we need to irrigate," said a Gandhama flower grower in Zeephyupin village.

"This year, we have come to use the sprinkler system due to the drought. We have known the benefits of the sprinkler system as it can reduce costs due to less fertilizer use and germs,"



The sprinkler system also helps the Gandhama flowers to bloom bigger and be sold early and the flower growers should use the system as it also helps to reduce the costs.

he continued.

The sprinkler system also helps the Gandhama flowers to bloom bigger and be sold early and the flower growers should use the system as it also helps to reduce the costs, he added.

Farms near Kawlin Township mostly grow Summer, Kwayphyu, Mayan, Myahninphyu, Osar Mayan, Shwe O, Thitkhwa Latepyar flowers. - Myint Htun Min (Kawlin)/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 12th 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

Priority must be given to creating chances for every citizen to learn the education and enhance the education qualification

THE people need to get wider knowledge with skills. An education motto mentioned: “The national discipline starts from the school”, which forges the conscious and nationalistic spirit. The constitution stipulates that every citizen shall compulsorily learn basic education. As such, priority must be given to creating the chances for every citizen to learn the education and enhance the education qualification.

(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)

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw, members of the Sangha comfort monks sitting for 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination

CHAIRMAN of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhama Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa (Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery), Vice Chair of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (first branch committee) Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandasara (Thanbyuzayat), Joint Secretary Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Setthila (Pyay), Members of Sangha and officials of the Department of Religious Affairs met and comforted the monks sitting for the 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination held at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill yesterday.

The exam has been holding since 1310 ME, and it reaches



The 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in progress.

73rd session in 1383 ME.

During 72 years, 15 monks received the title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida, and

seven monks passed the oral examination of tri Pitakat treatises Tipitakadhara. A total of 72 monks sat for the exam held

yesterday.

The 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is being held between 17

and 21 May at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill and a total of 171 monks are sitting for the exams.—MNA

Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 210,000 outpatients

TATMADAW keep providing healthcare services for the patients at the military hospitals and temporary treatment hospitals in the townships of regions and states. The Tatmadaw medical teams comprising Tatmadaw doctors, specialists, medical assistants and nurses, have been giving medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 211,186 outpatients and 64,439 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics, medical assistants and nurses have conducted 9,867 major operations and 5,009 minor



operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 12,578 babies to date. Of those, 5,085 cases are done in the caesarean section and 7,493

cases in ordinary delivery.

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

Announcement for restaurateurs and customers

1. The restaurant owners are responsible for collecting commercial tax from their customers on their meals with receipts bearing tax stickers and paying the taxes to the relevant township tax offices under Rule 40 (a) (3) of the Commercial Law.
2. The customers should take the bills with tax stamps from the restaurants, and the restaurateurs should also give out the sales bills with the tax stamps to the customers whether they want it.

*Internal Revenue Department
Ministry of Planning and Finance*

Discussions focus on 189 points of suggestions over human rights of Myanmar



A coordination meeting on suggestions of UN member states over Myanmar at the 37th meeting of the Universal Periodic Review-UPR was held at the office of the Attorney-General of the Union yesterday.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing said Myanmar needs to report its stance on 189 suggestions to the UPR task force in June. So, relevant ministries must express assessments over the suggestions based on current processes.

Attorney-General of the Union Dr Thida Oo said Myanmar had sent the first and second reports of UPR in 2010 and

2015. The third report sought the advice of 106 UN member states on 25 January 2021, and they gave 354 items of suggestions on the human rights of Myanmar.

Myanmar replied to the suggestions that it accepted 119 suggestions, noted 46 points of suggestions and decided to scrutinize and reply to the remaining 189 suggestions.

This meeting needs to focus on whether it is necessary to accept 189 points of suggestions or not based on the implementation of the relevant departments over these points. —MNA

Public-private partnership is critical for public healthcare: MoHS

THE Central Committee on Private Healthcare Services (1/2021) was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win, in his capacity as the committee chairman, pointed out the matters pertaining to the implementation according to the Private Health Care Law, the necessity for private healthcare to be responsible and to provide quality healthcare service, the importance of public-private partnership as most people working in the private healthcare sector are civil servants and health workers, the need to cooperate by the private healthcare services sector in resuming regular operations at public hospitals, and the necessity to abide by

the set rules and regulations when civil servant health workers work in the private healthcare services industry.

He added that the Private Healthcare Supervision Committee would carry out inspections from time to time, and therefore, the entrepreneurs need to cooperate. The meeting also discussed healthcare business licence application, field inspection to be done by the supervision committee, the development of the private healthcare sector, and the private healthcare business licences (revocation).

The Deputy Ministers, members of the Central Committee on Private Healthcare Services and special guests also attended the meeting.—MNA



Sagaing Region Fisheries Department patrols with DOF SGG

SAGAING Region Fisheries Department has conducted field patrolling in Chindwin River and Ayeyawady River with DOF SGG (001), it is learnt.

The department has constructed the DOF SGG (001) and SGG (002) vessels using capital expenditure fund of 2020-2021 financial year from the Sagaing Region Administration Council to conserve the Irrawaddy dolphins and fishery resources in Chindwin river and Ayeyawady river.

The department has conducted field patrolling with an



aim to avoid wastage of fishery resources, to be able to carry

out fisheries stuffs in accordance with the Freshwater

Fisheries Law and to perform more conservation of Irrawaddy dolphins.

Under the supervision of the Sagaing Region Fisheries Department, DOF SGG (001) vessel led by U Aung Than Oo, the deputy director of Shwebo District Fisheries Department and his team departed along the Chindwin river from Shwebo town on 15 May. The team reached the confluence of the Chindwin River and Ayeyawady River and then, they carried out the conservation of the fishery resources.

On 16 May, the team led

by U Aung Than Oo, the head of Shwebo District Fisheries Department conducted field conservation activities in the Ayeyawady river from Myay-taw to Mandalay in cooperation with the team led by U Al Too Rain, the head of Sagaing District Fisheries Department.

Then, on 17 May, the combined team recorded and conducted fieldwork for fishery resources and Irrawaddy dolphin conservation in Irrawaddy dolphin conservation area-1 from Mandalay to Kyaukmyaung town.—Soe Thiha (Shwebo)/GNLM

MoALI Union Minister meets water users of Zawgyi and Kinda irrigated cultivation system

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo discussed the use of modern techniques in farming sectors with the dam water users association of Zawgyi and Kinda irrigated cultivation system in Meiktila on 17 May.

The Union Minister talked about water shortage problems under climate change, disputes and rows the farmers and villagers faced for water issues in the past, and the solutions to systematically organize the water users association.

He then said the effective use of water could create co-existence and understanding among the people. Moreover, it should establish cooperative



associations for livestock and farming sectors based on such experiences as the solid capital

and collective sale system can penetrate the wholesale market. The ministry will provide

the needed help in forming the organizations according to the law.

Then, the leaders of water utilization associations explained their ongoing livestock and farming processes and rice production rate of respective villages.

The Union Minister also inspected the practical session of farming machinery maintenance at Meiktila Agricultural Mechanization Training Centre.

The Union Minister and party also met the grape farmers at Chaung Magyi quality crop farm in Yamethin Township. They discussed the potential grape market, production of dried grapes and grape wine as value-added products, exports, and cooperative for grape growers.—MNA

Meeting on screening guidelines for convicted children in training schools (draft) held



THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the coordination meeting on screening guidelines (draft) for convicted children in training schools yesterday morning via a virtual system.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine, Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khaing, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, Directors and head of the respective training schools.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said her ministry is implementing child rights activities with prevention, protection

and rehabilitation methods. The ministry has formed the Central Committee for Screening Convicted Children in Training School, and the meeting aimed to negotiate with respective training schools' heads for the children's best interests.

The Union Minister mentioned the screening guidelines (draft) in order to assess the children age, the reason for committing the crime, the environment in which the child lives, whether discipline is followed during their stay at the training school, and situations such as attending vocational training. She also said the need to provide necessary

staffing and building depending on the number of children cared for in the training schools and skills training for the staff.

Afterwards, the attendees discussed the status of the committee formations, the screening of children in the custody of the respective training schools and the convicted children submitted to the committee.

The Union Minister and the Deputy Minister discussed the requirements of the draft guidelines for the screening of convicted children in the training schools and coordinated the conditions for meeting the needs of the training schools. — MNA

Tomatoes grown this year yield good price in Mandalay region

TOMATO growers in the Mandalay Region enjoy good prices due to the high consumption of Taiwanese tomatoes, which have seen their decline yields this year due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Farmers' cultivation has declined this year due to lower domestic consumption and falling prices due to the COVID-19 outbreak last year. U Win Tun, a tomato grower in Mandalay, said that although the market yield is low, it is getting 800 to 1,000 kyats per viss this year, depending on market demand, while it was only 300 to 400 kyats last year.

"Yields have decreased due to reduced cultivation. As a result, prices

have risen due to the demand for Taiwanese tomatoes in the market," he said.

"It costs between K1,500,000 and K2 million per acre to grow Taiwanese tomatoes. Therefore, it is less profitable for farmers if they do not earn more than K500 per viss. Farmers are planned to grow more this year because of good prices," he added.

Taiwanese tomatoes are grown twice a year in January and September. They are a good crop for farmers because of their excellent yields.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/GNLM



Announcement of Union Election Commission

19 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 Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe, Kalaw, Ywangan, Pinlaung, Kunlong and Tangyan townships of Shan State.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 946,331 eligible voters in these seven townships of Shan State. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 834,637 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 117,867 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 6,887 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 91,262 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
3. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding on CSC
1.	Taunggyi Township	245	324,913	279,315	23,318	2,751	34,664
2.	Nyaungshwe Township	143	137,583	130,434	14,792	754	12,202
3.	Kalaw Township	141	138,719	116,389	14,886	1,017	13,880
4.	Ywangan Township	52	61,937	56,963	3,027	329	5,762
5.	Pinlaung Township	143	133,303	123,911	10,454	1,498	15,958
6.	Kunlong Township	58	38,190	36,507	9,758	69	2,060
7.	Tangyan Township	79	111,686	91,118	41,632	469	6,736
	Total	861	946,331	834,637	117,867	6,887	91,262

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe, Kalaw, Ywangan, Pinlaung, Kunlong and Tangyan townships of Shan State together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
5. According to the inspection, a total of 861 polling stations in these seven townships took out 1,039,045 ballots and used 726,902 ballots. It left 301,128 ballots instead of 312,743 ballots. The difference was 21,418 ballots, and it found 10,503 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.	Taunggyi Township	245	343,761	243,362	100,309	96,209	7,870	3,770
2.	Nyaungshwe Township	143	154,571	116,566	38,005	35,461	2,546	2
3.	Kalaw Township	141	151,370	117,836	34,224	31,679	3,583	1,738
4.	Ywangan Township	52	69,429	56,698	12,731	13,517	353	1,139
5.	Pinlaung Township	143	148,897	11,4752	34,145	34,204	1,181	1,240
6.	Kunlong Township	58	42,983	19,473	23,510	22,333	2,710	1,533
7.	Tangyan Township	79	128,034	58,215	69,819	67,725	3,175	1,081
	Total	861	1039,045	726,902	312,743	301,128	21,418	10,503

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships of Shan State, the numbers of eligible voters are more 111,694 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens who turned 18 in November 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).
7. There are 117,867 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI, "Preparation of Voting Roll" stated, "Whoever has the rights 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 6,887 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 91,262 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of Shan State.
8. Findings in these seven townships were as follows:
 - (a) There were 729,451 voters, and they used 726,902 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 2,549 less than the numbers of voters.
 - (b) It found 21,418 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots.
 - (c) It found 10,503 extra ballots at some polling stations.
 - (d) In Form (1) books of some polling stations, it did not found the names of voters, parents' and CSC No.
 - (e) It did not find voters' names, voting numbers, polling station numbers, ward/village-tracts, signatures or fingerprints on the ballot receipts.
 - (f) Some of the ward/village-tract election sub-commission failed to return the ballot receipts and extra ballots according to the law, so the ballots were found missing.
 - (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 started collecting advance ballot.
 - (i) They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.
9. It found voting frauds in Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe, Kalaw, Ywangan, Pinlaung, Kunlong and Tangyan townships of Shan State. The excess/shortage ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Black gram prices soar above K1 mln per tonne

THE price of black gram (urad) jumped to above K1 million per tonne on 18 May, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung wholesale centre).

Black gram fetched K888,500 per tonne on 1 May, and India's demand pushed up to K1,069,000 per tonne on 18 May. The figures showed a significant gap of K180,000 per tonne within three weeks.

The sudden upward trend in black gram is attributed to the strong demand by India.

However, the current price has not reached the record price of K1.3 million per tonne registered in late 2019.

Similarly, the price of pigeon peas, which India primarily purchases, also rose to K1,002,500 per tonne.

Myanmar yearly produces about 400,000 tonnes of black

gram and 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas.

Myanmar is the top producing country of black gram that India demands. Besides Myanmar, pigeon peas, green grams and yellow peas are also grown in Australia, and Africa, indicated Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Since 2017, Myanmar has to export black gram and pigeon peas under the quota system and limited period as per India's foreign trade policy. Consequently, there is no guarantee that we could get a good price this year, the market observers shared their opinions.

Following the uncertainty in black bean and pigeon peas markets, the association suggested, in October-end 2020, that the growers cultivate black-eyed bean more.



Since 2017, Myanmar has to export black gram and pigeon peas under the quota system and limited period as per India's foreign trade policy. Consequently, there is no guarantee that we could get a good price this year, the market observers shared their opinions.

India's Central Government has notified the annual quota of black gram (400,000 tonnes) imports for its financial year 2021-2022, which ends on 31 March 2022.—NN/GNLM

CBM sells US\$18 mln in May at auction-rate



The CBM trades the foreign currency with the authorized private banks under the rules and regulations of the FX auction market.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) reportedly sold US\$18 million at an auction rate in May, the CBM data showed.

The CBM's move aims to govern the market volatility and support the state's foreign exchange reserves, the CBM stated.

The bullish hard currency gained in the local forex market, reaching the peak of above K1,7000 on 12 May. 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 2021, 6 million dollars each on 22 and 27 April and \$18 million in May in the auction market.

At FX auction market, the CBM purchased \$39.5 mln in January 2020, \$31.5 mln in

February, \$21 mln in March, \$16.7 mln in May, \$39.1 mln in June, \$31.1 mln in July, \$35.6 mln in August, \$44.2 mln in September, \$43 mln in October, \$100,000 in November and \$7.8 million in December respectively. It sold \$2.7 million in April and \$3 million in December 2020. Next, the CBM purchased \$1.8 million in January 2021.

The CBM trades the foreign currency with the authorized private banks under the rules and regulations of the FX auction market.

"The instability in the exchange rate posed difficulties to those stakeholders engaged in the agriculture and livestock supply chains including farmers, traders and exporters. That is why the stable ex-

change rate is vital of importance for the businesses," the businesspersons pointed out.

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. — GNLM

Imports down by \$3.07 bln as of 7 May, MoC reports

THE value of Myanmar's imports between 1 October and 7 May in the current financial year 2020-2021 stood at US\$9.115 billion, a sharp drop of \$3.07 billion from \$12.19 billion registered in the year-ago period, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of imports in the consumer, capital, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses groups dropped in the current FY.

Over the past seven months of the current FY, capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and aeroplane parts, were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$3.19 billion. The figure was over \$1.537 billion lower compared to the same period in the previous FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products worth \$1.958 billion, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed a slight decrease of \$106.2 million compared with the same period in the previous FY.

Intermediate goods

make up the second-largest share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. This year, imports of raw materials plunged to \$3.05 billion from \$4.06 billion registered during the year-ago period.

During the same period, raw materials worth \$912 million were also imported for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector, decreasing by \$424.7 million compared with last budget year.

At present, the CMP garment sector contributing to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling due to the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the COVID-19. Therefore, import values of raw materials by CMP businesses have been dropping.

The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce.

— KK/GNLM

Build roads and bridges in networks of public transport

THE facilities of transportation giving better services to the people rely on the networks of roads and bridges throughout the country. Hence, efforts should be made for providing better and better services to the people dubbed as the transport facility users day by day.

In fact, the facilities of roads and bridges are inseparable. Not only the roads but also the bridges cannot stand tall alone.

That is why both the government and the private sector should prioritize the improvement and long term existence of roads and bridges across the nation for the public interests.

In fact, maintenance plays a key role in the long term existence of the already-built roads and bridges.

In upgrading highways and expressways, problems of road areas and squats should be solved under the law as part of keeping the facilities neat and tidy. Relevant taxes must be levied from road users to spend on maintenance tasks without environmental impacts.

Only then will the improved roads and bridges help the people enjoy the fruits of the transport sector. That is why both the government and the private sector should prioritize the improvement and long term existence of roads and bridges across the nation for the public interests.

According to the outlook of engineers, any roads need to have crossing drains to let the flow of water from both sides in the nature of Myanmar. Indeed, the drains crossing the roads help prevent landslides on both sides of the road shoulders. Consequently, bridges or culverts must be built on the roads depending on the locations of drains.

Most of the roads in higher rainfall areas require the proper drainage system for the prevention of erosion. As Myanmar is teeming with various rivers and creeks, it is necessary to build small and large bridges on the road sections to ensure smooth transportation.

Emphasis should be placed on capacity building for engineers and employees to continuously keep in touch with the latest technological development with relentless efforts. It is because today's modernity of engineering technologies is improving on time. In so doing, responsible persons, including engineers need to build a quality management system for the emergence of qualified construction facilities. On the other hand, engineers have to transform their practices from corrective maintenance into preventive maintenance.

Haunted by HIV, top WHO scientist says world must do better on Covid

Two decades ago, Soumya Swaminathan watched her HIV-infected patients suffer often horrific and unnecessary deaths. There was a treatment for their disease, but they simply could not afford it.

THE World Health Organization's chief scientist told AFP the inequalities in accessing Covid-19 vaccines today hark back to the late 1990s, when she helplessly watched HIV patients in India wither away when drugs were saving lives in the West.

Effective treatments for HIV were first produced in the mid-1990s, but they carried a prohibitively high price tag of over \$10,000 per patient per year.

It would take nearly a decade before they became available to poorer populations.

"I had patients that I was watching die... horrible prolonged deaths, when treatments were already available in the West," Swaminathan said in a recent interview.

"I lost so many patients and children were orphaned. Those images still haunt me."

'Morally, ethically wrong'

The Indian paediatrician and clinical scientist, who today is one of the top WHO officials leading global efforts to coordinate the pandemic response, said it was disappointing that the world was



A truck carrying the first batch of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines arrives at the Bab al-Hawa border crossing between Syria and Turkey in Syria's northwestern Idlib, April 21, 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

repeating past mistakes.

"You have to learn from history, but we don't seem to," she said.

To date, only 0.3 per cent of Covid vaccine doses have been administered in the world's poorest countries, which are home to nearly 10 per cent of the global population.

"That is very difficult to witness, and it is morally and ethically wrong," Swaminathan said.

The glaring unevenness in vaccine access comes despite a concerted effort to address the historical inequities.

The WHO and others have created Covax, a global vaccine-sharing programme, but it remains severely underfunded and has faced significant supply shortages, delaying efforts to roll

out vaccines in poorer countries.

Still, Swaminathan said she believed Covax was slowly making a difference and hoped it would eventually be "a success story."

The persisting inequities have meanwhile been an added frustration as Swaminathan and her team have battled to understand Covid-19 and to provide the information needed to rein it in.

'Extremely difficult'

The first months of the pandemic were "extremely difficult," the 62-year-old acknowledged.

As the WHO's chief scientist, she said she felt "an enormous sense of responsibility".

In addition there is the personal strain for Swaminathan, who moved on her own to Geneva for the job, leaving behind her husband, grown children and the rest of her family in India, which is now in the grip of an explosive outbreak.

"At the back of your mind you're worrying about family," she said, adding she was particularly concerned for the wellbeing of her elderly parents.

Her father, the famous geneticist M. S. Swaminathan known for his role leading India's Green Revolution, is 95, while her mother, renowned educationalist Mina Swaminathan, is 88.

Swaminathan, who usually starts her day before 7:00 am and works until late in the evening, said she had strived to "maintain a work-life balance" to avoid burn-out.

'World not doing enough'

Long daily walks near her home on the outskirts of Geneva, through lush and pristine greenery, are part of her routine.

"Nature has been therapeutic for me," she said.

That therapy has been welcome as her team worked tirelessly to keep up with and communicate the constantly-evolving science around Covid-19.

"We were building the ship and sailing it, as they say, and that is always stressful," she said.

"There are days when you feel terribly depressed and sad and upset," she admitted, "especially when you see the images of people impacted around the world, the healthcare workers who have died, my own colleagues and classmates whom I've lost."

One of the biggest frustrations, Swaminathan said, has been constant pushback from a large "anti-science movement".

"There are not only sceptics, but there are people who wilfully plant conspiracy theories," she said.

SOURCE: AFP

Pandemic mask mountain sets new recycling challenge

Researchers in Australia want to transform single-use Covid masks into road material. In the United States, the protective gear is recycled into benches. And in France, they are reborn as floor carpets for cars.

USED to curb the spread of Covid-19, masks are exacerbating another pandemic: plastic pollution.

Around 129 billion disposable masks are used every month around the world, according to the American Chemical Society.

Made out of polypropylene plastic material, elastic and metal, used masks are usually thrown out in garbage bins, destined for landfills, or incinerated.

They are also littering streets, rivers and oceans, harming wildlife.

But researchers and companies are looking for ways to put masks to good use, though it is not a very profitable venture at the moment.

Garden chairs

In Britain, several hospitals have acquired a compactor made

by Cardiff-based Thermal Compaction Group which melts protective gowns and surgical masks into blue slabs.

The material is then used to make garden chairs or tables.

In France, Tri-o et Greenwishes, a recycling company, picks up masks tossed in special bins used by some 30 customers, including Parisian hospitals, TV network TF1 and building materials giant Saint-Gobain.

"We had a lot of demand from our clients" to offer mask recycling services, said company president Matthieu de Chanaleilles.

The company charges fees starting at 250 euros (\$300) per month to collect the trash.

At its recycling plant, staff wearing protective gear stand behind plexiglass to sort through paper tissues, gloves and cups

that are thrown in mask bins by accident. Afterwards, the workers are sprayed down with disinfectant.

The sorting area is sterilized with ultraviolet lamps. Masks are kept in quarantine for a week before being handled.

Two companies based in northern France then shred the masks, disinfect them and extract the polypropylene, which is transformed into pebbles that are used to make floor carpets or other plastic parts in a car.

Tri-o et Greenwishes has recycled one tonne of masks so far and hopes to have processed 20 tonnes by the end of the year.

It's a drop in the ocean of masks. Some 40,000 tonnes of masks were binned in France last year, without a recycling option, ac-

cording to a January parliamentary report.

Long road

Making the venture profitable is a challenge.

In Trenton, New Jersey, TerraCycle sells a "zero waste box"



Around 129 billion disposable masks are used every month around the world. A woman wears a protective face mask while walking in Beijing. PHOTO: NICOLAS ASFOURI/AFP

for disposable masks for \$88.

The masks are then sent to partner facilities to be recycled into plastic granules that are sold to manufacturers that make other products such as benches, flooring surfaces or shipping pallets.

TerraCycle chief executive Tom Szaky said recycling personal protective equipment is costlier than aluminium.

"Why is, say for example, a dirty diaper, or PPE not recyclable? It's because it costs much more to collect and process and the results are worse. So no one would bother doing it because there's no money to be made," Szaky told AFP.

"So TerraCycle's business says 'Well, if someone's willing to pay those actual costs, then we can perform such a service'," he said.

In Australia, researchers at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology are experimenting with other solutions after being inspired by the sight of masks littering the streets.

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

Trademark Caution

The Global New Light of Myanmar



09 251 022 355

သတင်းစာ မှာပုံနှိပ်ပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာပတ်ပြည်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြေးမုံ၊ The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်းခွဲသတင်းစာများ မှာပုံနှိပ်ခြင်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် အခက်အခဲများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်-

- သတင်းနှင့်စာမူထုတ်ဝေရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၄၁၂၁၀၊ ၀၉-၄၃၀၃၁၆၂
- နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက်(ဧရာဝတီမြို့နယ်)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၆၁၀၇၊ ၀၉-၄၂၀၇၀၆၆၇
- မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကင်း)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၁-၉၅၄၄၄၄၄၊ ၀၉-၄၄၀၀၄၂၁၄
- မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်(မန္တလေး)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၁-၈၂၉၂၈၃၀၊ ၀၉-၄၅၀၀၂၅၇၀
- The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကင်း)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၁-၈၆၀၄၄၄၂၊ ၀၉-၉၈၃၉၂၄၉၁
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(မန္တလေး)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၇၁-၂၀၂၂၁၃၃
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- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(မကွေး)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၆၃-၂၀၂၅၅၅
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(ကချင်ပြည်)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၈၄-၂၀၂၅၅၅
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- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(လားရှိုး)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၈၂-၂၅၅၅၅
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(ညောင်)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၇၁-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(ညောင်)၊ ဖုန်း-၀၈၂-၂၅၅၅၅
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၂၀၂၀ ခုနှစ်အတွက် အချိန်အမှတ်တံဆိပ်ဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြေးမုံ၊ GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR သတင်းစာပတ်ပြည်သူများအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

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 and NUG unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Htet Htet Aung (Senior Nurse)	Thayawady District Hospital	Thayawady Town, Bago Region	505-a	
2	Daw Than-Than Kyaw (Senior Nurse)	Zalun Hospital	Zalun Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
3	Daw Moe Moe Khine (Senior Nurse)	Kawthoung Hospital	Launglon Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
4	Daw Pwint Phue Khine (Senior Nurse)	Namsang Hospital	Hsihseng Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
5	Daw Mya Lay Yi (Senior Nurse)	Mawlamyine Hospital	Mawlamyine Town, Mon State	505-a	
6	Daw Nyein Nyein Latt (Senior Nurse)	Ngayokkaung Station Hospital	Ngayokkaung Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
7	Daw Ei Zin Phyo (Senior Nurse)	Ponwo Station Hospital, Kyaukme Township	Momeik Town, Kachin State	505-a	
8	Daw Nang Khin Hnin Si (Nurse)	Myawady Hospital	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
9	Daw Ja Seng Maing (Nurse)	Hopin Station Hospital	Mohnyin Town, Kachin State	505-a	
10	Daw Aye Thazin Swe (Nurse)	Kyaukkaung Station Hospital	Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those nurses charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those persons and action will be taken against the the persons who admitted them, under the law. —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 and NUG activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Yu Yu Kyaw	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS -1 Myitkyina Town	Myitkyina Town, Kachin State	505-a	
2	U Zaw Pyae Phyo	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS -1 Myitkyina Town	Myitkyina Town, Kachin State	505-a	
3	Daw Nang Htet Myat Mon	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Langkho), Langkho Township	Maukmai Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
4	U Sai Aik Haing	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-3, Kengtung Town	Homalin Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
5	Daw Htet Mon Myint	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS(Mone), Kyaukkyi Township	Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Region	505-a	
6	Daw Tin Lay Nwe	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEHS -1, Letpadan Town	Letpadan Town, Bago Region	505-a	
7	U Myo Thiha	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-Branch (Myohaung), Launglon Township	Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
8	Daw Myat Thu San	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-Branch (Kyatyettwin), Launglon Township	Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
9	Daw May Myat Mon	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Kamyawkin), Launglon Township	Dawei Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
10	U Lwin Myo Ko Ko	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Kyauknimaw), Launglon Township	Launglon Township, Taninthayi 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

Administrative officials killed in some townships



THE insurgents intentionally killed the village/ward administrators on 18 May. The six terrorists arrived at

the house of U Moe Zaw Myint, ward administrator who lives in Pan Chaing Village of Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay

Region, on 18 May night. They were not satisfied with the activities of U Moe Zaw Myint as he helped the security members for school reopening cases on 16 May. They stabbed him and ran away. Then, he was taken to the military hospital for medical treatment.

Similarly, about 20 insurgents committed violent attacks on Shwe Pauk Pin village administrator U Soe Nyunt in Myaung Township of Magway Region with two handmade bombs and a knife while he was at his house together with his family members. U Soe Nyunt and his daughter died on the spot, and his wife, son and grandson were taken to Myinmu hospital, and the grandson died on the way to the hospital.

Moreover, on 19 May, U Kyaw Zin Min, administrator of No (4) ward of Payathonezu in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township of Kayin State, was shot dead by the terrorists in front of his house.

The security forces will investigate to arrest the murderers who killed the ward/village administrators under the law. —MNA

Police seize weapons used in riots



THE security forces keep investigating to seize the weapons used in riots. The police arrested Zarni Aung (aka) Atar for making jingalis at an unoccupied house owned by U Moe Aung (under scrutiny) in Sin Inn Village of Shwebo Township of Sagaing Region together with his arms on 18 May.

The police raided the house of Si Thu Kyaw, who was charged under Penal Code section 505-a at Ingapu police station in Ayeyawady Region, for storing air guns and found the security of house Moe Win together with two air guns and one gas gun.

Similarly, the security forces seized the weapons used in riots at the warehouse of Aung

Theikdi religious hall in Maha Nwe Sin Ward of Mahaaungmyay Township of Mandalay Region and at an unoccupied house in Maha Bawga 1st street in No (3) Ward of Kamayut Township of Yangon Region.

Moreover, the police arrested Sayadaw U Thitsar (aka) U Thant Zin from Aung Yadana monastery in Kyun Thaya Ward of Bago Township in Bago Region together with the arms used in riots.

The officials keep conducting investigations to uncover and take action against the suspects who keep or create the firearms and other materials used in riots under the law. — MNA

Arson attacks target state-owned buildings, bridges



TERRORISTS accelerated arson attacks on state-owned buildings, civilian houses and bridges in townships of the states and regions.

On 18 May, a one-storey building built for student hall in the Basic Education High School was set on fire in Kyaukphoo village in Yamethin Township,

Mandalay.

On the same day, two temporary tents and wooden beds at the checkpoint in Laylome ward, Tid-dim Township, Chin State, were destroyed by fire.

Similarly, unscrupulous people burned the ward administration office in Kunchan ward, Twantay Township, Yangon Re-

gion on the same day.

Yesterday morning, a terrorist threw a fire rod into the house of a USDP party member in Tasaychaung village in Thabaung Township, Ayeyawady Region.

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

Terrorists attack security members with heavy weapons in Hpa-an



THE armed insurgents attacked the security members with heavy weapons in the Hpa-an Township of Kayin State on 18 May

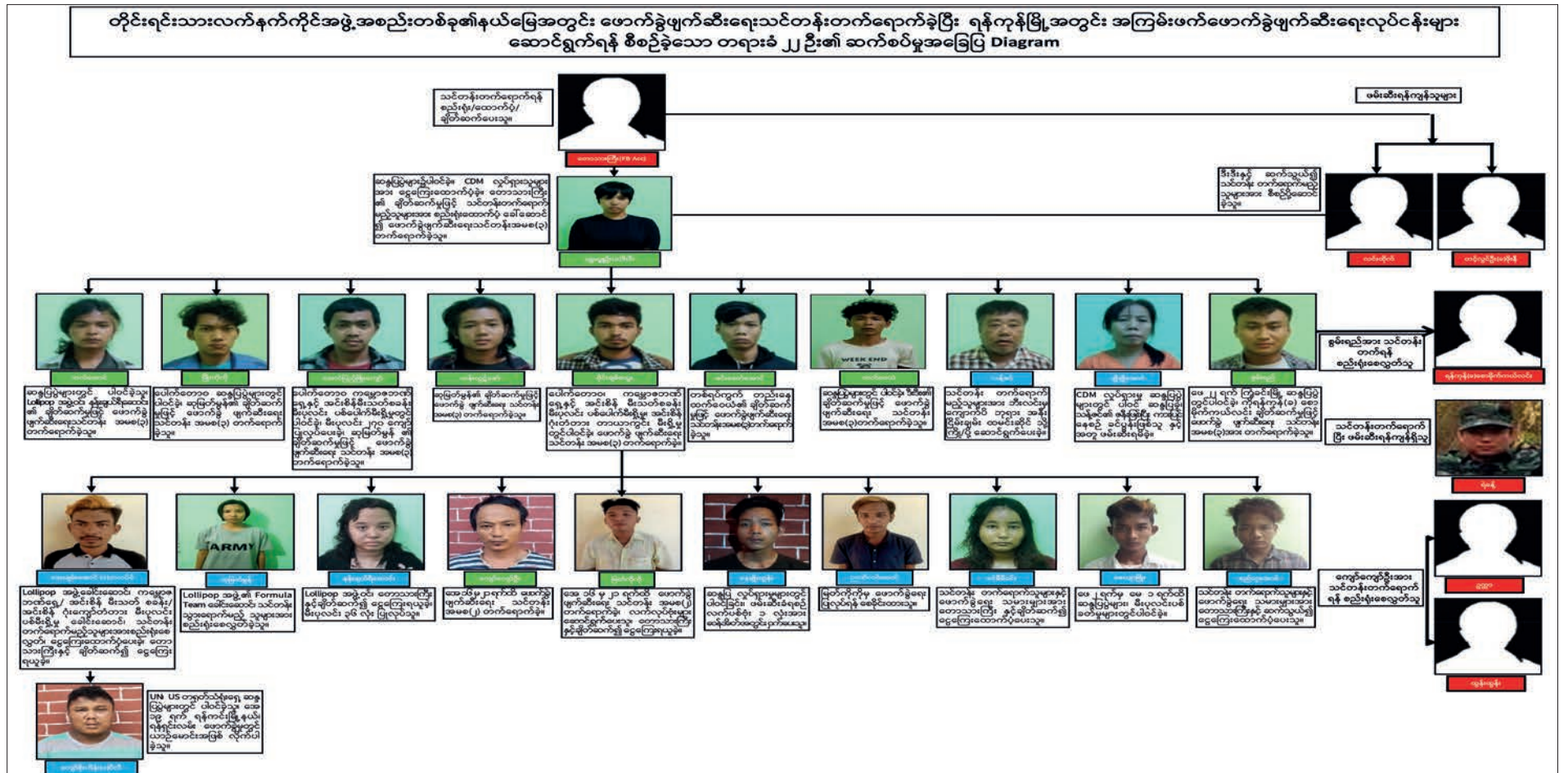
It is reported that one vehicle was burnt, and two security members were injured.

The terrorists fired two 40MM grenades at the security members who conducted security measures at the in-

spection gate in Wah Boe Taw village of Hpa-an. The grenades exploded on Honda Fit parked near the entrance, and it destroyed a gun, bullets and vehicle. Moreover, two security members were injured and taken to the military hospital.

The security forces beef up security measures to arrest the terrorists who attacked the security members. — MNA

Plans to carry out terrorist bombings in Yangon revealed



THE youths involved in the riots were targeted by a group of people who wanted to commit acts of sabotage, letting them study bombing training courses in an ethnic armed group. According to the information received of them returning after the training course, the security forces closely monitored security in the area.

On 29 April, Phyo Ko Ko,

Swan Ye, Aung Pyae Phyo Kyaw, Than Htut Zaw and Htet Aung were detained at the Ma-yanchaung checkpoint. Wine Chit Htwe, Min Khit Aung, Htet Wai Yan and Shwe Myintzu Oo were arrested near Bilin Tyre Factory. U Thant Zin and his wife Daw Cho Cho Aung, who transported them, were arrested near the restaurant.

According to the confession

of Wine Chit Htwe, a total of 10 people were arrested together with one large grenade, eight grenades made of PVC pipe, five grenades made of iron rod, one steel grenade, and one grenade made of a juice can on 2 May in Thingangyun Township, Yangon.

On 3 May, Kyaw Soe Hein was arrested in Insein, according to the confession made by Thet Paing Htwe, one of the de-

fendants charged in Thingangyun Township.

Efforts are being made to arrest the instigators: Tun Tun, Okka, Saw Michael Lin and Tawthar Gyi, who incited and supported the youths to commit terrorist attacks after attending the bombing training courses, Ye Khant, who is on the run after returning from the training course, Tint Lwin Oo (a) Pho Ni

who connected them with the training course and Lin Htike who transported them to the training course.

Plans are underway to take effective legal action against those who attended the bombing training and those involved in the terrorist bombings intending to undermine peace and stability of the country and the rule of law. - MNA

Passengers travel as usual at Yangon (Pansodan-Dala) jetty and 11 motor ferry ports



THE passengers use public transportation as usual in Yangon (Pansodan-Dala) Jetty and 11 motor ferry ports in Dala township.

But, an explosion took place in No. 3 Ward, Lanmadaw township, yesterday morning. Consequently, the five motor ferry ports from Dala township to Yangon (Sintohtan) port were temporarily closed for over 40 minutes for the safety of passengers. But some motor ferry ports are regularly operating.

"We have been waiting for

over 40 minutes. But, the motor ferry has resumed its operation for the passengers at 7 am. The motor ferries operating from Thanhlyatku port, Kamaraung port, Yaykan port, and Thama-da port to Botahtaung jetty and Pansodan jetty are running as usual. The ports are running as usual for the passengers," said an official from Township Motor Ferry Supervision Committee.

Similarly, the cherry water ferries are also operating along with Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships, Ay-

eyawady region for the convenience of the residents, monks, Sanghas and nuns. As usual, the passengers are also using public transport, said the official from the Delta Division of Inland Water Transport (IWT).

Currently, the Yangon (Pansodan-Dala) ferries are operating 34 times per day on weekdays. The ferries depart from Dala from 5:30 am to 7:00 pm and from Pansodan from 6:00 am to 7:30 pm.

Besides, the ferries are operating 23 times per day on weekends. The ferries are aimed to ensure the convenience of the passengers, according to IWT.

The Pansodan-Dala crossing is the only gateway for the local people in southern Yangon — Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, Kungyangon townships and some townships in the Ayeyawady Region to link the commercial hub of Yangon City. — Naing Lin Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM

China buying about 1,000 cattle daily on black market

CHINESE traders are constantly purchasing about 1,000 cattle on the black market, said U Soe Naing, the Mandalay Region Cattle Exporters Association chairperson.

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

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

Following about 10,000 cattle stranded in Muse last year, traders embarked on illegal sales, he added. For legitimate trade, China permits live cattle import only after ensuring the cattle is free from 20 diseases, including Foot and Mouth Disease, along with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. Those import criteria do not matter on the black market.

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

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

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

Myanmar shipped US\$360 million worth of animal products, including cattle, to the external markets in the financial year 2018-2019. The value of animal product exports dropped by \$100 million in the 2019-2020FY against a year ago, following the negative impacts of the COVID-19. - NN/GNLM

Lamborghini hits accelerator on electric future

ITALIAN sports car maker Lamborghini on Tuesday unveiled Tuesday a 1.5-billion-euro (\$1.8 billion) electrification plan for its luxury vehicles, joining a global push away from fossil fuels at the risk of upsetting fans.

The company, which is owned by Volkswagen subsidiary Audi, said its first hybrid series production car would hit the market in 2023, with all its models "electrified" by the end of 2024.

But a battery-only model won't be released until the second half of the decade, Lamborghini said.

The plan is "necessary in a context of a radically-changing world," CEO Stephan Winkelmann said in a statement.

"We want to make our contribution by continuing to reduce environmental impact," he added, saying



Lamborghini's first hybrid, the Sian, had impressive specifications but only 60 were built. PHOTO: AFP

the investment ploughed into electrification is the company's largest-ever.

By 2025, the company should reduce carbon emissions by half, it said.

The global trend towards electrification has been more challenging for the makers of the fastest sports cars than for

mass-market producers.

Some have speculated that the brands' fans may reject the different torque and driving experience of an electric vehicle compared to traditional combustion engines.

Following in Ferrari's footsteps, Lamborghini in 2019 unveiled its first for-

ay into electrification with the Sian supercar, capable of accelerating from 0 to 62mph (110 km/h) in less than 2.8 seconds.

The Sian, which means "lightning" in Bolognese dialect, cost over 3 million euros and only about 60 were built. —AFP ■

Amazon to extend ban on police use of face recognition tech

AMAZON said Tuesday it is extending its ban on the use of its facial recognition tools for law enforcement, amid persistent concerns of bias in the technology.

The tech giant last June announced it was implementing a one-year moratorium on police use of its technology, saying the pause could give Congress time to enact safeguards against misuse of facial recognition.

The company confirmed Tuesday an extension of that ban "until further notice" without elaborating.

Last year's move came amid widespread protests over police brutality and concerns that facial recognition technology is flawed, especially in analyzing

features of African Americans. Activists also say the technology tools may use algorithms which discriminate, intentionally or not, against Black people.

Activists have targeted Amazon Web Services cloud computing unit's "Rekognition" facial recognition technology and Ring surveillance cameras used for home security. It was not clear the degree to which police have used the systems.

Amazon last year called for governments to put in place "stronger regulations to govern the ethical use of facial recognition technology."

Its ban was followed by Microsoft and IBM, which made similar announcements. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1162W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1162W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDTIGER VOY. NO. (118N/119S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDTIGER VOY. NO. (118N/119S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO. (117N/118S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO. (117N/118S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (118S/119N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (118S/119N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

After six months, French cafes, museums and cinemas reopen

THE French are expected to flock to restaurants, museums and cinemas when they reopen on Wednesday, but bad weather and social distancing may cast a pall over scenes of people toasting a return to semi-normality after months of Covid-19 curbs.

Cafes and restaurants with terraces or rooftop gardens have been inundated with bookings for the return of outdoor dining, under the second phase of a lockdown-lifting plan that should culminate in a full reopening of the economy on June 30.

Museums, cinemas and theatres are also reopening after being closed for more than six months, during which they relied chiefly on state aid to remain afloat.

But with the weather service forecasting showers across much of the country — possibly even snow in the Alps — and most venues allowed



Only outdoor seating will be allowed when France starts lifting its Covid lockdown Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

to use only half of their outdoor seating, some of the 40 per cent of French restaurants that boast a terrace are expected to take a rain check on resuming operations.

A night-time curfew that will be pushed back two hours to 9:00 pm starting Wednesday could also put a damper on the revelry, which will

be limited to six people per table.

Stephanie Mathey, owner of three Paris bistros, told AFP she was treating this stage of the reopening as a dress rehearsal for the summer.

“Like a diesel engine, we’ll be warming up slowly,” she told AFP.

On June 9, restaurants will be allowed

serve indoors, followed by a further easing of measures on June 30 when the curfew will be fully lifted.

- Sharp fall in cases - Beyond having a coffee or glass of wine on a terrace, many people are also looking forward to seeing a film in a cinema or catching a play or an exhibition. — AFP ■

How an Albanian arms dump transformed into ‘Fish City’

IN darkened tunnels once stuffed with weapons, there are now hundreds of blue barrels filled with anchovies resting in litres of brine, a surreal repurposing of Albania’s Cold War past.

Murals, statues, architectural oddities and historical relics greet visitors to Fish City, a complex snuggled into gentle hills south of the capital Tirana. Jim Morrison and Winston Churchill rub shoulders, the stretched face of a Salvador Dali masterpiece is lovingly recreated alongside Pablo Picasso’s Guernica. Before reaching any of that, Marlon Brando and Al Pacino in full Godfather mode have to be negotiated. The sprawling complex also houses a daycare, a children’s playground, cinema, fine-dining restaurant and a 50-metre tower called “chicken island”. Somewhere

in all of this, there is a seafood processing plant employing some 1,500 people, most of them women who shell shrimp and fillet anchovies at incredible speed before ramming them into boxes, jars and bags for export.

One million weapons

The company, Rozafa, exported 32 million euros (\$38 million) of seafood last year, a major turnaround for a site that just six years ago stood derelict.

“In these places, there was nothing but ruins, it looked like Hiroshima after the bomb,” says owner Gjergj Luca, who built his city on the ruins of the base, but preserved the tunnels.

They were constructed by communist dictator Enver Hoxha whose paranoia led him to isolate the country even from communist comrades in Moscow, Beijing and the former Yugoslavia. — AFP ■

Argentine meat producers announce strike over exports ban

ARGENTINE meat producers announced on Tuesday they would stop selling beef and veal for one week in response to a month-long government suspension on exports due to rising prices.

The Liaison Commission for Agricultural Entities, which represents agricultural producers and businesses, declared a “cessation of all categories of cattle trade” from Thursday to May 28.

On Monday night, the government announced a suspension on foreign meat sales to “get the sector in order, restrict speculative practices and avoid tax evasion in foreign trade”.

Earlier on Tuesday, President Alberto Fernandez insisted that Argentina could not accept the recent rise in meat prices in a country already



A butcher’s shop in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, the fourth-largest exporter of beef in the world. **PHOTO: AFP**

reeling from three years of recession and the adverse economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

“The meat issue has got out of hand. The price is rising every month without justification. We need to get it under control,” Fernandez told Radio 10.

The government took the decision due to the strong impact that price rises have on Argentina’s inflation, already one of the

highest in the world and which increased by 17.6 per cent during the first four months of the year, according to the INDEC statistics institute.

The cost of living has soared 46.3 per cent in the last 12 months but beef prices in April were 65.3 per cent higher than the same month in 2020, the Argentine Institute of Beef Promotion (IPCVA) said. — AFP ■

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EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER**

- MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDER IN US DOLLARS PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
 - (A) DATE & TIME
 - (27-5-2021) (09:00)AM
 - EXPORT & MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT**
 - YANGON (TEAK/HARDWOOD) (LOG)
 - TEAK LOGS ABOUT (390)TONS
 - THIRD QUALITY & UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (176)CBT (250)CBM
 - 2019-2020 EXTRACTION YEAR
 - HARDWOOD LOGS
 - PYINKADO, KANYIN ABOUT (4030)TONS
 - WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT**
 - THIRD QUALITY & UP TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (104)CBT (147)CBM
 - TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON
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Contact: Office Ph: 09-5132242, 09-5053865, 09-5129148

OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer AgriGate CropSciences Pte., Ltd will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
1	Awba Sesame Herbicide 960EC	Awba Paung Oat Say 960EC	S-metolachlor 96% EC	Provisional	P2018-2869

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address- Myanmar Awba Group Co., Ltd
No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

First US-Russia meeting ahead of Biden-Putin summit

THE US and Russian foreign ministers are meeting in Iceland on Wednesday to gauge the enormous gulf between the rival powers and confirm a summit between Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin.

Statements preceding the face-to-face talks on the sidelines of the Arctic Council meeting in Iceland do not bode well for the de-escalation of tensions that the two say they want, with relations at their lowest point since the end of the Cold War.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken seemed to want to make the Arctic – a new geopolitical issue at the heart of the regional meeting Wednesday and Thursday in Reykjavik



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said Washington wants to 'avoid a militarization' of the Arctic. PHOTO:AFP

– a laboratory for cooperation focused on common challenges such as the fight against global warming.

But his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov issued a strongly worded warning.

"It has been absolutely clear

for everyone for a long time that this is our territory, this is our land," Lavrov said at a press conference in Moscow on Monday.

The Russian foreign minister at the same time accused Norway of "trying to justify the need for NATO to come into the Arctic". He insisted Russian military activity in the region is "absolutely legal".

Mikaa Mered, a professor at French university Sciences Po and a specialist on the Arctic, said that Russians "always do this sort of posturing before the ministerial summit, but that doesn't prevent the Council from continuing its work on its traditional consensus issues". — AFP ■

Saudi foreign minister 'hopeful' over exploratory Iran talks



Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan says talks with nemesis Iran are in 'early stages'. PHOTO: AFP

SAUDI Arabia is "hopeful" after exploratory talks with its nemesis Iran, its foreign minister told AFP, in a rare comment on delicate discussions whose details have been closely guarded.

The official-level meetings aim to restore relations severed five years ago between the Sunni Muslim kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Shiite Islamic Republic of Iran.

"We have initiated some exploratory talks. They are at a very early stage but we are hopeful," Prince Faisal bin Farhan said in Paris on Tuesday, where he is participating in two international summits.

The talks with Iran, facilitated by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi, had remained secret until the Fi-

nancial Times reported that a first meeting had been held in Baghdad on April 9.

The Iranian government only confirmed on May 10 that the talks had been held, adding that it was "too soon" to discuss the results.

"If (the Iranians) can see that their interest is in a good relationship with their neighbours, I can be hopeful," Prince Faisal said, emphasising again that they were "at an early stage".

Asked what the impact of the June presidential elections in Iran might be, he said he thought it would be minimal.

"Our understanding of Iran's foreign policy is that it's set by the Supreme Leader," he explained. "So we don't think there will be a substantial change." — AFP ■

NY attorney general investigating Trump Organization in 'criminal capacity'

THE Trump Organization is being investigated in a "criminal capacity" by the New York state attorney general's office, a spokesman said Tuesday, as prosecutors advance their probe into former president Donald Trump's business dealings.

"We have informed the Trump Organization that our investigation into the organization is no longer purely civil in nature," a spokesman for Attorney General Letitia James' office said.

"We are now actively investigating the Trump Organization in a criminal capacity, along with the Manhattan DA," spokesman Fabien Levy said.

The organization is the holding company of hundreds of Trump entities, ranging from hotels to golf courses.

Trump, who left the White

House in January, denies wrongdoing and has previously described the investigation into his finances by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, a Democrat, as "a continuation of the greatest political witch hunt in the history of our country".

James' office has meanwhile also been investigating allegations of bank fraud and insurance fraud through civil proceedings.

Bolstering its legal team, the Trump Organization in early April hired a veteran criminal defence attorney, 84-year-old Ronald Fischetti.

The district attorney's investigation initially focused on hush payments made to two women who allege they had affairs with Trump, but had expanded to allegations of tax evasion, and insurance and bank fraud. — AFP ■



A sign for the Trump International Hotel in New York is seen in February 2021. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel's 'mixed' Jewish-Arab cities pay price of conflict

FOR years, Jews and Arabs have lived together in the central Israeli city of Lod. This week everything fell apart, leaving a man dead, a synagogue torched and neighbours facing off in hatred.

Intra-communal violence has flared in Israel as Jerusalem unrest has spiralled into a conflict in which the Islamist group Hamas has fired rockets from Gaza and Israel has launched air strikes.

Amid the deadly escalation, tempers have flared and mob attacks have sparked warnings of a "civil war".

In Lod, an industrial city near Tel Aviv with drab rows of grey homes with barred windows, 40 percent of the population is Arab, and tensions have exploded into violence for days.

Mussa Hassuna, a 32-year-old Arab-Israeli father, was shot and killed in clashes Monday night. — AFP ■

Two Thai workers killed in rocket attack on Israel

TWO Thai workers were killed in southern Israel by rocket fire from Gaza on Tuesday, police said, raising to 12 the death toll in the Jewish state since the conflict broke out.

"In the last wave of rockets that landed in the Eshkol region, two people were killed," police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said, identifying the dead as workers from Thailand.

A week ago, a Thai national was wounded by another rocket fired from Gaza, and a farm labourer from Thailand was killed in the 2004 Israel-Gaza war.

Magen David Adom, Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross, said seven other foreign workers were wounded by shrapnel in the latest attack, one of them seriously.

They were all taken to Soroka hospital in the southern town of Beersheba.

According to the United Hatzalah volunteer rescue service, the Gaza rocket hit a packaging factory near the border. — AFP ■

US captain Stricker wants Tiger as assistant for Ryder Cup

US Ryder Cup captain Steve Stricker said Wednesday he has spoken to Tiger Woods about being an assistant captain in September.

Woods is recovering from severe leg injuries suffered in a February car crash, and Stricker said the 15-time major winner's Ryder Cup involvement is uncertain.

"He's really good at being an assistant and I'd love to have him be there, if it's at all possible," Stricker said on the eve of the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island.

"As an assistant captain, he's all-in with everybody and the players love it. They love being around him and he adds a tremendous amount when he's

there."

The Ryder Cup, postponed from last year due to Covid-19, will be staged 24-26 September at Whistling Straits with holders Europe seeking an eighth victory in 10 meetings.

Stricker said Woods told him he would serve at least in an advisory role.

Stricker quoted Woods as

saying: "I don't know if I can be there or not but you know I'm here for you all the way up to The Ryder Cup." Stricker added: "That shows his level of commitment to me, to the team, and his desire to be there if he can be."

Woods served as a playing captain of the 2019 US Presidents Cup team that beat the Internationals 16-14 at Melbourne

and served as a Ryder Cup assistant captain in 2016. He was to have been an assistant in 2018 until he was chosen to play as a captain's pick.

"He has always been, on the teams I've been around, very into the whole team and the process," Stricker said. "As assistant captain, it's almost like he's taken it up a notch." —AFP ■

China train for World Cup matches with Communist history lessons



China look unlikely to qualify for the next World Cup in Qatar in 2022. PHOTO:AFP

CHINA'S football team warmed up for a set of crucial World Cup qualifiers by receiving "patriotic education" and learning about the history of the ruling Communist Party.

President Xi Jinping has grand ambitions for China to host and even win a football World Cup, but the national side is currently ranked 77th and struggling to make the next edition, in 2022 in Qatar. China return to their stuttering

qualifying campaign with four matches on home soil, starting with minnows Guam on 30 May and culminating with a clash against group leaders Syria on 15 June.

With China due to mark the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party's founding in July, the squad took time out from training under coach Li Tie on Tuesday to visit the site in Shanghai where the Chinese Communist Party held its

founding meeting in 1921.

"In the view of the Chinese Football Association and coaching staff, it is crucial for the players to strengthen their sense of mission, responsibility and honour by receiving patriotic ideological education before participating in major competitions," said the Beijing Youth Daily. The state-run newspaper noted that "patriotic education delivers positive energy". — AFP ■

Most at Tokyo Olympic village to be vaccinated by Games: IOC chief

MOST athletes and team members staying at Tokyo's Olympic village will be vaccinated by the Games, IOC chief Thomas Bach said Wednesday, as organizers try to calm fears about staging the event as coronavirus cases surge in Japan. With less than 10 weeks until the pandemic-postponed Games open on 23 July, parts of Japan are under a virus state of emergency and a majority of Japanese want the event delayed further or cancelled.

International Olympic Committee chief Bach was forced to scrap a visit to Tokyo

this week given virus restrictions, but he sounded a confident note speaking with organizers and Japanese officials.

"The most important principle is very clear, the Olympic village is a safe place and the Olympic and Paralympic Games of Tokyo 2020 will be organized in a safe way," he said, appearing by video call. "At this moment, already as many as 75 per cent of the residents of the Olympic village are already vaccinated or have secured vaccination in time before the Olympic Games," Bach added. — AFP ■



Most athletes and team members staying at Tokyo's Olympic village will be vaccinated by the Games, IOC chief Thomas Bach said. PHOTO:AFP

Chelsea gain revenge on Leicester to take control of top-four fate



Familiarity breeds contempt: A fight involving players, substitutes and coaches from Chelsea and Leicester broke out in stoppage time. PHOTO:AFP

CHELSEA manager Thomas Tuchel thanked the return of fans to Stamford Bridge for helping side avenge their FA Cup final defeat to Leicester with a 2-1 win over the Foxes to move into third in the Premier League on Tuesday.

The 8,000 crowd saw the Blues keep a place in next season's Champions League in their own hands thanks to second-half goals from Antonio Rudiger and Jorginho.

Victory away to Aston Villa on Sunday will guarantee Chelsea a top-four finish.

"It was an outstanding performance but the job is not done," said Tuchel.

"The fans made a huge difference. The speed

in our game, the hunger, the ambition. It was a very strong performance and I'm delighted the team can present itself like this in front of our fans."

Leicester will forever have the memories of winning the FA Cup for the first time at Wembley on Saturday, but are now at risk of missing out on Champions League football on the final day of the campaign for the second consecutive season.

Brendan Rodgers's men still lead Liverpool by three points, but the Reds will go fourth on goal difference if they win at Burnley on Wednesday.

Leicester host Tottenham on the final day, while Jurgen Klopp's men welcome Crystal Palace to Anfield. — AFP ■