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Friday, 4 June 2021

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the delegation led by ICRC President Mr Peter Maurer



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Peter Maurer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 June 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

received the delegation led by Mr Peter Maurer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on 3 June 2021

at 11 am at the Office of the State Administration Council.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on the progress

of humanitarian activities being operated by ICRC in cooperation with the Myanmar Red Cross Society, ICRC's support extended to

the government in its efforts to address the COVID-19 response and future collaboration between Myanmar and ICRC. — MNA

122 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 June, total figure rises to 143,945

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **143,945** after **122 new cases** were reported on 3 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **132,408** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,221 after three died. —MNA

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Over 1,000 acres of coffee farms in Ngaphe Township achieve successful harvest

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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.

MoLIP Deputy Minister joins coordination meeting of Myanmar CMP Supervisory Sub-committee

MYANMAR CMP (Cutting, Making, Packaging) Supervisory Sub-committee held its coordination meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Deputy Minister U Win Shein of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, in his capacity as Chairman of CMP Supervisory Sub-committee, said the committee would release an order to form groups to survey CMP processes of the country if the officials raise a proposal to do so. There are various types of CMP across the nation. So the committee members should carry out their duties carefully in their respective sectors.

Many factories temporarily or permanently closed due



to a shortage of raw materials, orders, and other cases like losses. They also reduced the labour force while others resumed the operations. The CMP based on the labour forces, and so there are many job opportunities.

According to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, the Deputy Minister continued that about 400 garment factories applied for import licences, including the ones directly involved at the Ministry of

Planning and Finance. He then talked about the foreign orders from European Countries, supply chain and banking services being carried by the OSS under the instructions of the Yangon Region Administration Council.

He also stressed the need for the garment sector in order to shift from a CMP model to an FOB (Free-On-Board) model and inspect whether the addresses of CMP are correct, whether CMP is being implemented systematically, and whether they receive orders, raw material imports, the labour force, exports, rejects, inventory and reports on the inspections. Then, the reports should be submitted to the Myanmar Investment Commission with the approval of the CMP subcommittee.

Then, the attendees to the meeting coordinated the discussion, and the Deputy Minister gave the necessary instructions. – MNA

Request to Public

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has announced the last date to pay electric bills to the people.
2. Now, action is being taken against the people who do not pay the charges of electric bills for 12/2020 and 1/2021 by cutting off electricity supply under the electricity law.
3. As such, the electricity consumer people are reminded with goodwill to pay charges of electricity bills before the last date.

Requirements of teachers will be fulfilled

THE teachers who joined the CDM due to misunderstanding based on the weakness in administrative measures and political attacks need to report back to the respective schools. The requirements of teachers will be fulfilled during the school opening period.

(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)

Conservation of forests can reduce risks of natural disasters based on climatic conditions: Senior General

IT is necessary to carry out forest conservation and reforestation as a national duty, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 8/2021 of the SAC Management Committee at the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

First, the minutes of the meeting on 7/2021 was approved.

In his speech, the Senior General said that the government is responsible for the State's economic development and peace and stability. The Tatmadaw, administrative bodies, and departments related to legal affairs and Myanmar Police Force are key players in ensuring peace and stability of



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC Management Committee meeting 8/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 June 2021.

The Tatmadaw, administrative bodies, and departments related to legal affairs and Myanmar Police Force are key players in ensuring peace and stability of the State.

the State. Those in the management fields are responsible for economic matters. During his recent tours, the Senior General saw food sufficiency of Kayin and Mon states. However, some townships do not have food sufficiency because they depend

on border trade without full efforts in the agricultural tasks.

Myanmar places some 2.67 million acres of farmlands under summer paddy and about 15 million acres under monsoon paddy. If efforts can be made for increasing per-acre yield with-

out expanding the sown acreage, the rate of per-acre yield will increase more than now with surplus production. Officials of relevant ministries need to urge local farmers to make efforts for increasing per-acre yield so as to use farmlands efficiently. Likewise, livestock tasks must be carried out systematically.

Officials need to manage the efficient use of land plots in implementing urban projects. New satellite towns must be implemented under the town plans with the participation of necessary characteristics such as sports grounds, schools, hospitals, parks, markets and sites for social organizations. Especially, implementation of the urban area is not to cause loss of farmlands. Likewise, river water pumping stations must be built to irrigate farmlands for

the prevention of slash and burn farmlands. Emphasis must be placed on the sufficiency of agricultural water and drinking water.

Firewood plantations must be established in respective regions for the prevention of deforestation. It is necessary to carry out forest conservation and reforestation as a national duty. Conservation of forests can reduce the risks of natural disasters based on climatic conditions.

Encouragement must be given to local and foreign investment in the economic sector. It is necessary to give a helping hand to operating the businesses and ensuring the prosperity of local ethnic nationals as much as possible.

The Senior General pointed out undertakings of agriculture and livestock sector, operating

of industries based on agricultural products, supervision for running banking services, promotion of education qualification, and security for students.

Union ministers sought the approvals for respective sectors.

In conclusion, the Senior General said Myanmar's life expectancy is lower than that of neighbouring countries. So, it is necessary to nurture new generations to have physical strengthening and growth in the future. Knowledge on efficient consumption of meat and fish must be shared with the people. The food system needs to be changed in line with the health condition. Mainly, educative talks must be given to the people for avoiding liquor, cigarette and betel quad to have good health with longer life expectancy. — MNA

Students happily and peacefully studying at schools in Nay Pyi Taw

STUDENTS in basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw are studying happily in peace since the nationwide reopening of schools on 1 June after the temporary closure due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Ministry of Education provided refresher courses and capacity building training to teachers to assist in teaching in April and May.

“Teaching is all okay since the government provides refresher and capacity building courses for the teachers from the school,” said the headmistress of the No (8) Basic Education High School, which operates regular one shift-schooling in Nay Pyi Taw.

“Before reopening the school, the government painted new painting to the school and about 100 people, with the help of the township administration body, cleaned the school com-



BEHS-8, Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

ound,” she added.

Teachers and health workers also conduct the COVID-19 measures set by the Ministry

of Health and Sports in order to prevent the spread of the disease in schools.

The headmistress also said

some children experienced mild fever when the weather is very hot, and in that case, their parents were asked to take care of

them at home without sending to schools.

As of 1 June, the student attendance rate was 76.2%. There are usually more than 900 students, and over 800 students have enrolled in the school as of yesterday, she added.

“Some alumni’ parents have not yet enrolled in the school, but we have received phone calls informing that they are travelling,” she said. The number of students is expected to increase this year. In some classes, the student population is higher than expected, according to her.

Though the nationwide school enrolment week was set from 24 to 31 May, enrolment of students who have not yet enrolled for various reasons will be accepted continuously during the school opening period. — Lu Lin Nge/GNLM



BEHS-5, Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



BEHS-7, Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Zabuthiri Township. PHOTO: MAUNG YIN OO

Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 231,000 outpatients



TATMADAW keeps providing health care services for the patients at the military hospitals and temporary emergency treatment hospitals in the townships of regions and states.

The Tatmadaw medical teams that comprise Tatmadaw doctors, specialists, medical assistants and nurses, have given medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 231,774 outpatients and 69,428 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medics,

medical assistants and nurses have conducted 10,824 major operations and 5,548 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment the severe cases.

These hospitals managed the birth of 13,574 babies to date. Of those, 5,532 cases are done in the caesarean section and 8,042 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

A local patient is seen receiving treatment at the military station hospital in the South-West Command.

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Children happily go to schools nationwide



Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **KHINE SOE (IPRD)**



Ngathaingyoung, Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Region. **SOE MIN OO (IPRD)**



Metmung Township. **Township (IPRD)**



Mudon, Mon State. **Aung Myo Thu (IPRD)**



Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South). **Township (IPRD)**



Myeik, Taninthayi Region. **Khaing Htoo (IPRD)**



Pakokku Township, Magway Region. **Pakokku District (IPRD)**



Mongpyin, Kengtung District, Shan State (East). **Mongpyin (IPRD)**



Naungtayar Town, Pintaya Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South). **Naungtayar (IPRD)**

Announcement of Union Election Commission 3 June 2021

- Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in Waingmaw and Momauk townships in Kachin State and Monyo Township in Bago Region.
- Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CSC
1	58 polling stations, Waingmaw township of Kachin State	94,153	77,220	7,605	724	8,934
2	45 polling stations, Momauk township of Kachin State	50,300	55,452	1,600	266	4,324
3	169 polling stations, Monyo township of Bago Region	104,820	84,307	22,056	779	11,126
	Total	249,273	216,979	31,261	1,769	24,384

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Waingmaw and Momauk townships in Kachin State and Monyo Township in Bago Region 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.
- According to the inspection, a total of 272 polling stations in these townships took out 281,887 ballots and used 172,177 ballots. It left 105,454 ballots instead of 109,710 ballots. The difference was 5,895 ballots, and it found 1,639 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	Subject	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Waingmaw	58	102,048	58,238	43,810	43,537	303	30
2	Momauk	45	57,805	35,007	22,798	22,804	14	20
3	Monyo	169	122,034	78,932	43,102	39,113	5,578	1,589
	Total	272	281,887	172,177	109,710	105,454	5,895	1,639

Findings of Pyithu Hluttaw ballot papers for Waingmaw Township

- According to the inspection, a total of 58 polling stations in Waingmaw Township took out 95,850 ballots and used 57,751 ballots. It left 37,826 ballots instead of 38,099 ballots. Findings of the extra/shortage ballots from the respective polling stations in Waingmaw Township were as follow:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	95,850	57,751	38,099	37,826	303	30
2	Township ballots	6,198	487	5,711	5,711		
	Total	102,048	58,238	43,810	43,537	303	30

- A total of 303 ballot papers were missing from the 58 polling stations, and 30 extra ballot papers were found. The remaining balance of the township election commission is 5,711, and it is found that it is in line with the ground findings.

- Findings of the ground inspection of Pyithu Hluttaw ballot paper by ward/village-tracts for Waingmaw Township, Kachin State were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-tracts	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	No (1) Ward	4,150	2,569	1,581	1,576	5	
2	No (2) Ward	2,700	1,762	938	938		
3	No (3) Ward	5,000	2,981	2,019	2,007	12	
4	No (4) Ward	3,000	1,876	1,124	1,122	2	
5	No (5) Ward	1,700	1,129	571	570	1	
6	MokeLweVillage-tract	1,900	1,304	596	592	4	
7	Khatcho Village-tract	9,100	5,371	3,729	3,661	68	
8	Makhanti Village-tract	2,150	1,369	781	791		10
9	Naunghee Village-tract	1,750	1,189	561	561		
10	Sankar Village-tract	4,700	2,399	2,301	2,303		2
11	Aungmyay (1) Village-tract	3,600	1,926	1,674	1,626	48	
12	Aungmyay (2) Village-tract	950	553	397	397		
13	Shwenyaungpin Village-tract	4,350	2,454	1,896	1,844	52	
14	Naungsipaw Village-tract	1,900	1,352	548	548		
15	Nansanyan Village-tract	1,150	852	298	296	2	
16	Madain Village-tract	3,700	2,547	1,153	1,153		
17	Wuyan Village-tract	4,300	2,720	1,580	1,580		
18	Nantwar Village-tract	2,300	1,764	536	536		
19	Washaung Village-tract	3,050	2,057	993	993		
20	Daingyanyan Village-tract	1,350	883	467	467		
21	Manwein Village-tract	1,900	1,211	689	681	8	
22	Sailaw Village-tract	950	612	338	338		
23	Phontanyaung Village-tract	550	289	261	261		
24	Mandaung Village-tract	1,000	681	319	318	1	
25	Shangaw Village-tract	300	226	74	74		
26	Magaran Village-tract	200	154	46	46		
27	Naungtalaw Village-tract	1,950	1500	450	450		
28	Mainar Village-tract	13,250	6,662	6,588	6,494	94	
29	Naungchein Village-tract	5,100	2,715	2,385	2,389		4
30	No (1) Ward ,Sadon Town	550	357	193	191	2	
31	No (2) Ward ,Sadon Town	950	438	512	508	4	
32	No (3) Ward ,Sadon Town	600	369	231	231		
33	No (4) Ward ,Sadon Town	500	266	234	234		
34	No (5) Ward ,Sadon Town	500	254	246	246		
35	No (1) Ward ,Kanpaiti Town	300	210	90	90		
36	No (2) Ward ,Kanpaiti Town	350	214	136	138		2
37	No (3) Ward ,Kanpaiti Town	150	99	51	51		
38	Wowchyoke Village-tract	2,250	1,178	1,072	1,082		10
39	Zakhone Village-tract	700	589	111	113		2
40	Sanar Village-tract	1,000	670	330	330		
	Ward/village -tract ballots	95,850	57,751	38,099	37,826	303	30
	Township Remainingballots	6,198	487	5,711	5,711		
	Township Total ballots	102,048	58,238	43,810	43,537	303	30

Findings of the Pyithu Hluttaw ballot paper for Momauk Township

- According to the inspection, a total of 45 polling stations in Momauk Township, Kachin State, took out 51,450 ballots and used 33,738 ballots. It left 17,717 ballots instead of 17,712 ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in Momauk Township were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	51,450	33,738	17,712	17,717	14	19
2	Township ballots	6,355	1,269	5,086	5,087		1
	Total	57,805	35,007	22,798	22,804	14	20

Seek the best tax payment system for taxpayers

EVERY country throughout the world, especially least developed and developing countries, strives for the development of all sectors such as nation-building endeavours in physically shaping the countries as well as mentally improving the citizens.

In this regard, these countries depend on various kinds of tax paid by dutiful taxpayer people and companies because all the nation-building tasks need to be operated with the funds or budgets.

Governments of global countries seek the best way for taxpayers in the smooth process of tax payment systems. Likewise, the government of Myanmar has arranged an easier and rapid process

of tax payment system for the taxpayer companies and individual taxpayers.

Concerning the new system, the Department of Internal Revenue will launch the new tax payment system to be applied for taxpayers to be able to pay income tax for salaries of staff through electronic payment systems instead of a cash down or cheque as of 1 July in 2020-21 financial year.

That is why taxpayers can smoothly apply mobile banking, mobile payment, MPU Debit Card and links with relevant banks for paying tax to respective tax offices and income tax for their staff members.

The taxpayer who has received taxpayer identification number-TIN can pay income tax, commercial tax, special commodity tax and gem tax to the banking accounts of relevant tax offices through the branches of Myanma Economic Bank.

The taxpayers who have opened bank accounts at private banks and foreign bank branches in Myanmar can also pay tax to the department by applying the CBM-NET of the Central Bank of Myanmar or <https://onlinepayment.ird.gov.mm/etax> with the use of MPU

Debit Card.

In fact, taxpayers earn incomes in operating their businesses with the use of physical and mental strengths. They dutifully pay parts of their incomes as taxes to the State. The government allows the total amount of tax obtained from the taxpayer companies and the people to the budgets. Only when the tax payment system is easy and smooth will taxpayers pay full charges of respective taxes to the State without anxieties.

Taxpayers need better service in the tax payment systems. So, the government is responsible for seeking the best way for taxpayers.

The government allows the total amount of tax obtained from the taxpayer companies and the people to the budgets. Only when the tax payment system is easy and smooth will taxpayers pay full charges of respective taxes to the State without anxieties.

How to Encourage Our Peasantry to Grow More and More Rice?

By Win Myint Han (FNIG)

DESPITE having been designated as the largest exporter of rice in the world before the Second World War, Myanmar now has already lost that position to either Thailand, Vietnam or some other country. The largest turnover of rice exported abroad in the near past was about 3 million tons 2,3 years ago. Why has Myanmar, the rice bowl of South East Asia in the 1950s, become that weak and stagnated in rice production?

A variety of remote causes collectively contribute to that downturn, such as floods, drought and insufficient governmental assistance (inadequacy of agricultural loans disbursed to the peasants), etc. But at the very present moment, what is to be considered as the overwhelmingly crucial

and key reason is the Absence of Incentive or Uncertainty over Expected Profitability. One would work very hard if one is sure and confident of earning an income adequate to feed one's family even with barest necessities only.

Likewise, our Oo Kyees (farmers) need to be instilled with knowledge and Trust of earning a sizeable profit when selling their harvest regardless of how much the price ruling at the time of the sale is.

That is, the authorities have to set a selling price (for their harvest) that certainly carries a profit. How? It is universally accepted that a price of a commodity acceptable to all called the equilibrium price is occasioned by the law of Demand and Supply (i.e., when Demand equals Supply). This

law needs to be ignored for the time being. The authorities must first find out the actual cost of the sale of rice by making use of cost accountants, statisticians, economists and other relevant experts. Every endeavour must be made to arrive at a genuine cost, as it is also instrumental in the success of the project. The cost could easily vary depending on the location of production. The sale cost in Shwabo could not be equal to that in Patheingyi, so on and so forth.

Thus once the cost of sale of rice is established, then the authorities must adopt a Selling Price which is made up of the Sale Cost plus a Profit Margin equal to 20, 25 per cent thereof. If our peasants are fully convinced and confident of earning a 20% or 25% profit over and above the cost of

sale of their harvested rice, then they will no doubt concentrate on the production of more rice as much as possible. In this way, vacant lands would be gradually reduced. What I have suggested above is to transform rice production by our peasantry to become an almost cent per cent certain lucrative business. In order to implement this project successfully, the following resolutions must be implied with Without Fail and in their Entirety.

1. The peasants must sell all their produced rice less stock for their own consumption and seeds for the next season.
2. Only the governmental agency shall be entitled to buy the rice sold by the Oo Kyees.
3. Out of those stock purchased, a sufficient quantity must

be sold back by the authorities concerned for local consumption at the Cost of Sale Price.

This scheme could be effectively implemented only if all the surplus rice after the sale for the local consumption could be exported irrespective of fluctuations of prices in foreign exchange. i.e. There must be continuous demand for rice in the foreign markets.

I am not sure whether a system like this one has ever been practised before. Anyhow there are some problems such as difficulties affecting local sales and integrity of farmers to keep enough stock for their consumption.

A temptation by some unscrupulous peasants to buy back from the government stock at the cost of sale price without first

keeping sufficient stock for their own consumption could exist.

Since the peasants would try their very best to produce more and more rice only if they have no reservation about the scheme, the most senior official like a minister or (if possible) the State Administrative Council Chairman himself should announce this project.

The losses suffered by the State (Govt) would be offset by the earning of precious foreign exchange. If there remains some deficit even after the inflow of much foreign exchange, it could be treated as a subsidy by the State, as people could purchase their rice at a very cheap price, a win-win situation, even though the World Bank and World Trade Organization may not approve the subsidy.

COVAX Raises US\$2.4B To Combat Jobs Shortfall

THE COVAX vaccine programme secured another US\$2.4 billion from donors on Wednesday, but underlined it was still struggling to get enough doses to help poorer countries fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The scheme is trying to get enough vaccines for 30 per cent of the population in 92 of the poorest participating territories - 20 per cent in India - with donors covering the cost. But despite raising more than the US\$2 billion it was looking for; the programme's leaders said the major challenge was getting the doses after supplies from the Serum Institute of India (SII) plant dried up.

"Our early secured supply has faced serious, severe disruption as a result of the terrible second wave in India that is consuming all of that country's production - to the point where by the end of June we'll be facing a shortfall of 190 million doses," said Seth Berkley, chief executive of the Gavi vaccine alliance.

COVAX has already delivered nearly 80 million doses to 127 territories, with AstraZeneca shots making up 97 per cent of doses supplied so far - the rest being Pfizer-BioNTech.

The SII, producing AstraZeneca doses, was to have been the backbone of COVAX's supply chain. However, New Delhi restricted vaccine exports to combat the devastating domestic surge. SII said last month it was targeting resuming COVAX deliveries by the end of the year. But the plant's chief executive Adar Poonawalla was more optimistic on Wednesday, saying: "As soon as the situation in India improves, we hope to resume supplies to COVAX over the next few months."

Timing 'Crucial'

At Wednesday's meeting, countries pledged to donate more than 54 million vaccine doses to lower-income nations to try to bridge the supply problems.



Workers prepare to offload a container carrying the first shipment of the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine as it arrives at the Noi Bai International Airport Cargo terminal in Hanoi on 1 April, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

"We need all countries that have doses to share a portion of them with COVAX now, so we can get them into the arms of those that are most at risk," said Berkley.

The total number of shared doses pledged now stands at more than 132 million.

"The critical issue is going to be the timing and trying to get those as soon as possible,"

Berkley told reporters.

The virtual donors' summit was co-hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and Gavi chair Jose Manuel Barroso. The US\$2.4 billion raised brought the total sum available to procure vaccines to nearly US\$9.6 billion, said Barroso.

"We have achieved the goal of securing at least 1.8 billion

doses" for the poorest 92 territories, Suga added. The new financial donations included US\$800 million from Japan, US\$300 million from the private sector, US\$185 million from Canada, US\$140 million from Switzerland and US\$120 million from France.

Value Of Vaccines

COVAX is co-led by the

World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

CEPI chief Richard Hatchett said the value of COVID-19 vaccines in breaking chains of transmission, preventing hospitalisation and saving lives was now "indisputable". But, he added, the deadly surge in India was a "sobering and terrifying reminder of what this virus is capable of". COVAX was set up to combat the likelihood of rich countries buying up most available vaccine doses - which is what has happened. Overall, nearly two billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been injected in at least 215 territories around the world, according to an AFP count.

But some 38 per cent of the doses have been administered in high-income countries accounting for 16 per cent of the global population.

Source : AFP

Heads of Service Organizations transferred, confirmed and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed Professor Dr Aye Aye Khin, Rector of the University of Medical Technology (Yangon) of the Department of Human Resources for Health under the Ministry of Health and Sports as Rector of the University of Medicines 2 (Yangon) of the Department of Human Resources for Health from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

2. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Professor Dr Khin Win Sein as Rector of the University of Nursing (Mandalay) of the Department of Human Resources for Health under the Ministry of Health and Sports after the one-year probationary period.

3. The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Kyaw Tin Shein Deputy Director-General Department of Consular and Legal Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Director-General Department of Consular and Legal Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(b) Dr Myo Myo Pro-Rector Shwebo University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Shwebo University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(c) Daw Mie Mie Tin Deputy Director-General (Policy and Planning) Department of Urban and Housing Development Ministry of Construction	Director-General Department of Urban and Housing Development Ministry of Construction

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
I am a 78-year-old retired physician, born, brought up and educated in Myanmar, now living in London, England. I have no affiliation to any political party.

With great sadness and pain to write this letter, the USA is celebrating Memorial Day, thanking the Army for what had they done for the country, whereas from what I see in the world media are condemnations on Myanmar Tatmadaw for cruelty on its people in the strongest possible terms. Moreover, I read in the Reuters News that Myanmar's shadow government parades new armed force. The National Unity Government (NUG) has made a daring declaration, "The people's Defence Force must be aligned with the people and protect the people. We will fight to win." I am aware that Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's council view is that the NUG is treasonous. Both it and the People's Defence Force have been designated as terrorist groups.

Anti-military protests occur daily in many parts of the country; strikes and flared up fighting with ethnic armed groups are terrible news. Though government news media did not admit that, I firmly believe that the Army is still struggling to impose order after taking power for over three months.

My question is How the Army could achieve its goals and objectives that appears eloquently in your esteemed paper day after day.

I would very much welcome Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to address the people and conduct a videoconference with those who care about the country to discuss his immediate and long-term plan.

Yours,
Khin Maung Myint
89 MacMillan Way
London

Lime prices drop in Kya-in-Seikkyi



Lime plants can be seen throughout the country. The fruits grown in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township are often sent to the nearby markets.

THE lime prices are weakened in Kya-in-Seikkyi township in Kayin State in monsoon.

The local people are successfully cultivating the lime plants in Kya-in-Seikkyi township. Annually, the limes have a good price in summer with abundant yield.

Earlier, the price of lime was K3 per one in the monsoon. But, the lime was sold for K70 or K100 per fruit in the hot season, depending upon the size.

This year, the lime price dropped to K5 per one, and so, the local growers did not even harvest to sell them back in the market.

The lime, the tiny citrus fruit, is fresher and more fragrant than the lemon. It has light green flesh and is approx-

imately 6 cm in size. Lime is also used as an ingredient in cooking, and when used in drinks and sauces, it creates a fresh and “zingy” taste.

Lime plants can be seen throughout the country. The fruits grown in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township are often sent to the nearby markets.

Also, lime is famous among the public. It helps people reduce body weight and increase immunity from diseases.

There are many lime growers in Kya-in Seikkyi township, and there are around 10,000 acres of lime plantations.

The limes are sent to Mawlamyine town in Mon State and Yangon Region to sell them through the retailers. — Myo Min Oo/GNLM

Stocks on YSX inch up in May

THE number of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) climbed to 78,642 shares in May 2021, generating the trading value of K432.448 million, the YSX’s monthly report indicated.

In February 2021, K442 million worth of 77,388 shares were traded on the exchange. The figures extended further drops to K110 million worth of 19,816 shares in March 2021. Then, the market slightly rose in April with K280 million worth of 42,964 shares. The stocks maintained in the bull market in May as well.

The stock markets worldwide have reported their largest declines since the 2008 financial crisis. Similarly, the

local equities market is also scared by the COVID-19 crash, a market observer points out.

At present, people are keeping emergency savings rather than investing in the COVID-19 crisis and current political conditions, he added.

In May, the shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH) and the Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFR) were traded in the equity market. The share prices per unit were closed at K9,100 for FMI, K3,500 for MTSH, K7,800 for MCB,

K19,500 for FPB, K2,750 for TMH and K3,100 for EFR, respectively.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis and political changes, Myanmar’s securities market has continued operating without stopping trading.

In 2020, the value of stocks traded on the exchange peaked at K1.48 billion in February. In contrast, trading on the exchange registered an all-time low of K552.9 million in November due to the COVID-19 resurgences in Myanmar, the exchange’s monthly report showed.

A total of K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on the exchange in 2020,

a significant drop compared to 2019. Over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

Additionally, Amata Holding Public Co., Ltd. (AMATA) was listed on the exchange on 3 June, with an introductory price of K4,500.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market from 20 March 2020.

Furthermore, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 in order to provide unlisted pub-

lic companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX, YSX stated.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars. The stock exchange has also sought the government’s support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge. — KK/GNLM

Manageable-scale cultivation of rambutan earns families good income

THE rambutan cultivation is successful with a good yield in Kya-in Seikkyi township. Kayin State and the local growers have family income from their rambutan plantations.

The number of manageable-scale rambutan growers in Kya-in Seikkyi township is increasing year by year. People from this township are also growing seasonal crops. The local people enjoyed a good yield of the rambutan from their farmland and sold them back in the township.

The rambutan price was K50 per one, which contributes to earning fam-

ily income. The grafting of rambutan tree is done for K4,000 per tree. When they start to grow the rambutan, the growers have to use fertilizer. Also, the tree must have irrigated water in summer. After growing for three years, the trees begin to bear the fruits and yield after four years.

There are two colours of rambutan as yellow and red. The red rambutan fruit is more popular because it is sweeter than the yellow one. The abundant yield of rambutan is earning the growers an additional income for their family. — Myo Min Oo/GNLM



There are two colours of rambutan as yellow and red. The red rambutan fruit is more popular because it is sweeter than the yellow one.

Over 1,000 acres of coffee farms in Ngaphe Township achieve successful harvest

COFFEE farmers reap a bountiful harvest on 1,041 acres of coffee farms in the highland of Ngaphe Township, Minbu District, Magway Region.

Ngaphe Township highland is located between longitude 94°25'E and 94° 26'E of Minbu-An Road. It sits more than 3,819 metres above sea level. This highland belongs to Asho Chin ethnic people, covering ten village-tracts. The ethnic people commonly cultivate coffee, tea leaf, avocado, citrus, chilli, banana, jackfruit and other perennial trees. About 40 acres of highland Arabica coffee plantation is also found in Natyaykan coffee farms under the Ngaphe Township Agriculture Department. There is a total of 1,001 acres of a private highland coffee plantation in those villages.

"A group of coffee growers has been formed to enhance the marketable quality. The awareness courses have been conducted three times, and so has been the demonstrations. Coffee seeds, plants and agricultural tools were also provided two times. The number of acres has grown over the years. About 45 tonnes of coffee have been produced so far



Natyaykan coffee farms in Ngaphe Township produces 2.5 tonnes of coffee seeds, and the private farms produce 42.5 tonnes, totalling 45 tonnes.

in the current financial year 2020-2021. The coffee production generates annual revenue of K150 million.

Sometimes, the mixed farming of coffee tree with avocado, lychee, tea leaf, elephant foot yam and other perennial crops are also found. The Agriculture Department also raises awareness of land treatment, natural fertilizer, growing methods, and coffee

production.

This year, disruption in transport hinders coffee exports. The coffee seeds are in the hands of the farmers instead.

Over 70,000 plants, including coffee, have been grown in a nursery for monsoon season, said U Zaw Thein, in charge of the coffee farm.

The coffee plants are suitable for the favourable weath-

er in the highland of Ngaphe Township. Coffee cultivation costs K2 million per acre. Natyaykan coffee farms in Ngaphe Township produces 2.5 tonnes of coffee seeds, and the private farms produce 42.5 tonnes, totalling 45 tonnes. Those coffee seeds are sent to the markets of Ywangan, Yenangyaung and PyinOoLwin townships, fetching K3 million per tonne. — Ma Yu (Ngaphe) IPRD/GNLM

Myanmar foreign trade tops \$2.176 bln as of 21 May

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 October and 21 May in the current financial year 2020-2021 plummeted to US\$2.1 billion, a sharp drop of over \$1 billion compared with the corresponding period of the FY2019-2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, the trade stood at \$3.2 billion, according to data released by the ministry.

Over the past seven months, Myanmar's export was worth over \$9.475 billion, which plunged from \$9.8 billion registered a year-ago period.

Meanwhile, the country's import was valued \$11.65 billion, showing a significant decrease of \$1.358 billion compared with the last FY.

Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts.

The neighbouring countries tightened the border security and limited the trading time to contain the spread of the virus.

At present, the traders have transaction problem triggered by the restriction of the private banks, a market observer shared his opinion.

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

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

Under the National Planning Law for the Financial Year 2020-2021, Myanmar intends to reach an export target of US\$16 billion and import at \$18 billion.

The external trade stood at \$36.73 billion in the 2019-2020FY, \$35.147 billion in the 2018-2019FY, \$18.728 billion in the 2018 six-month interim period, \$33.578 billion in the 2017-2018FY and \$29.209 billion in the 2016-2017FY, respectively, as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics. — KK/GNLM

Over 2,600 companies register via MyCO system in five months

ACCORDING to the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), the number of companies registered on the online registry system MyCO reached over 2,600 in the first five months of this year.

According to the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, registration must be done using the electronic registration system (MyCO), which was introduced on 1 August 2018.

This year, the number of registered companies on MyCO was 1,373 in January, 188 in February, 163 in March, 254 in April and 686 in May, the DICA's statistics showed.

According to DICA, 100 per cent of MyCO system users are practising online application instead of manual filings.

In 2020, the figures stood at 1,415 in January, 1,298 in February, 1,015 in March, 348 in April,

798 in May, 1,314 in June, 1,650 in July, 1,551 in August and 1,378 in September, 1,693 in October, 1,099 in November and 1,521 in December, the data of DICA showed.

In 2019, the number of registered companies mounted to 1,733 in January, 1,419 in February and 1,108 in March, 1,045 in April, 1,411 in May, 1,307 in June, 1,428 in July, 1,302 in August, 1,181 in September, 2,059 in October, 1,615 in November and 1,772 in December as per statistics of the DICA.

When the online registry was launched in August 2018, 1,816 new companies got registered via MyCO. The figures stood at 2,218 in September 2018, 1,671 in October, 1,431 in November and 1,364 in December 2018.

Further, all registered companies (old and new) need to submit annual returns (AR) on MyCo system within two

months of incorporation and at least once a year (not later than one month after the anniversary of incorporation), according to Section 97 of Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit the annual returns and the financial statements (G-5) at the same time. And, all overseas corporations must submit annual reports in the prescribed format on MyCo in 28 days after the end of the financial year under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

The companies have to submit AR within AR due date. However, more than 16,000 companies were suspended as of September 2020 because they have filed to submit AR.

Therefore, the newly established companies are requested

to submit AR within two months of incorporation. If they fail to do so, they may face a fine of K 100,000. If the AR form is filed to submit within 13 months, the system will send a suspension (I-9A) notification letter in company status. Besides, if the AR form is also filed to submit after receiving (I-9A) within 28 days' notice, the system will show suspended in company status.

Under this situation, the companies can restore their status by paying AR and late fees. Then, the companies need to submit the I-9D form. The suspended companies will have to pay a fine of K50,000 for the AR fees, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents. If AR forms are filed to submit again within six months of suspension, the system will show struck off in company status. — NN/GNLM

Police arrest terrorists with firearms, explosives

THE security members make efforts to seize the weapons, explosives and other materials of terrorists.

On 24 May, according to the tip-off, the police arrested five terrorists Ye Lin Aung, Sai Yan Naung Soe, Aung Khine Win, Thant Zin Win and Htet Hlyan Aung at a teashop near Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Chanmyathazi township of Mandalay Region.

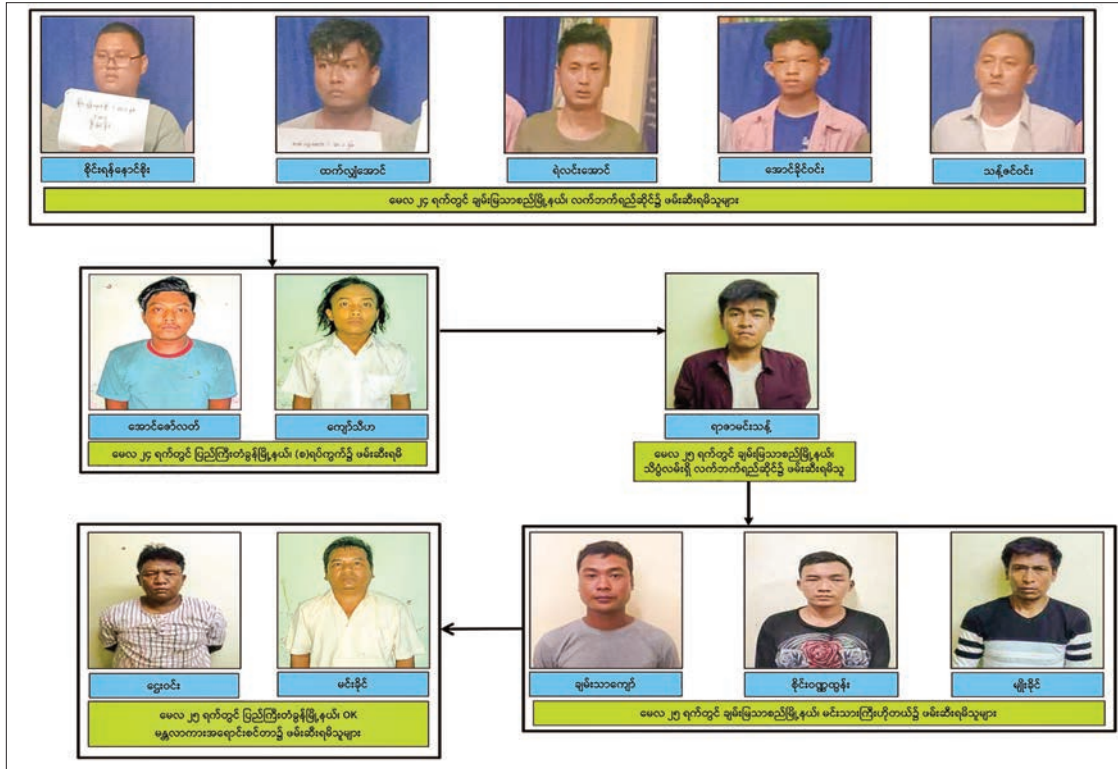
According to their testimony, the police arrested Aung Zaw Latt and Kyaw Thiha in Pyigyitagun Township with guns, bullets and grenades.

Security members arrested Yazar Min Thant (aka) Bo Chat at a teashop between 62nd and Theikpan streets in Chanmyathazi Township. They also detained Sai Wunna Tun, Chan Tha Kyaw and Myo Khine at Min Thar Gyi Hotel in the same township on 25 May, according to the words of suspect Aung Zaw Latt.

The police also detained Htay Win and Min Khine at OK Mandalar car showroom in Pyigyitagun Township with guns, bullets and grenades based on the testimony of suspect Sai Wunna Tun.

According to the tip-off, security forces raided the house of suspect Htay Win's mother in Htein Gone Ward of Pyigyitagun Township. They seized guns, bullets, detonators and mine detectors.

According to the words of Htay Win, the police further raided his mother's house on 26 May. They seized TNT bars, handmade bombs, and other



materials used in the bomb attack.

Security forces arrested 13 suspects and seized 21 M-22, one M-16 gun, 24 magazines, 217 bullets, 133 91-grenades, one handmade gun, 16 handmade bombs, 2,400 detonators, and 19 bars of

TNT powders, one mine detector and 18 detonating cords and other explosives.

The suspect, Sai Wunna Tun, testified to officials that he was one of the six members of the Tamu PDF central committee and currently seized weap-

ons and explosives were for Tamu PDF. CRHP member of Kalay Township Daw Shar Mee (former Pyithu Hluttaw MP of Kalay, NLD party) transferred him 500,000 Rupees (K5million) via Salai Aizek Kham, in charge of western military area of NUG

to support Tamu PDF's fund. He also received other cash donations from Myanmar citizens living abroad.

The suspects who intentionally threaten the peaceful lives of people will face legal actions under the law. — MNA

14 arrested for joining mine training of ethnic armed groups, perpetrating bomb attacks

SECURITY forces investigate to reveal the destructive acts, mine and arson attacks, and other acts of terrorism carried out by CRPH and NUG, which were declared terrorist groups.

Police arrested Thaw Zin Aung and his wife Kay Thwe Lwin in Myo Haung Ward of Thanlyin Township in Yangon Region. He sent people to ethnic armed groups for mine training. Guns, bullets, communication devices and other materials used in riots were also seized.

Thaw Zin Aung contacted Nyi Nyi, former Dagon Myothit (South) Township Hluttaw MP,

in order to conduct military training for about 25 people in South Dagon Industrial Zone and Twantay township and send trainees to ethnic armed groups and support firearms in Yangon. He also provided firearms to Sai Than Htike Oo (aka) Ko Sai to kill the administrators by joining Moon Light Operation led by Ko Gyo.

He also completed the mine training of ethnic armed groups and sent trainees to the groups. The police arrested Wai Yan Aung, who arranged to throw bombs into B.E.M.S (5) of Mayangon Township and kill administrators, Thet Nating Tun and Aung Hein, who

arranged to join the mining training at Ngwe Kaung Kin guesthouse of Bilin Township on 19 May.

According to Wai Yan Aung, the police arrested Sai Than Htike Oo (aka) Ko Sai in Shwepyitha Township on 20 May.

According to the testimony of Sai Than Htike Oo (aka) Ko Sai, the security forces also detained other suspects who conducted bomb attacks -- Chan Myae, Wunna Tun and Marlar Myint together with guns, bullets and other arms in Shwepyitha Township and another suspect Zwe Yan Nating with handmade bombs

and other explosives in Wai Lu Wun street in No (26) Ward of Shwepyitha Township.

The police also arrested Khant Si Thu and Lwin Lwin Nyunt with firearms, anti-government documents and other explosives at Tipitaka Maha Gandha Yone monastery in Mayangon Township yesterday.

According to their testimony, the police arrested Than Tun (aka) Than Tun Myint at his house in Mayangon township with explosives and another suspect Kyi Kin at Bayint Naung wholesale centre.

The suspect Sai Than Htike Oo (aka) Ko Sai attempt-

ed to conduct bomb attack at Khawe-Chan, a school for the blind, Ka Nya Na office (Insein), BPI compound, B.E.M.S (4) and (5) Mayangon, and near motor vehicle outpost in Thamine junction with the explosives received from Thae Thae (still investigating) together with Aung Hein, Chan Myae, Wunna Tun, Khant Si Thu and Wai Yan Aung. He also made arrangements to kill the administrators with Thaw Zin Aung and Wai Yan Aung.

Therefore, the officials will take effective actions against these 14 suspects, including Thaw Zin Aung, according to the law. — MNA

Japan to strengthen domestic chip production under growth strategy

JAPAN drafted on Wednesday a new economic growth strategy with a strong focus on enhancing domestic development and production of cutting-edge semiconductors, one of the country's vulnerable sectors uncovered during the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the annual growth plan covering a range of areas including vaccine strategy and information security, the government aims to "build a system which ensures a steady semiconductor supply" and reduce the country's dependence on

foreign manufacturers by offering research funding and encouraging chip-makers to build factories in Japan. Most semiconductor factories in Japan make low-end products and the country imports 64 per cent of the chips it consumes annually from abroad, the government said.

To strengthen digital infrastructure, the government will decentralize data centers, 70 per cent of which are concentrated in the Kanto region centring around Tokyo, to improve cybersecurity and resili-

ence to natural disasters.

The government will also provide incentives and financial support for domestic development and production of vaccines after the coronavirus pandemic exposed the country's weak vaccine infrastructure.

Japan's COVID-19 vaccination campaign completely relies on imports. The government has come under fire for a slow vaccine rollout that has been plagued by bottlenecks in vaccination booking systems, among other reasons. — Kyodo



Panasonic Semiconductor Solutions Co.'s head office in Nagaokakyo, Kyoto Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

Ransomware attack disrupts ferry service in northeast US

CYBERCRIMINALS struck a ferry service in the US state of Massachusetts on Wednesday, disrupting service between several upscale northeastern coastal communities. The Steamship Authority of Massachusetts reported the ransomware attack, which delayed its ferry service between Cape Cod and the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

"There is no impact to the safety of vessel operations, as the issue does not affect radar or GPS functionality," the company tweeted as it announced the hack. The cyberattack did partially disrupt the payment system, which moved to cash as the company said its ability to process credit cards was "limited".

The Steamship Authority said on Facebook it "continues to work with

our team internally, as well as with local, state, and federal officials externally, to address today's ransomware incident.

"At this point, we are unable to release or confirm specific details of what occurred," the statement read. The FBI office in Boston had no immediate comment when contacted by AFP. Also on Wednesday New York City's train and bus system, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), said it was hacked on April 20. However it added that little damage was done and that riders were never at risk.

An audit after the attack uncovered no signs that the operating systems had been affected, or that the hackers accessed information of clients or employees, MTA technical chief Rafail Portnoy said. — AFP ■

Huawei to launch new mobile operating system in fight for survival



Huawei's most immediate challenge is in apps - convincing enough developers to reprogramme their applications and other content to work with HarmonyOS so that consumers will continue to buy Huawei phones. This photo taken on May 31, 2021 shows the Huawei flagship store in Shenzhen, in China's southern Guangdong province. PHOTO: CHINA OUT/AFP

EMBATTLED Chinese tech giant Huawei will launch a homegrown new mobile operating system on Wednesday as it fights for survival in the smart-

phone arena after the United States blocked it from using Android.

Huawei will unveil its first mobile devices loaded with the new HarmonyOS

in an online event broadcast from its headquarters in the southern city of Shenzhen beginning at 8pm (1200 GMT). The development of HarmonyOS

has been closely watched by the tech world since Donald Trump's White House in 2018 began an aggressive campaign to short-circuit the global ambitions of Huawei, which Washington considers a potential Chinese espionage and cybersecurity threat.

Aside from the geopolitics, no company has successfully taken on the mobile OS duopoly now dominated by Google's Android and Apple's iOS systems, a battleground littered with the likes of flame-outs including BlackBerry, Microsoft's Windows Phone and the Amazon Fire device. Analysts say Huawei likewise faces a tough battle to carve out a sizeable share of the OS pie. — AFP ■



A ferry belonging to the Steamship Authority company at the port of Hyannis, Massachusetts. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V GREEN ACE VOY.NO. (120S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GREEN ACE VOY.NO. (120S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SADLERS WELLS V.8

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SADLERS WELLS** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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: 2301191/2301178

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Japan softens commitment to nuclear power in draft growth strategy



In Japan, many nuclear plants remain offline under stricter safety regulations implemented after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, which was triggered by a massive earthquake and tsunami. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN has softened its commitment to nuclear power in a draft economic growth strategy to be finalized later this month after facing opposition from several Cabinet ministers, government sources said Thursday.

The government has dropped the key phrase that it “will continue to seek to make the most of nuclear power” after protests from Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and administrative reform minister

Taro Kono, who are proponents of renewable energy to achieve a carbon neutral society, according to the sources.

The draft is being compiled at a time when Tokyo is seeking to take a leading role in combatting global warming under Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. The continued commitment to nuclear energy was sought by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The draft now says, “While

reducing reliance (on nuclear power) as much as possible, (the government will seek to) steadily proceed with the restarting of reactors in the country while placing utmost priority on safety.”

In Japan, many nuclear plants remain offline under stricter safety regulations implemented after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, which was triggered by a massive earthquake and tsunami.

The draft also described nuclear power as “an option in practical use for decarbonization,” instead of “an established decarbonization technology” — the term used in the government’s “green growth strategy” compiled mainly by the industry ministry in December last year.

That strategy said, “While making efforts to improve its safety and reducing reliance on it as much as possible, the Japanese government will continue to seek to make the most of nuclear power.”

The strategy was issued in line with Suga’s pledge last October to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

In April, Suga vowed to achieve a new goal of a 46 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by fiscal 2030 compared with fiscal 2013.

The government’s softened stance on the use of nuclear power is likely to influence its mid- to long-term basic energy plan to be compiled by autumn, which is meant to play a key role in realizing Suga’s ambitions. — Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pandemic, poverty loom over Mexican elections

THE coronavirus pandemic has claimed thousands of lives in his impoverished district of Mexico City, but Edgar Alonso is still determined to go out and vote in Sunday’s midterm elections.

The 48-year-old, who runs a small electronics business in a market in densely populated Iztapalapa, home to 1.8 million people, said he is keeping his faith in the electoral process.

“Covid is fate. We cannot control it,” he said.

“We have to go to vote and exercise our rights as citizens,” he added.

For Alonso and others like him in Iztapalapa, poverty and the daily struggle to survive are what motivate them to vote for candidates they hope will make a difference.

“If we just sit here doing nothing, things will stay the same our whole lives,” he said.

“What we want is a real change.”

Yet not everyone shares his enthusiasm in Iztapalapa, one of Mexico City’s poorest neighbourhoods, where the coronavirus has killed nearly 6,600 people -- more than in the whole of Israel or Ireland. — AFP ■

US suspends tariffs on UK, India, European nations in digital tax dispute

THE US government announced Wednesday it is suspending for six months any punitive tariffs on Britain, India and four European nations while it works to resolve a dispute over digital services taxes.

“The United States is focused on finding a multi-lateral solution to a range of key issues related to international taxation, including our concerns with digital services taxes,” US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said in a statement.

The suspension, which applies to Austria, Italy, Spain and Turkey, comes at the conclusion of year-long investigation into taxes which Washington said discriminated against big US tech companies like Apple, Amazon, Google and Face-

book.

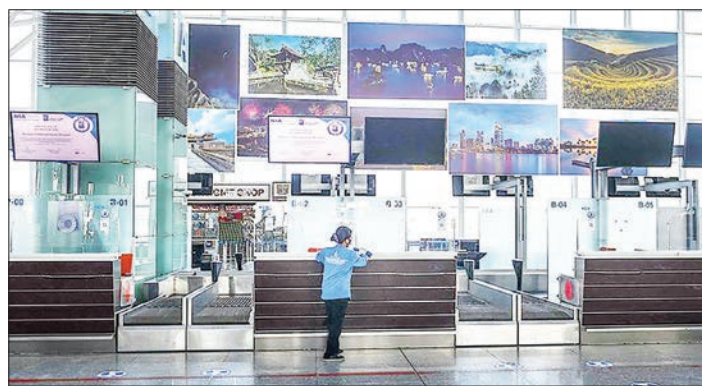
But USTR made clear it still had the option to impose punitive duties on goods from the countries that adopted the taxes.

President Joe Biden’s administration is pushing for a 15 per cent global minimum corporate tax that aims to resolve the issue of corporations sheltering profits in low-tax nations.

“The United States remains committed to reaching a consensus on international tax issues through the OECD and G20 processes,” Tai said.

“Today’s actions provide time for those negotiations to continue to make progress while maintaining the option of imposing tariffs... if warranted in the future.” — AFP ■

Vietnam reverses virus flight suspension



A cleaner cleans a check-in counter area of Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. **PHOTO: AFP**

INTERNATIONAL flights to Vietnam’s two biggest cities are to resume, officials said Wednesday, reversing a short-lived ban imposed over fears of a new coronavirus wave.

The Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam on Monday announced a temporary suspension for international passenger arrivals at Hanoi’s Noi Bai airport from June 1-7.

A similar decision was in force for the airport in commercial capital Ho Chi Minh City until June 14, as the country struggles to contain a virus outbreak in more than half of

its territories.

But on Wednesday the aviation authority told airports and airlines that it had reversed the suspension, without mentioning a timeframe or giving an explanation.

Vietnam has managed to keep infection rates low but cases have more than doubled in the past month and now stand at more than 7,500, with 48 deaths.

The communist state was lauded for its quick response to the pandemic last year, but vaccine rollout has been slow. — AFP ■

Tokyo stocks rise as vaccination progress lifts recovery hopes

TOKYO stocks rose Thursday as an acceleration of the domestic coronavirus vaccine rollout raised hopes for an economic recovery and prompted buying of railway and auto issues.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 111.97 points, or 0.39 per cent, from Wednesday at 29,058.11. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished 16.37 points, or 0.84 per cent, higher at 1,958.70.

Gainers were led by food, rubber product, and farm and fishery issues. — Kyodo News ■

Crucial test for Merkel's conservatives in Germany regional vote

ANGELA Merkel's conservatives could face a far-right upset at key state polls on Sunday, the last big test of Germany's political mood before the first general election in 16 years not to feature the veteran chancellor.

Surveys have the extreme-right AfD neck-and-neck with Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, with a recent poll by the Bild daily even predicting the anti-immigration party will for the

first time win a regional vote.

Victory for the AfD would be a devastating blow for the conservatives just four months ahead of Germany's national election on September 26, and could further weaken the already fragile standing of Merkel's would-be successor Armin Laschet.

"The CDU is in a relatively weak position in the polls, as is Laschet," said political scientist Hajo Funke of Berlin's Free University. — AFP ■



Green Party regional co-chairman Sebastian Striegel says the party is enjoying momentum from Berlin as it looks to make new inroads in a state where previously it has struggled. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Robert Mueller to teach course on his Trump investigation

FORMER Special Counsel Robert Mueller will be his own subject when he teaches a course on his eponymous investigation of president Donald Trump, the University of Virginia Law School announced Wednesday.

The school said the notably reticent former FBI chief and federal prosecutor, 76, will teach a class on special counsel investigations alongside three other members of his nearly two-year probe into connections between Russia and Trump's 2016 election campaign.

"I was fortunate to attend UVA Law School after the Marine Corps, and I'm fortunate to be returning there now," Mueller said in the announcement. "I look forward to engaging with the students this fall."

Since submitting the investigation's final 448-page report in March 2019, Mueller has commented very little on it nor on how the controversial investigation operated. — AFP ■

Second suspect pleads guilty in US Capitol attack

A man who joined the January 6 attack on the US Capitol and carried a large red Trump flag onto the floor of the Senate pleaded guilty Wednesday to a charge of obstructing an official proceeding, as the Justice Department begins chipping away at some 450 cases related to the uprising.

Paul Hodgkins, 38, was the second person to plead guilty in what has been called an insurrection by supporters of president Donald Trump that shut down the Congress and stunned the country.

The native of Tampa, Florida travelled alone to Washington on the day that President Joe Biden's election victory over Trump was to be certified by Congress. — AFP ■

Israel's Lapid says he formed new coalition to unseat Netanyahu

ISRAEL'S opposition leader Yair Lapid said he had succeeded in forming a broad-based coalition to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the country's longest-serving leader.

Should it be confirmed by the 120-member Knesset legislature in the coming days, it would end the long reign of the hawkish right-wing leader known as Bibi, who has long dominated Israeli politics.

Lapid's announcement late Wednesday came in the final hour before a midnight deadline, following marathon negotiations with a group of parties spanning the political spectrum, united only in their desire to oust Netanyahu.

"I succeeded," Lapid, a former TV news anchor, wrote on Facebook. "I promise that this government will work in the service of all of the citizens of Israel, those who voted for it and those who did not."

The right-wing nationalist



Israel's centrist opposition leader Yair Lapid. PHOTO: AFP

tech millionaire Naftali Bennett, 49, would serve first as prime minister in a rotation agreement, with Lapid to take over after two years.

"With the help of God we will do together what is good for Israel and we'll get Israel back on track," Bennett told Israel's President Reuven Rivlin after Lapid had informed Rivlin of their coalition.

The opposition leader and

his partners now have at least a week before lawmakers must vote to confirm their government a period during which Netanyahu and his Likud party are expected to try to do what they can to prevent it.

Should last-minute defections scupper the "change" alliance, Israel would likely have to hold yet another election, the fifth in just over two years.

— AFP ■

Germany-Russia flights resume after tit-for-tat cancellations

AIRLINE companies said flights between Germany and Russia had resumed Wednesday evening, after each country blocked the other's incoming flights as part of the fall-out from tensions over Belarus.

German airline Lufthansa told AFP that the Russian authorities had finally granted it clearance for passenger flights to Russia in June.

"That means Lufthansa flights to Moscow and Saint Petersburg can be operated as

planned," said a spokeswoman for the airline.

In Russia, Mikhail Poluboyarinov, chief executive of Aeroflot told the TASS news agency: "Everything is fine, we have received all the authorizations."

And another Russian airline, S7, said it too had received clearance for its flights to Germany, the Ria Novosti agency reported.

Earlier Wednesday, Germany's transport ministry

said it had blocked flights operated by Russian airlines from arriving in its territory after Moscow failed to provide authorisations for Lufthansa.

Two Russia-bound Lufthansa flights due to depart earlier Wednesday from Germany had been cancelled because Russian authorities did not provide the necessary permits for them in time, the ministry said.

"Due to the reciprocal practice, the Federal Aviation Authority also did not issue any further permits for flights operated by Russian airlines as long as authorisations are pending on the Russian side," it added. — AFP ■



A technician of the German airline Lufthansa works on a parked plane at Munich International Airport, Munich, southern Germany, April 28, 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ASEAN zonal AFC Cup moved to a week later

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has recently decided to reset the fixtures for the AFC Cup ASEAN Zone Group Stage matches, originally scheduled to hold from 22 to 28 June, to a week later.

“The matches in Group H will now be played from 29 June to 5 July 2021, with Group I matches currently scheduled

for 30 June to 6 July 2021.

The decision to reschedule the ASEAN Zone was taken after confirming the new match schedule for the AFC Champions League (East) Playoff matches. They are now planned for 22 June 2021 and, depending on the outcome of the Preliminary Stage matches, may include the participa-

tion of teams from the ASEAN Zone,” officials said.

“All other conditions related to the 2021 AFC Cup (ASEAN Zone) remain the same with Groups H, and I scheduled to take place in Singapore while the venue for the remaining Group G will be decided at a later date,” officials added.

ASEAN Zone consists of the football teams from 12 associations of the ASEAN Football Federation.

There are three groups in the group stage in the ASEAN Zonal competition, including nine direct slots, with the three remaining slots filled through qualifying playoffs. — GNLM

Ancelotti a ‘different’ man following Real Madrid return



Carlo Ancelotti said he was returning to Real Madrid a “different” person after being appointed for a second spell in charge of the Spanish giants. The 61-year-old was chosen as the replacement for Zinedine Zidane, with Ancelotti leaving Everton after 18 months at Goodison Park. **PHOTO: AFP**

CARLO Ancelotti said he was returning to Real Madrid a “different” person after being appointed for a second spell in charge of the Spanish giants.

The 61-year-old was chosen as the replacement for Zinedine Zidane, with Ancelotti leaving Everton after 18 months at Goodison Park. “I want to thank the president. I’m very happy to come back here, I feel that I’m at home here,” Ancelotti said as he was unveiled at Wednesday’s news conference. The Italian won the Champions League in his first stint in Madrid between 2013 and 2015, before taking over at Bayern Munich and then Napoli. “Carlo Ancelotti is not the same as he was six years ago. I’m different, I have six more years of experience. Positive and negative,” he said. “I was happy at Everton, at a family club. But negative experiences can also make you grow. My first spell here, I remember all that very clearly.

“The matches won, the triumphs, the difficult moments as well, the day of my departure, the day I first arrived.” “Five years have passed, but coming back here is always something very special,” he added. “I have the same feelings as I had when I first arrived. But now, I’m more certain and more confident.” Ancelotti brushed off questions about transfer plans and how his team might look next season, saying he “hadn’t had the time to speak with the club”. — AFP ■

10,000 Olympic volunteers quit ahead of Games: organizers



Organizers say the reduction in volunteers will not affect the Games because the event has been scaled back. **PHOTO: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/ AFP**

AROUND 10,000 of 80,000 planned Tokyo 2020 Olympic volunteers have quit, organizers have revealed as they battle persistent doubts over the Games with just 50 days until the opening ceremony.

Tokyo 2020 chief Seiko Hashimoto ruled out a further postponement of the Games, speaking to a Japan sports paper, and said cancellation would only happen in catastrophic circumstance such

as most delegations not being able to come to Japan.

Organizers will later Thursday mark 50 days to go when they unveil details about the medal ceremonies, in the latest attempt

to build public enthusiasm despite polls showing most people in Japan want the Games delayed or cancelled. Japan is battling a fourth wave of coronavirus infections, with Tokyo and several other parts of the country under a state of emergency due to last until a month before the Games.

On Wednesday night, Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto told local media that around 10,000 volunteers -- who are vital to the smooth running of the massive event -- have quit, largely over coronavirus concerns. Others dropped out after the Games were postponed by a year, or in protest over sexist remarks made by Hashimoto’s predecessor who was forced to resign. Some of the volunteers are likely also to be among the approximately 80 per cent of people in Japan who oppose hosting the Games this year, according to opinion polls. — AFP ■

AC Milan pondering a move for former Birkirkara goalkeeper Guarnone

SERIE A giants AC Milan are reportedly evaluating the possibility of signing former Birkirkara goalkeeper Alessandro Guarnone. A report on Tuttomercatoweb.com said that Guarnone, who came through the AC Milan youth system, could be a candidate to be the club’s third goalkeeper for season 2021-22. AC Milan are currently looking to strengthen their goalkeepers’ department following the departure of Gianluigi Donnarumma and his brother Antonio.

Guarnone formed part of the AC Milan Academy for several years and the report said that the Serie A club are seriously considering offering him a contract for next season in the role of third goalkeeper. In fact, the report said that given his past in the club’s youth system he would not take a spot in the club’s UEFA Champions League roster that would be submitted to UEFA. The 22-year-old goalkeeper has enjoyed a very positive season with Birkirkara last season after joining the Valley Club last October.

In fact, Guarnone made 19 appearances with Birkirkara and managed nine clean sheets. His performances helped Birkirkara to finish fourth in the BOV Premier League that earned the side a place in the newly-formed UEFA Europa Conference League. — AFP ■



Serie A giants AC Milan are reportedly evaluating the possibility of signing former Birkirkara goalkeeper Alessandro Guarnone. **PHOTO: AFP**