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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 18 June 2021

## Every government is responsible for restoring peace and stability and development of the respective countries: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC Management Committee Meeting 9/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 June 2021.

**T**HE government manages the socio-economic development of the people by relying on taxes, said State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 9/2021 meeting of the SAC Management Committee at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said every government is responsible for restoring the peace and stability and development of the respective countries for the socio-economic

development of the citizens. The previous meeting of the council arranged to change the financial year. Since the period the country regained the State's independence, the government had calculated summer holidays of students, correction for answer papers and holidays of teachers. With regard to convening the Hluttaw, the government was formed in early March. The maincrop paddy of the country can be harvested at the end of the monsoon. So, agricultural products can be sold in the open season. After all, the State budget can be calculated cor-

rectly. Change of financial year in the term of previous government much caused troubles in

the businesses. So, the financial year will be re-changed starting from the 1 April similar to the

past arrangements.

So, arrangements were made to reduce the substitute office holidays in amending the government holidays. The holidays were set during Myanmar's Maha Thingyan festival period for the people to take relaxation.

GDP of the State comprises 21 per cent of the agriculture sector, so it is necessary to beef up the agriculture sector. Livestock and fish from the livestock sector must be produced as value-added products with the export purpose.

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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.

## COVID-19: start ourselves to take preventive measures

ALL people are urged to abide by the following ways of prevention against COVID-19 without fail in line with the motto: "COVID-19: start ourselves to take preventive measures" not to violently infect COVID-19 as next wave and not to be infected of variant COVID-19 virus.

- (1) Systematically wear masks whenever go outside and also wear face shields whenever associate with many people.
- (2) Take adequate distance from each other as much as they can.
- (3) Avoid the crowds.
- (4) Take 20 seconds in systematically washing hands many times.
- (5) Avoid the visits to the closed chambers, air-conditioned rooms and the lesser ventilated rooms as much as possible.
- (6) Those who need to go outside houses should avoid acts close to and eat meals together with older persons above 60 years and those with diabetes, hypertension, and heart diseases.
- (7) Fully cooperate in quarantine processes.
- (8) Don't buy something from the vendors who do not wear masks.
- (9) Exchange information to each other.
- (10) Cooperate in vaccination of COVID-19 pandemic. Continuously follow the preventive measures although they have received the vaccinations.
- (11) Strictly follow the work guidelines for preventing the COVID-19 pandemic issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.
- (12) If somebody suffers from symptoms of higher body temperature, coughing, suffocation, tiredness and sudden loss of smell and flavour, they need to immediately contact nearby health units to receive medical treatment.

*Health Knowledge Awareness Promoting Department  
Ministry of Health and Sports*

## 362 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 June, total figure rises to 146,768

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **146,768** after **362 new cases** were reported on 17 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **133,346** have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA



# All must place emphasis on ecosystem restoration

INCLUDING the Covid-19 global pandemic. With the continued outbreak of the pandemic this year, all must place emphasis on ecosystem restoration as a priority to solve the problems of depleting natural resources, environmental pollution and climate change.

*(Excerpt from the speech to the State Administration Council meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 6 June 2021)*

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Law Amending the 2020 Union Tax Law State Administration Council Law No 20/2021

8<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nayon 1383 ME  
17 June 2021

THE State Administration Council hereby enacted the law in accord with Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with the aim of resurging delayed businesses and investments based on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The law shall be named the Law Amending the 2020 Union Tax Law.

The law shall come into effect from 1 July 2021 to 30 September.

The table mentioned in Sub-Section (a) of Section 25 of the 2020 Union Tax Law shall be substituted as follow:

Sr	Income (Kyat)		Income Tax Rate
	From	To	
1	1	100,000,000	3 per cent
2	100,000,001	300,000,000	5 per cent
3	300,000,001	1,000,000,000	10 per cent
4	1,000,000,001	3,000,000,000	15 per cent
5	Above 3,000,000,001		30 per cent

I signed it in accord with Section 419 of the Constitution-

**Sd/Min Aung Hlaing**  
**Senior General**  
**Chairman**  
**State Administration Council**

## Every government is responsible for restoring peace and stability and development of the respective countries: Senior General

### FROM PAGE-1

If tasks are undertaken to reduce the rate of electricity bill, setting of suitable labour charge and betterment of transport in railroads and motor roads to reduce the production costs, prices of commodities will decline. So, all need to cooperate in implementing the tasks mentioned above as electrification plays a key role in developing a country, electricity generation from renewable energy such as hydropower and solar power. Some people are working abroad due to lesser job opportunities at home. The operating of factories can create employments at home. It is necessary to encourage rural-based businesses for the improvement of life of the rural people.

It is necessary to have a fair ratio of teachers to students at universities, colleges and basic education schools. Necessary teachers will be appointed. Arrangements are being made to present cash awards to teachers for their performances.

Union ministers discussed their respective sectors and sought approvals.

Next, the Senior General said that vehicles and motorcycles without licences broke security measures several times. Motorcycles involved in the events did not bear number plates based on CCTV documents. Yangon Region does not allow riding of motorcycles in the municipal area but outside the municipal area.

Illegal import of vehicles and mo-

Arrangements will be made for effective undertakings of transport tasks to develop the rural areas. Emphasis will be placed on the improvement of rural businesses and cooperative societies as well as small-scale enterprises.

The Senior General stressed the need to export advanced value-added livestock products using domestic beef, pork, chicken and marine products, which are the main products of the State. Likewise, encouragement must be given to the breeding of dairy cows to further export natural milk to foreign countries by effectively utilizing the allowed land plots and pasturelands.

Railways in good conditions will much benefit the State economy. Arrangements will be made for effective undertakings of transport tasks to develop the rural areas. Emphasis will be placed on the improvement of rural businesses and cooperative societies as well as small-scale enterprises.

When schools are opened, teachers are teaching students amidst difficulties due to the disturbance of CDM workers and anti-organizations.

torcycles without licences causes much loss in levying the tax for the State and harming the rule of law. So, it is necessary to bar illegal import and export effectively. As there remain billions of kyat from electric meter bills, efforts must be made for collecting the bills at full capacity. Government manages socio-economic development of the people by relying on the taxes. So it is necessary to levy total charges of taxes.

Coordination will be made with relevant departments to reduce the appropriate tax rates for enabling the State to get income from tax and for the monetary circulation of the private sector. So, the tax rate to be reduced from 1 October to 31 March will be considered more. The best way is being sought for the local entrepreneurs, the government and the people. — MNA

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 138/2021

8<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nayon 1383 ME  
17 June 2021

## Reformation of Union Ministry

THE State Administration Council has reformed the Ministry of Education, under Section 419 of the State Constitution, as the following Ministries:

1. Ministry of Education
2. Ministry of Science and Technology

**By order,**  
**Aung Lin Dwe**  
**Lieutenant-General**  
**Secretary**  
**State Administration Council**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council

Order No 139/2021

8<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nayon 1383 ME

17 June 2021

Appointment and duty assignment of  
Union Minister

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Dr Myo Thein Kyaw to the duties of the Union Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology in accord with Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council

Order No 140/2021

8<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nayon 1383 ME

17 June 2021

Formation of Union Ministry

THE State Administration Council has formed the Ministry of Cooperatives and Development of Rural Areas, according to Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

## Joint Consultative Meeting held via videoconference

U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the Joint Consultative Meeting which was held via videoconference yesterday at 1pm from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The Joint Consultative Meeting was chaired by Ms

Emaleen ABD Rahman Teo, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam as ASEAN Chair and attended by ASEAN Senior Officials from Three Pillars, ASEAN Permanent Representatives and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the Joint Consultative

Meeting, the Senior Officials discussed and exchanged views on matters pertaining to ASEAN 2021 Priorities and key deliverables including ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision and Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025, , ASEAN's Key initia-

tives on COVID-19 Response, Cross-sectoral and Cross-pillar Issues/ Coordination, ASEAN Connectivity, Promoting Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Promoting Sub-Regional Cooperation for Sustainable

Development.

Dr. Wah Wah Maung, Director-General from Ministry for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and U Aung Myint, Director-General from Ministry for Religious Affairs and Culture also attended the meeting from their respective offices. —MNA

## Director-General of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department elected as General Secretary of Asia, Far East and Oceania Region at 88<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session

THE 88<sup>th</sup> General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates of the OIE held from 24 and 28 May via videoconferencing in Paris of French.

The assembly shared animal health information and discussed matters pertaining to animal health and welfare, measures to improve animal diseases, regulations to apply set by OIE for disease prevention in trading animal and animal products, and approved the OIE 7<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2021-2025. Director-General for Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Ye Tun Win joined the assembly.

The assembly elected the officials for the positions of Di-

rector-General, council member, other vacant for the bureau of four commissions and five regional commissions by secret vote. Then, Director-General Dr Ye Tun Win was selected as General Secretary of Asia, Far East, and Oceania.

The Regional Commission for Asia, Far East and Oceania will have to carry out the issues in order to follow the rules for animal health set by OIE in member countries, promote the roles of regional experts and cooperate with the Tokyo and Bangkok based OIE offices on communicating with other member countries during three years term (2021-2023). —MNA

88<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session - Voting Platform

OIE Regional Commission for Asia, Far East and Oceania

President: Dr Baoxu Huang (PR China)  
Vice-President: Dr Tony Zohrab (New Zealand)  
Vice-President: Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan)  
Secretary General: Dr Ye Tun Win (Myanmar)

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.



## Sebesten business widely operated as traditional business

MYANMAR people may not have seen Sebesten (*Cordia dichotoma*), but few have ever seen its leaf because of a large number of people who smoke Sebesten cigarettes (cheroot-like smoking article consisting of tobacco rolled in a wrapper made from the leaf of *Cordia dichotoma* tree).

Sebesten (*Cordia dichotoma*) is a species of flowering tree in the borage family, Boraginaceae, and mainly grown in Lonetwe, Naungphat, Kaunglaing, Kaungyaw, Taungkwe, Nanli, Minekyin, Panlyin, Nanmawmar, Humine, Minekyi, Nan kut, Panlin areas in Mongpan Township, Nan Khote area and Hopong, Shan State (South).

Sebesten business is one of the main industries in Shan State. Growers cultivate the tree on dry hillsides after clearing the mountain forests. Each plantation grows 50 to 4,000 plants. The land is burned in Pyatho and



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Tabodwe months and sown in Kason month. When the seedlings become about 36 inches, they are taken out from the ground, cut the lateral roots, and only the main root is planted two feet apart. Fertilization of Sebesten trees;

Earthquake It is better to do the weeding. When the branches reach the plants and spread out, only two or three main branches are left to clear the rest, and the leaves are sprayed several times to prevent the leaves from being

infected. It is better to do weeding and fertilization in planting Sebesten plants. When the branches reach the plants and spread out, only two or three main branches are left to clear the rest, and the leaves are

sprayed with pesticide to prevent them from being infected. If the plant grows, the leaves should be picked from the age of three, and if the soil is poor, the leaves should be picked from the age of four. Each plant produces 30 to 40 leaves. Waso, Wakaung and Tawthalin months are harvesting time and the leaves are harvested four times a year.

In making Sebesten leaves cigarettes, the veins of the leaves are removed one by one and dry-fried in a pan that is on a long stove. Then, the fried leaves are sold to the markets once they have been sorted to small and large sizes. There are 6,000 small leaves and 7,000 large ones in one viss, and about 1,200 visses are reportedly sold every year. It is learned that more than 7,000 acres of Sebesten plants have been grown, mainly in Hopong, Shan State. — Zeya Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

## Falling lemon prices hit farmers' profits



The lemons from Singaing Township are distributed to the wholesale centres of Mandalay at between K2,000 and K2,500 for 100 lemons.

THE lemon farmers are caught between the rising lemon plantations and falling prices this year, said the lemon farmers from Singaing Township of Mandalay Region.

They grow Bamar lemon, Shan lemon, Monywa lemon and lemon (*Citrus limonia*). Of them, the Bamar lemon is available all year round. They are harvested well, especially in monsoon, and the prices drop as the consumption rate decline. Then, it was K50 per lemon, and now it is only K25 per lemon.

“The sales of lemon are normal in the local market. Although there is plenty of lemon during this month, like Kason and Nayon, the prices usually fall. The lemon prices at the farms are between K20

and K25 for the big size and between K10 and K15 for small ones. Although the prices drop during this time, they creep up again in Pyatho and Tabodwe. The production rate decline in Tagu. Prices are between K150 and K200 per lemon as they can be used in making medicines,” said lemon farmer Daw Thida Aung from Singaing Township.

The lemons from Singaing Township are distributed to the wholesale centres of Mandalay at between K2,000 and K2,500 for 100 lemons. The farmers also make preserved lemon not to face any losses due to the fruit drops. The villages located in Patheingyi and Singaing townships and along the Dokhtawady River of Mandalay Region mainly grow the lemons. — Min Htet Aung/GNLM

## Shwe Pyi Tan express water vessels suspended because of weather condition

THE schedules of Shwe Pyi Tan express water vessels operating Sittway-Taungup town, Kyaukpyu town every week have all been suspended starting from 11 June because of bad weather condition, according to the Shwe Pyi Tan office agent.

The water vessels have been suspended because it is raining continuously every day, and there can break out the river flooding in Kyaukpyu town, Rakhine State.

Shwe Pyi Tan express water vessels operate Sittway-Yambye-Kyauknimaw-Taungup routes from Kyaukpyu town on Tuesdays and Fridays, Taungup, Kyauknimaw-Yambye-Kyaukpyu-Sittway town on Wednesdays and Saturdays, Sittway-Kyaukpyu-Taungup town on Sundays and Taungup-Kyaukpyu-Sittway town on Monday. Those vessels are running along those routes in line with the guidance of the COVID-19 rules and regula-

tions set up by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Currently, the water vessel schedules have been suspended because of the inclement weather. The continued service will depend on weather condition.

The vessel routes will be run as usual only after the weather is clear, said an official from the Shwe Pyi Tan office from Kyaukpyu township.—Tin Tun Oo, Phyo Wai Lin/IPRD/GNLM



The water vessels have been suspended because it is raining continuously every day, and there can break out the river flooding in Kyaukpyu town, Rakhine State.



# Green gram prices rocket on high foreign demand



As per green gram plantation data, there are over 300,000 acres of plantations in the country. Green grams are primarily grown in Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and Kayin states.

THE prices of the green gram are rising on the back of the high foreign demand, traders said.

The prices (Shwe Wah variety) rocketed up to K105,000-127,000 per three-basket bag.

At present, the regular inflow of green grams is seen in the domestic market. India and China steadily demand the green gram. Additionally, some local traders are purchasing the green grams to export them to Thailand and Viet Nam as well.

China accounts for 60 per cent of Myanmar's green gram exports. In addition, countries in the European Union also purchase green grams from Myanmar.

The export volume of green grams to India is lower compared to other countries. China prefers green grams (Shwe Wah variety,) said an official from the Commerce Ministry.

China makes value-added products from green grams and sends them to foreign markets. Moreover, it produces bean by-products as feedstuffs.

The country has generated \$266.49 million revenue from green gram exports in the first half (Oct-Mar) of the current financial year 2020-2021.

Myanmar's green gram exports have registered at over 330,000 tonnes in the 2015-2016

financial year, over 400,000 tonnes in the 2016-2017FY, and over 350,000 tonnes in the 2017-2018FY and over 300,000 in the 2018-2019FY. Green grams are mostly exported to China through the border trade channels.

Of the total pulses' exports, green grams accounted for more than 26 per cent of the exports in the previous years.

As per green gram plantation data, there are over 300,000 acres of plantations in the country. Green grams are primarily grown in Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and Kayin states. — KK/GNLM

## Rubber prices likely to keep climbing in next two months

ACCORDING to a rubber price analysis by National Enlightenment Institute (NEI), the prices of rubber rose this month and are likely to stay high in the next two months, July and August, according to a rubber price analysis by National Enlightenment Institute (NEI).

At present, Myanmar natural rubber fetched K870 per pound (0.45 kilograms) while the price of the ribbed smoked sheet (RSS) hit K880 per pound.

According to last year's Myanmar rubber analysis data, the price of rubber has risen as rubber production has declined in the off-season in June, July and August.

That is why the rubber prices are likely to rise in this year's rubber off-season, NEI reviewed.

The prevailing price of natural rubber fetched K710 per pound while the RSS price hit K720 per pound on 1 January. Thus, there were not many fluctuations in the first five months of this year (January-May). However, the effects of the political upheavals in February led to a halt to rubber trading and a more volatile condition of rubber price.

Besides, the farmers and entrepreneurs face difficulties in terms of cash flow because of the suspension of banking services. The rubber latex production has dropped because it is time for rubber leaves to fall off in Mon state from the third week of February to the end of March.

However, rubber prices slightly rose as of end-May

thanks to the strong demand for rubber from the Thailand border and China. On 10 May, the cost of natural rubber hit K920 per pound while RCC touched K930 per pound.

In the last five months of 2020, the rubber price ranged from K600-K740 per pound. Thus, this rubber season could earn the farmers a good price.

This year's rise in rubber prices can be attributed to the foreign demand for the rubber to manufacture the rubber gloves to prevent from being infected with COVID-19.

Mon State has the most extensive acreage of rubber in Myanmar, with the production of over 240 million pounds of rubber, according to the 2020 official statistics of Mon State Agriculture Department.

Rubber is primarily cultivated in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago,

and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber seasons' data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar. Mon State accounts for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres, according to the MRPPA.

Further, about 300,000 tonnes of rubber are produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber made in Myanmar goes to China. In addition to China, the country also shipped rubber to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar annually exports over 200,000 tonnes of raw rubber to foreign countries generating over \$200 million. — NN/GNLM



Rubber is primarily cultivated in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber seasons data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar.

## Palm oil price rises by K1,000 per viss in four months



The prevailing price of groundnut oil for the Ahmay Htwar brand was K7,700 per viss on 4 February. But the price rose to K8,250 per viss on 14 June. The cost of sesame oil has also increased to K9,150 per viss from K9,000 per viss on 14 June.

THE price of palm oil has risen by K1,000 per viss in the domestic market starting from the first week of February, according to the official statistics of the Central Statistical Organization (CSO).

On 4 February, the price of palm oil was around K2,600 per viss. But after four months, the palm oil price reached K3,500 per visses on 14 June.

The prevailing price of groundnut oil for the Ahmay Htwar brand was K7,700 per viss

on 4 February. But the price rose to K8,250 per viss on 14 June. The cost of sesame oil has also increased to K9,150 per viss from K9,000 per viss on 14 June.

Although prices of other kitchen crops such as onions and potatoes have fallen in 4 months, the palm oil price is on the rise. The meat price such as fish and mrigal has been rising slightly since June. But the chicken price is on the rise and has been increased to K2,000 per viss. — ACM/GNLM

## Daily newspapers available online

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## State Administration Council Press Release

### Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

*Information Team  
State Administration Council*

**The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**

## Press release of facts about fire in Kinma village, Pauk Township, Magway Region



WHEN security forces arrived to arrest people selling explosives and handmade guns in Kinma village, armed terrorists opened fire near the village and set fire to the village houses. Some media outlets have been falsely accusing the security forces of setting fire to the houses in Kinma village.

At around 12:45 am on 13 June, three men, including Kyaw Min Naing, threw two homemade bombs to the house of U Sein Maung while five men with him were chatting in Wungyi village, Sharhla village-tract, Seikpyu Township, Pakkoku District, Magway Region. Due to the bomb, U Sein Maung and Ko Min Min Soe were injured. Security forces

arrested and investigated the bomber, Kyaw Min Naing.

According to the investigation, it was known that the homemade bomb was purchased from a man lived in Kinma village, Pauk Township. Further investigation showed that the man who sold the bomb has been making and selling homemade guns and bombs with the financial support of a former NLD party member and a former ward/village administrator.

When the security forces went to arrest him on 15 June in Kinma village, a group of 10 gunmen opened fire towards them from the hill and retreated after being retaliated. When security forces were attacked

again while conducting a detailed search on the mountain, they tried to go to Kinma village and found the fire in the village.

It is reported that local PDF terrorist groups fleeing into Kinma village and armed insurgents from Chin State set fire to the home of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) member U Kyaw Htay in the village, from which the fire was spread to other houses.

Due to the confrontation between a coalition of security forces that came to investigate the death that happened in the village and the terrorist group on 1 June, most of the villagers no longer live in the village and

have moved to towns/villages where their relatives live.

However, since there were only PDF terrorist groups and the elderly who had stayed to guard the house, the fire was not extinguished.

Due to the lack of villagers when the fire broke out, water scarcity to put out the fire and the difficulty for fire trucks to come, about 100 houses were destroyed by fire although the security forces tried to extinguish the fire.

Security forces rescued 83-year-old Daw Khin Su and 81-year-old Daw Htwar Sein from two burning houses in the area and transported them to a village monastery safe from fire. As a result of the arson

attack, two pagodas on Pagoda Hill, two pavilions, two buildings in the basic education middle school, one house under construction and all houses except 20 houses were destroyed. Security forces left the village at 6:30 pm.

The PDF terrorist groups and insurgents who came from Chin State set fire on Kinma village by themselves.

NLD supporters, PDF, extremist terrorists, and media outlets are fabricating false information on Facebook, intending to mislead the public and the international community about the security forces and the State Administration Council. — MNA



# COVID-19: start taking self-preventive measures

MYANMAR neighbouring countries had faced the infection of variant COVID-19 virus for many days when Myanmar kept herself away from the variant virus.

Some patients with variant COVID-19 virus were recently found in Myanmar, one of whom was a foreign returnee in Yangon Region. Variant COVID-19 viruses UK alpha, India delta and Kappa have been found in Myanmar. Starting from the second week of June, as hundreds of patients are suffering from the COVID-19 virus, it is necessary to take preventive and containment measures against the pandemic with a plan to provide treatments to the patients rapidly.

Hence, the government, the people and the health workers should join hands as tripartite efforts in prevention, containment and treatment of variant COVID-19 in possibly coming to the third wave.

they arrive and whatever they do.

It is no reason not to achieve success if the people are in union to take systematic prevention, containment and treatment of the pandemic in line with the health guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Now is a very important time to fight against the pandemic. Hence, the government, the people and the health workers should join hands as tripartite efforts in prevention, containment and treatment of variant COVID-19 in possibly coming to the third wave.

Beware of the variant virus of COVID-19! Let's join hands to fight against the pandemic!



# 'Families came first' for remittances in year of pandemic, says Guterres

Migrants working away from their families made significant sacrifices to send money home last year as they did before COVID, UN chief António Guterres said on Wednesday, warning that now is not the time for countries to withdraw their support to these key workers.



A construction worker digs at a building site while in the background numerous cranes are positioned around high-rise apartment buildings under development in the Qatari capital Doha. PHOTO: AFP

THE Secretary-General's message to mark the International Day of Family Remittances, comes as World Bank data showed that cash wired home from migrants in wealthy countries, dropped only 1.6 per cent in 2020 from 12 months earlier, to \$540 billion, far lower than initial estimates. "Migrants put their families first", by buying less and dipping into their savings to send money to relatives, Mr Guterres said. "Fortunately, remittances have proved to be much more resilient and dependable than expected" he added.

**Big value on small remittances** Individual remittances may not be of high value but collectively the flows are three times greater than global official overseas development assistance, according to the UN. They underwrite many basic household needs and support education and entrepreneurship, which often prove transformational for households and local communities, and contribute to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Local currency depreciation in recipient countries and increased government support

for formal migrants in host countries during the pandemic, also had an impact on keeping remittances buoyant. **Protect migrants** Looking forward, Mr. Guterres said efforts must continue to support and protect migrants, who - as the COVID-19 pandemic has made clear - play an important role in keeping essential services and economies running in many parts of the world. "Ensuring that all migrants, regardless of legal immigration status, are included in COVID-19 vaccine distribution plans, is

critical for the health and safety of all", he underscored. Calling them "a lifeline in the developing world", he also advocated for continued efforts to reduce the costs of transferring remittances to as close to zero as possible, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to foster financial inclusion for migrants and their families, especially in poor rural areas. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration offers a unified framework for such actions, the Secretary-General said. **SOURCE: UN**

# Interview: Huge amount of data supports COVID-19 emergence as natural event, says New Zealand scientist

"There is a huge amount of data to support this being a natural event", David Hayman, a professor of infectious disease ecology at Massey University in New Zealand, said, referring to the emergence of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

THE joint World Health Organisation (WHO)-convened report has not excluded any hypotheses, but ranked them on the basis of current evidence and research required. Essentially, I am in agreement with the conclusions presented by WHO," Hayman told Xinhua in a recent interview.

**Circumstantial evidence** "To date, there is nothing but some circumstantial evidence that SARS-CoV-2 escaped from a laboratory," said the scientist, who reiterated that he still does not see any signs of human intervention of the virus according to all the evidence and data scientists have got so far.

In earlier June, Hayman told The New Zealand Herald that a lab-made pandemic is extremely unlikely, as there is no genetic sign of human meddling.

"People really need to understand that viruses do recombine. For example, the novel virus from Malaysia that was recently detected seems to be a recombinant

of a cat and dog viruses, which were also previously not known," Hayman was quoted by the newspaper as saying. He told Xinhua that the outbreak of COVID-19 is not a surprising phenomenon for human beings, since every moment there are people infected with numerous diseases from animals.

**Similar scenarios** Hayman noted that similar scenarios happened before, like SARS in 2002 and MERS in 2012, and will not stop happening. "Which viruses or other new infections that infect people depend on the viruses in nature in those regions."

As to the origin tracing in the future, Hayman called for more collaborative and transparent international cooperation under the guidance of the WHO, joined by exceptional scientists from diversified backgrounds.

"It is feasible that if the proper source tracing is done, such as through animal market com-

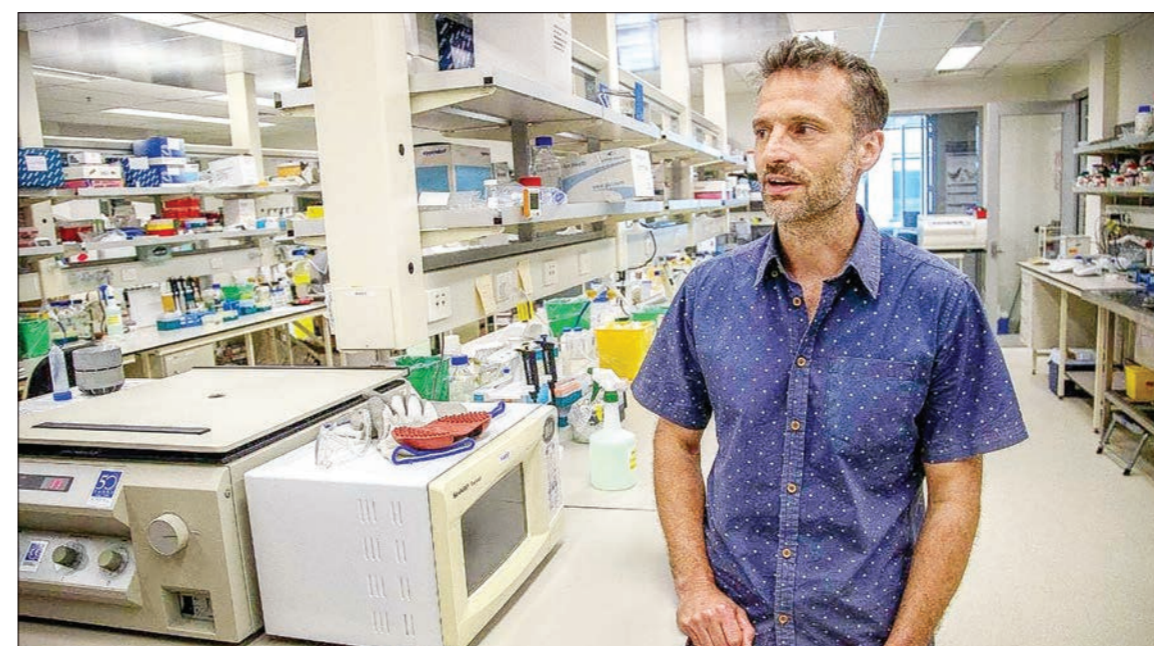
modity chains, then work outside China may need to be undertaken. For example, there is evidence of highly diverse, but SARS-related coronaviruses in other parts of Asia. Making the links between the different species, including people, and locations requires cooperation," Hayman said.

"There were many sensible suggestions for future studies in the joint WHO-convened report. I believe these should be followed," Hayman said.

"We need more data to piece together what the likely pathway was. This work will require more interviews of people, testing samples from people, along with sampling wild and domesticated and farmed animals. This will take time, money and patience."

### Complexity of virus transmission

Hayman also warned that like other virus emergences, human beings may never know precisely what happened because of the complexity of virus transmission, but scientists need to make judge-



Hayman, a professor of infectious disease ecology at Massey University, studies how diseases emerge and spread. Hayman has had a busy year working with international organizations about the emergence of infectious disease. PHOTO: WARWICK SMITH/STUFF/XINHUA

ments based on the cumulative evidence which may ultimately accumulate and become more concrete. Hayman revealed that most people in his academic bubble, especially colleagues working with infectious diseases, believe the most likely way SARS-CoV-2

emerged is from a person having contact with an infected animal rather than the "lab leak theory." However, he himself has been pressurized by some people that hold strong disbelief in the WHO study. "I believe international cooperation is essential and that

everyone benefits from openness and collaboration. The key is obtaining and verifying the evidence to enable ongoing studies. All countries and media have a responsibility to ensure respectful and sensible debate, based on scientific evidence," Hayman added. **SOURCE: XINHUA**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor, I am a Swiss/Italian citizen who has been living in China for the last 25 years. I had experienced social unrest in Hong Kong, and I can clearly see similar patterns in Myanmar.

Unfortunately, the democratic process has been corrupted by foreign meddling through various agencies like NED, USAID, USAGM, Open society and many other NGOs who have deep pockets and have been pouring a lot of money into Myanmar for their regime change - colour revolution agenda.

Myanmar is not the first victim of the US agenda to create a new world order where the predators of finance would dominate a majority of the working poor's. In Ukraine, the USA had invested 4 billion dollars into the actors of civil society, the pro-USA opposition, the media, unions & syndicates. They managed to overthrow a democratically elected government to install a US puppet.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been all along with another US puppet. She is surrounded by foreign advisors like Sean Turnell, who used to consult for the US state department and George Soros Open society and is currently consulting for MID, an NGO financed by USAID.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been all along playing at the hands of foreign powers. This is clearly a sign of a lack of allegiance to Myanmar. She has been working hard to shift away from China by disrupting several critical projects related to the Belt and Road initiative, thus following her foreign advisor's and US master orders.

It is time that Myanmar finalizes its decolonization and gets rid of foreign interference. There are pre-conditions for democracy:

- No foreign interference
- Peace
- Respect for each other differences
- Transparent elections
- No money interference
- Non-bias media.

As long as those pre-conditions are not met, only Myanmar's military can maintain Myanmar's sovereignty. If the military falls, it will be the end of Myanmar. It could fall into civil war and complete balkanization of the country.

It will be the best-case scenario for the US, create chaos. Divide and conquer.

People of Myanmar, wake up. Hope you can look for what unites the people of Myanmar and work out peacefully your differences.

Peace  
Angelo Giuliano  
WhatsApp — 0041.79.104.3221

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## Thai PM vows kingdom's reopening in four months

THAILAND plans to fully reopen to foreign visitors in four months, Premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha vowed on Wednesday, citing the urgent need to save the kingdom's ailing tourism industry.

The coronavirus pandemic has hammered Thailand's tentpole tourism sector amid border closures and strict hotel quarantine measures.

The impact has reverberated across different sectors — downing hotels, restaurants, bars and local transport operators — and the country's present battle against a third wave has left local businesses clamoring for more government aid.

Tourism previously made up almost 20 per cent of Thailand's national income.

"I am therefore setting a goal for us to be able to declare Thailand fully open within 120 days from today, and for tourism centres that are ready to do so even faster," Premier Prayut said in a televised address on Wednesday evening.



Prayut Chan-O-Cha said Thailand's top priority is to get at least one shot for everyone in the country ahead of the re-opening. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

He said the only exception would be "if a truly serious situation develops".

"I know this decision comes with some risk... but I think when we take into consideration the economic needs of people, the time has now come for us to take that calculated risk," he said.

To do this, Thailand's top priority is to get at least one shot for everyone in the country

ahead of the re-opening, he said.

Prayut expects 50 million Thais to be inoculated by October with a target of at least 10 million per month.

"We cannot wait for a time when everyone is fully vaccinated with two shots to open the country or for when the world is free of the virus," he said.

Thailand has recorded close to 205,000 infections and 1,525 deaths. — AFP ■

## EU moves to pre-Covid normal as cases spike in Moscow

THE European Union on Wednesday agreed to lift coronavirus restrictions for US travellers as Western countries move toward a return to pre-Covid life, but in a stark reminder that the global pandemic is far from over, Moscow ordered mandatory masks over a "dramatic" rise in infections.

The United States was among eight countries and territories added to an EU "white list", exempting them from Covid-19 travel bans ahead of the busy summer holiday season critical to the economies of many European countries.

EU states will still be able to choose to require travellers from these areas to undergo Covid-19 testing or undergo a quarantine once the new list is approved.

Albania, North Macedonia, Serbia, Lebanon, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong have also been added to the EU white list, officials said.

France meanwhile said

masks would no longer be required outdoors from Thursday and that an unpopular Covid curfew would be scrapped on June 20, 10 days earlier than initially planned, thanks to falling infections.

"The health situation of our country is improving faster than we expected," said Prime Minister Jean Castex.

On the economic front, Spain and Portugal became the first EU countries to win Brussels' approval Wednesday for their recovery plans seeking funding from the bloc's multi-billion-euro coronavirus rescue fund.

But in a less positive development, an interim analysis of the Covid-19 vaccine being developed by Germany's CureVac was shown to be just 47 per cent effective.

The company blamed the "unprecedented context of at least 13 variants" circulating among the 40,000 people included in the study, which spans 10 countries. — AFP ■

## More horses die as Bangladesh tourist town reels from Covid closures

ANIMAL activists in Bangladesh have warned of a growing crisis among horses used for tourism during the country's coronavirus lockdown, after owners said Wednesday that five more had died of starvation in a popular resort town.

Twenty-one horses that used to carry tourists along Cox's Bazar beach in south-eastern Bangladesh died in one month, their owners said, after a lockdown imposed from April 14 saw visitors to the scenic spot dry up.

The owners — who make ends meet through horse-riding services for tourists on the beach — said they had no income to buy fodder for the horses, and had to take out micro-loans just to feed their own families.

"Tourist arrivals in the beaches have ground to a halt. My horses are idle," Farida Begum, spokeswoman of the Cox's Bazar Horse Owners Association and a horseowner

herself, told AFP.

"Five more horses have died since the start of the month... I've borrowed money from a micro lender to buy food for the horses. I had to mortgage my sister-in-law's ornaments to pay a loan instalment." Begum said another five of the remaining 64 horses at Cox's were "ill due to starvation". "If we soon cannot start feeding them properly, they will die as well," she said. Another horse owner, Rezaul Karim, said he was struggling with "neck-deep debt". "The horses are turning violent and bad-tempered due to hunger. Often they bite each other while roughhousing. This is a matter of concern as they are usually very tame animals," he said.

Activist Ibrahim Khalil said government officials did not take the deaths of the animals seriously as he warned the situation could worsen if the government did not step in to help the owners. — AFP ■

## Royal Caribbean delays trip after 8 crew test Covid-19 positive

ROYAL Caribbean is pushing back the maiden voyage of a new ship by a month after eight crew members tested positive for Covid-19, the company's chief executive said.

"Two steps forward and one step back!" Chief Executive Michael Bayley said in a Facebook post Tuesday night that announced the delay for the inaugural trip of "Odyssey of the Seas."

"During routine testing, eight crew members received a positive test result for Covid-19," Bayley said.

"The eight crew members, six of whom were asymptomatic and two with mild symptoms, were quarantined and are being closely monitored by our medical team."

All 1,400 crew members were vaccinated on June 4 and will be considered fully vaccinated on June 18.



Royal Caribbean pushed back an inaugural voyage on a new ship after eight crew members tested positive for Covid-19. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The test results came after the staff was vaccinated but before the shots were fully effective, Bayley said.

The Odyssey voyage, is now set to depart from Port Everglades, Florida on July 31 instead of July 3.

The delay comes just days after Royal Caribbean's Celebrity Millennium trip had two

cases of Covid-19.

The trip, which had departed from the Caribbean island of St. Maarten on June 5, was the first by a major cruise ship to depart North America since the pandemic.

Everyone on the cruise had been vaccinated, including all crew, the company said. — AFP ■



# Rocket blasts off carrying first Chinese crew to new space station



A Long March-2F carrier rocket, carrying the Shenzhou-12 spacecraft and a crew of three astronauts, lifts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the Gobi desert, in northwest China. PHOTO: AFP

THE first astronauts for China's new space station blasted off Thursday for the country's longest crewed mission to date, a landmark step in establishing Beijing as a major space power.

The trio launched on a Long March-2F rocket for the Tiangong station, where they

will spend three months, in a much-anticipated blast-off broadcast live on state TV.

Lift-off happened at 9:22 am (0122 GMT) from the Jiuquan launch centre in northwest China's Gobi desert, with the rocket rising in clouds of smoke against a blue sky.

After about 10 minutes it reached orbit and the spacecraft separated from the rocket, to loud applause in the control room among rows of blue-suited engineers.

State broadcaster CCTV showed a live feed from inside the spacecraft, with the three

astronauts lifting their helmet visors and one smiling and waving at the camera.

Another floated a pen just off his lap in zero-gravity as he browsed the flight manual.

Cameras outside the craft broadcast live images of the Earth below.

"According to reports from the Beijing aerospace control centre, the Long March-2F rocket has sent the Shenzhou-12 manned spacecraft to the preset orbit," said Zhang Zhifen, director of the Jiuquan satellite launch centre. "The solar panels unfolded successfully and now we declare the Shenzhou-12 launch a complete success."

At a ceremony before blast-off, the three astronauts, already wearing their space suits, greeted a crowd of supporters and space workers, who sang the patriotic song "Without the Chinese Communist Party, there would be no new China".

— AFP ■

## UAE, oil-producing Arab countries turn to space development

ARAB oil producers, alarmed by their economies' dependence on a resource for which demand is set to fall, are focusing on space development in a new strategic turn aimed at both building up new industries for the future and raising national prestige.

Taking the lead is the United Arab Emirates, which has already begun an exploration of Mars and will launch a lunar probe next year. Technical experts in their 30s and younger, many of them women, are at the heart of the efforts, and collaboration has started with other Arab countries.

The Gulf state has developed its economy on the back of abundant crude oil and gas resources, but Sarah Al Amiri, a computer engineer and the UAE's first minister of state for advanced technology, warns that the end of the road for reliance on these resources is ahead.

"We completely under-

stand that demand for oil will decline at a certain point in the future," she said in a recent interview with Kyodo News.

The 34-year-old emphasized that fostering the science and technology industries through space development will be "the fuel" for a sustainable economy into the future.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre is located in a desert region around 20 minutes by car from the bustling economic hub of Dubai.

It manages the "Hope" orbiter, which entered Mars' orbit in February as the first Arab interplanetary probe.

According to Omran Sharaf, 36, the project manager of the UAE's mission to Mars, the staff employed at the space center has an average age in their late 20s, with women comprising half of the leadership roles in each department. — AFP ■

## German police probe 'irresponsible' Greenpeace stunt at Euro match

POLICE in Munich said Wednesday they were investigating a Greenpeace activist for "several offences" after the 38-year-old parachuted into the stadium before the Germany-France Euro 2020 match, injuring two people. The widely condemned stunt, which Greenpeace said did not go as planned, was captured on camera shortly before kick-off on Tuesday evening.

The activist was seen flying over the stadium in Munich strapped to a yellow parachute microlight before apparently getting tangled in overhead camera wires. He was thrown off course

and narrowly avoided crashing into the stands before landing on the pitch among the players. His parachute had "Kick out oil!" written on it.

The pilot, later identified as a 38-year-old from Germany's Baden-Wuerttemberg state, was detained by police. Police said two men were injured during the activist's attempts to land. Both suffered head injuries and were taken to hospital.

There was no immediate update on their condition on Wednesday morning, a Munich police spokesman told AFP. — AFP ■



The paraglider was thrown off course and narrowly avoided crashing into the stands before landing on the pitch among the players. PHOTO: MATTHIAS SCHRADER/POOL/AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Biden sets red line for Putin over ransomware attacks

US President Joe Biden delivered a stern warning Wednesday to Russian leader Vladimir Putin over ransomware attacks emanating from Russia, saying he was prepared to retaliate against any more cyber assaults on American infrastructure.

Speaking after the two leaders' first summit in Geneva, Biden said he laid down the line on Moscow not taking action against hackers who have extorted hundreds of millions of dollars from western governments, companies, and organizations from the safety of Russian soil. "I pointed out to him we have significant cyber capability and he knows it," Biden said in a press conference after their talks.

"He doesn't know exactly what it is, but it's significant. If in fact they violate these basic norms, we will respond."

— AFP ■

### Vietnam's pangolin defender wins top environmental prize

A Vietnamese conservationist working to save pangolins from the devastating multi-billion-dollar wildlife trade won a prestigious award Tuesday for his role in rescuing over a thousand of one of the world's most endangered creatures.

Highly prized in China and southeast Asia for their flesh, pangolins are seen as a delicacy for the mistaken belief that they can cure anything from impotence to cancer. Nguyen Van Thai, director of Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW), has been at the forefront of efforts to raise the alarm internationally about the serious problems Vietnam faces as a major hub for wildlife trafficking.

He was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize -- known colloquially as the "Green Nobel" -- which honours grassroots environmental leaders who have made "sustained and significant efforts" to protect and enhance the natural world. — AFP ■



# Japan to start issuing vaccine passports in July



Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 17 June, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN plans to issue so-called vaccine passports from around mid- to late July as more activities around the world open up to people who have been vaccinated against the coronavirus, the nation's top government spokesman said Thursday.

The government is asking other countries to exempt travelers carrying the documents that officially certify their

vaccination status from quarantine or to shorten the quarantine period, government sources said earlier.

"To prepare for prompt issuance, we will first issue the vaccination certificates by paper but will also make consideration for their issuance in the digital format," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato at a regular press conference.

Business circles in Japan have been calling for the introduction of vaccine passports as economic activities reopen, hoping to revive travel.

The European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are also introducing vaccination certificates for international travelers from their member states.

The certificate, to be issued by municipal-

ities using the central government's records, will include the holder's name, birthdate, passport number, date of vaccination and the vaccine manufacturer in Japanese and English.

Applicants will be asked to fill out documents at local government locations until an electronic format is developed. The certificate will be issued free of charge.

The government will update the vaccination data system to record information both in Japanese and English before certificate applications start, the sources said.

For inbound travelers, Japan currently allows entry only to nationals and resident foreigners as well as foreigners with "special exceptional circumstances." — Kyodo News ■

## Major banks, airlines report online outages

MAJOR banks and airlines in Australia and the United States suffered brief online outages Thursday, with several blaming an "external provider" for the disruption.

Most of Australia's major financial firms reported customers could not access websites and mobile apps, while website Downteetor said a slew of US airlines were also affected.

American, Delta, United and Southwest airlines were among them, although all four websites appeared to be working shortly after.

The issues ap-

peared to be more prolonged in Australia -- where problems hit in the mid-afternoon as much of the rest of the world slept -- with services only slowly returning an hour after the first reports.

A spokesperson for ANZ bank told AFP that the incident was "related to an external provider" but that "connectivity was restored quickly and the most impacted services are back online".

Australia's largest financial firm Commonwealth Bank told AFP that it and many of the country's major banks had been affected. — AFP ■

## G7 global infrastructure plan faces obstacles as Chinese alternative

THE global infrastructure plan announced by G7 leaders aims to offer developing nations a credible alternative to China's much-criticized Belt and Road Initiative -- but it faces major hurdles on the ground, especially if Beijing's hiccups are any indication. US President Joe Biden was able to convince the G7 to sign onto the initiative, drawing allies into Washington's strategic rivalry with Beijing, under a plan titled "Build Back Better World" (B3W) that aims to provide hundreds of billions in infrastructure investment to developing nations.

It is a project that takes a page from China's book, with Beijing already attempting to wield influence and make friends with



The Celukan Bawang 2 power plant in Singaraja on Indonesia's resort island of Bali is seen in October 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

billions of dollars through its Belt and Road Initiative, albeit sometimes without great success. The Beijing plan "has under-delivered on many of its promises and generated pushback against China from many

countries, creating an opening for the B3W initiative," said Eswar Prasad, a China specialist at Cornell University. China launched the project in 2013, aiming to develop land and sea infrastructure that would link

Asia, Europe and Africa to China. Eight years later, the complaints abound: allegations of non-transparency, corrupt contracts and even human rights and environmental degradation. — AFP ■

### TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (122S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (122S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-6-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/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.

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# Apple warns EU law ‘risks destroying iPhone security’

THE EU’s proposed new rules to rein in tech giants risk undermining the security of the iPhone, Apple chief Tim Cook warned Wednesday.

The European Union last year unveiled tough draft rules targeting tech giants like Apple, Google, Amazon and Facebook that could shake up the way Big Tech does business.

Cook, speaking at the VivaTech convention for startups in Paris, took aim at some of the rules that target online “gate-

keepers” such as Apple which controls which apps can be installed on its phones and tablets.

He said current proposals “would force side loading on the iPhone, and so this will be an alternative way of getting apps onto the iPhone”.

Side loading would allow iPhone users to install apps directly from publishers, something they cannot currently do.

The restriction that iPhone owners may only buy apps from Apple’s App Store, where com-

missions run up to 30 per cent, is at the heart of a lawsuit between the tech giant and Epic Games, the publisher of the popular Fortnite video game.

The EU also pushed forward with charges against Apple over the App Store, saying the company used it to squeeze out rivals.

Apple has countered that restrictions on downloading apps are essentially to protect consumers from dangerous software. — AFP ■



Apple CEO Tim Cook argues curbs on downloading apps are essentially to protect consumers from dangerous software. PHOTO: APPLE INC./AFP

## Company to build electric seaglider for UK-France trips

BRITTANY Ferries and US start-up Regent plan to develop a high-speed electric seaglider that would skim above the water to take passengers

between France and Britain, the French company said on Wednesday.

The project is based on a craft being developed by Boston-based

Regent that could result in “50-150 passenger capacity sailing between the UK and France by 2028,” a statement said.

Regent expects the

first commercial passengers to travel on smaller electric craft by 2025, it added. Seagliders, sometimes called wing-

ground effect vehicles, benefit from a cushion of “high-pressure air trapped between wings and the ground or water while flying at low altitude,” the ferry company

explained. “Seagliders are therefore akin to a hovercraft with wings, rather than a skirt,” it said. — AFP ■

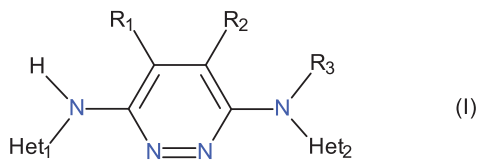
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#### 3,6-DIAMINO-PYRIDAZIN-3-YL DERIVATIVES, PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING THEM AND THEIR USES AS PRO-APOPTOTIC AGENTS

That the Companies hold Europe Patent Application / Registration No. – 19188747.0 dated 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 and PCT/EP2020/071179 dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

This patent invention relates to 3,6-diamino-pyridazin-3-yl derivatives, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them and their uses as pro-apoptotic agents. The compounds of the present invention inhibit the activity of the Bcl-xL protein and may be of interest in the treatment of cancer, immune and autoimmune diseases.



wherein Het<sub>1</sub>, Het<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined in the description.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said patent will be dealt with according to law.

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Phone: 01-8372416 Date: 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

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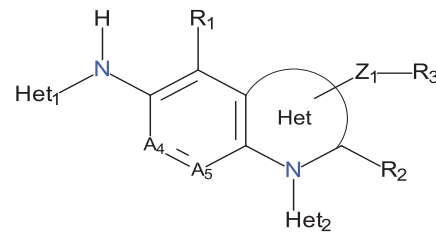
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#### 6,7-DIHYDRO-5H-PYRIDO[2,3-c]PYRIDAZIN-8-YL DERIVATIVES, PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING THEM AND THEIR USES AS PRO-APOPTOTIC AGENTS

That the Companies hold European Priority No. 19188749.6 dated 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 – and PCT/EP2020/071181 dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

This patent invention relates to 6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrido[2,3-c]pyridazin-8-yl derivatives, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them and their uses as pro-apoptotic agents. The compounds of the present invention inhibit the activity of the Bcl-xL protein and may be of interest in the treatment of cancer, immune and autoimmune diseases.



wherein Het, Het<sub>1</sub>, Het<sub>2</sub>, A<sub>4</sub>, A<sub>5</sub>, Z<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined in the description.

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## EU agrees new Belarus sanctions after plane re-routing



Belarusian activists protest at the Polish border seeking stronger action from the European Union against the Belarusian government. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU ambassadors agreed on Wednesday to impose sanctions on 78 individuals and seven entities after the forced landing of a European airliner by Belarus, diplomats said.

Seven of the individuals being sanctioned are linked directly to the incident involving the Ryanair passenger jet last month and 71 are targeted over the government's broader crackdown on opposition, diplomats said.

The measures are set to be formally adopted on Monday when EU foreign ministers meet.

Belarusian strongman Alexander Lukashenko sparked international outrage by dispatching a fighter jet on 23 May to intercept the Athens-to-Vilnius flight and arresting dissident journalist Roman Protasevich and his girlfriend on board.

The EU in response has

already blocked Belarusian airlines from flying to the bloc and stopped carriers from its 27 nations from using Belarusian airspace.

Brussels is also currently working on plans to hit key sectors of the Belarusian economy - with fertiliser production and bond sales in Europe possible targets.

The EU has already placed 88 individuals—including Lukashenko and his son—and seven companies on an asset freeze and visa ban blacklist over a brutal crackdown on protests since the veteran leader claimed victory at elections in August deemed fraudulent by the West. — AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Mexico City metro crash probe blames structural flaws

AN investigation into the Mexico City metro disaster revealed Wednesday a series of construction flaws in the overpass that collapsed, killing 26 people and prompting angry demands for justice.

The initial report by Norwegian engineering company DNV said that a structural failure had caused the elevated section to give way on 3 May, bringing a passenger train crashing down.

The preliminary findings, which were presented at a news conference by Mexico City authorities, identified a number of deficiencies in the construction process.

They include "unfinished and/or poorly executed welding," insufficient bolts and the use of different types of concrete.

The experts also found deformations and fractures in the beams of the section that collapsed, injuring dozens of people and prompting accusations of negligence from devastated relatives.

The metro line, the city's newest, has been plagued by problems since it was opened in 2012. — AFP ■

#### Ex-mayor jailed for 8 years over Mexican journalist's murder

A former mayor in northern Mexico has been condemned to eight years in prison for his involvement in the 2017 murder of journalist Miroslava Breach, prosecutors said Wednesday.

A court in Chihuahua state handed down the sentence on Tuesday to Hugo Amed Shultz, the ex-mayor of Chinipas who was arrested in December.

He was ordered to pay damages and make a public apology to the victim's family for his role as an accomplice, the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Investigators said Amed Shultz, a member of the conservative National Action Party (PAN), provided information to the organized crime group that carried out the murder, which drew international condemnation. Juan Carlos Moreno, also known as "El Larry," was convicted of being the "intellectual author" of the murder and sentenced to 50 years imprisonment last August.

Mexico is regularly rated by watchdog Reporters Without Borders as one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists.

Breach, who covered the country's drug war, is one of more than 100 journalists who have been murdered in Mexico since 2000. — AFP ■

## Ivory Coast ex-leader Gbagbo heads home after war crimes acquittal

FORMER president Laurent Gbagbo returns to Ivory Coast on Thursday for the first time in nearly a decade, after he was cleared of crimes against humanity and his once-bitter rival welcomed him back in the name of reconciliation.

Gbagbo left the country in humiliation in 2011, after his refusal to accept defeat in an election sparked a conflict that ended in his arrest and dispatch to The Hague.

The 76-year-old's homecoming will be a key test of stability in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa producer and the wealthiest country in francophone West Africa.

Gbagbo is set to land in economic hub Abidjan

at 1545 GMT aboard a commercial flight from Brussels, his home since the International Criminal Court (ICC) acquitted him in a shock decision in 2019. An appeal against the ruling failed in March, paving the way for his return.

He was ousted in April 2011 after around 3,000 people died in the months-long conflict that followed his refusal to accept electoral defeat at the hands of Alassane Ouattara, the current president.

#### Crowds to cheer him on

Today, Gbagbo has been recast in the role of statesman, called upon to help national reconciliation after elections last year left scores dead. — AFP ■



Gbagbo's hometown of Mama is preparing to welcome back the man they call "father". **PHOTO: AFP**

## Protests, strikes in Greece over disputed labour law

GREECE'S parliament on Wednesday approved controversial labour reforms despite major strikes and street protests by critics who say the changes undermine hard-won workers' rights.

No ferry services to Greek tourist islands were available and urban transport in the capital was disrupted by the 24-hour walk-out, the second in a week.

Police said more than 7,000 people demonstrated against the bill in Athens on Wednesday morning, and around 9,000 were gathered outside parliament as 158 MPs from the ruling right-wing New Democracy party approved the law in the 300-seat body.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said the "deeply pro-growth" reforms would align the country with "fast-paced" European standards and bring "transparency" to union processes.

One in four workers in Greece today is undeclared or partially declared to labour authorities, the prime minister said.

But communist party leader Dimitris Koutsoumbas said the new system legalizes a workplace "jungle" where employees will be "totally defenceless".

And leftist opposition leader Alexis Tsipras denounced the law as a "return to the Middle Ages", saying: "This bill means working more for less pay and without (job) security."

Public services were also shut in opposition to the new law, which promotes flexible working hours and sets tougher rules on strikes.

The government says the reform introduces optional working-hour flexibility, sets rules on remote work, improves parental leave and includes safeguards against sexual harassment in the workplace. — AFP ■



# Biden, Putin hail positive talks, but US warns on cyberwar

JOE Biden and Vladimir Putin sought to cool tensions in the combustible US-Russian relationship at their first summit in Geneva on Wednesday, with the US president saying his Kremlin counterpart doesn't want a new Cold War. The two leaders emerged cautiously positive after more than three hours of talks, including two hours alone with just the Russian foreign minister and US secretary of state.

"The conversation was absolutely constructive," Putin told reporters, adding they had agreed for their ambassadors to resume their posts in a gesture of diplomatic healing. Biden called the session, conducted at an el-

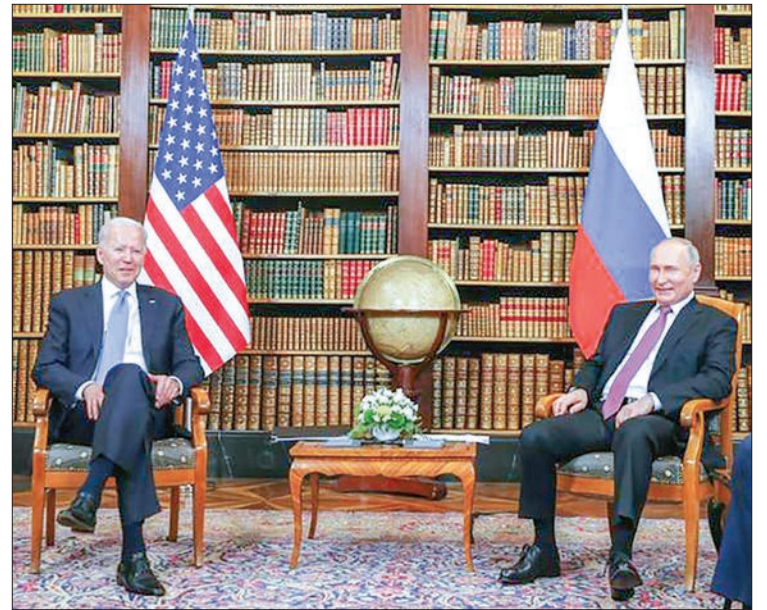
egant villa on the shores of Lake Geneva, "good".

The US president, who was ending a grueling diplomatic tour of Europe, said he and Putin explored working together on areas where the former superpower rivals have overlapping interests, including the Arctic, Iran and Syria. Biden told a press conference that the two biggest nuclear powers "share a unique responsibility" on the world stage. However, Biden emphatically warned the Kremlin against any cyberattacks on what he said were 16 clearly defined areas of US critical infrastructure. Those areas, which he did not make public, "should be off limits". Violations, Biden

warned, would lead to a US response in kind -- "cyber".

Washington accuses Moscow of, at a minimum, harbouring cyber ransomware gangs and also conducting the SolarWinds cyberattack on US entities. US intelligence has also claimed that Russian agencies conducted a dirty tricks campaign to try and disrupt the last two presidential elections.

But to suggestions that the world could witness a repeat of the 20th century's Cold War -- when Washington and Moscow spent decades in a nuclear standoff before the Soviet Union finally collapsed -- Biden said Putin knows his limits. — AFP ■



Diplomatic relations between Moscow and Washington had all but broken down since Biden took office in January. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

## US Congress votes to make Juneteenth, end of slavery, a holiday

THE House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to create a federal holiday commemorating Juneteenth, which until now has been the unofficial fete marking the end of slavery in the United States.

The measure cleared the Senate by unanimous consent Tuesday after a Republican in the chamber ended his objection. With the House passing it in a 415-14 vote, the bill now heads to President Joe Biden for his signature.

Most US states recognize Juneteenth as a holiday or officially observe the day, but the bill passed by Congress would make Juneteenth the 12th US federal holiday -- and the first new one in 38 years.

The commemoration has taken on renewed resonance over the past year with millions of Americans confronting the



The US House of Representatives sent a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday to President Joe Biden's desk. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

country's living legacy of racial injustice.

"Juneteenth is as significant to African Americans as it will be to Americans because we too are Americans, and it means freedom," House Democrat Sheila Jackson Lee told her colleagues,

describing slavery as "America's original sin."

Juneteenth National Independence Day is commemorated on June 19 to celebrate the day in 1865 when the last enslaved African Americans learned that they were free. — AFP ■

## Israel's sidelined ultra-Orthodox parties fear new coalition govt

ISRAEL'S ultra-Orthodox parties were once viewed as political kingmakers, but now they have been pushed into opposition by a "change" government they fear will put secular values before theirs.

After years in power under ousted premier Benjamin Netanyahu, the ultra-Orthodox parties are "experiencing a deep crisis", said Peggy Cidor, a journalist at the Jerusalem Post newspaper.

In Israel, where Orthodox practise is for Jews the basis for state laws in matters such as marriage, divorce and death, a constant battle rages over religion's grip on public life.

Many ultra-Orthodox "are terrified by this new government" which appears to them as "catastrophic", said Cidor, an expert on the haredi society, the Hebrew name for ultra-Orthodox Jews who constitute some 12 per cent of Israelis.

In Israel's latest general election back in March, the two ultra-Orthodox parties -- Shas and United Torah Judaism (UTJ) -- won 16 of parliament's 120 seats, and both backed Netanyahu's failed bid to remain as prime minister.

The parties were banking on remaining in the coalition arrangements they had been part of for most of Netanyahu's 12 unbroken years of rule. — AFP ■

## Texas OKs public gun-carrying without permit

GOVERNOR Greg Abbott signed into law Wednesday a bill that allows Texans to carry firearms in public without a permit, the latest in a series of measures expanding gun rights in conservative US states.

The law, which was passed in the Republican-dominated state Senate and House of Representatives last month, will allow anyone 21 years or older who is not barred from possessing a firearm to carry one in public without a permit.

HB1927 argues that both the United States and Texas constitutions allow citizens to bear arms and that therefore there should be fewer barriers to being able to carry such weapons.

Proponents of the law, which will go into effect September 1, call such a measure constitutional carry.

Abbott is set to preside over a ceremonial signing of

the law on Thursday morning, according to the Texas Tribune newspaper.

Abbott previously indicated he would sign the bill if it passed the state's legislative houses.

"This is something that 20 other states have adopted and its time for Texas to adopt it, too," Abbott told local talk radio station WBAP in April.

But opponents, including state and national Democrats, say more lenient rules on guns could lead to more violence.

They cited mass shootings in the state's capital Austin last week that left one person dead and 13 injured and a 2019 gun massacre at a Walmart in El Paso in which 23 people were killed and 23 others injured.

US Representative from Texas Veronica Escobar said in a tweet Wednesday that by signing the bill Abbott "has chosen to betray the victims of gun violence." — AFP ■



A clerk hands a customer an AR-15 style rifle from TPM Arms LLC on display for sale at the company's booth at the Crossroads of the West Gun Show at the Orange County Fairgrounds on 5 June, 2021 in Costa Mesa, California. PHOTO: AFP



## Myanmar Lethwei to grab Mixed Martial Arts contests in near future



Myanmar Lethwei stars Tun Tun Min (left) and Shwe Raman (right). **PHOTO: KO THAR GYI**

AS traditional Bamar boxing (Myanmar Lethwei) has passed down, the combat has the potential in order to become famous in international martial arts due to its compact structure, which is of particular interest to foreigners, mixed martial arts analysts said.

The success of the sports is one of the fundamental causes of the country's development.

Myanmar has adopted the traditional combat, and at one time, it was considering reaching

the global stage, officials said.

"There are foreigners who see that Myanmar Lethwei is complete than other martial arts. Therefore, we need to have better policies to develop Myanmar Lethwei. We also need to introduce Myanmar Lethwei to developed countries as part of their sports sector.

Myanmar Lethwei is harder than any other martial arts. It will be challenging to enter the Olympics because the Olympics

highlights natural sport types. However, I see the potential of Lethwei to be a king in martial arts," said Tati Yoe Lethwei Group leader U Win Zin Oo.

### Can express national honour

Just as the state produces national athletes, professional athletes bring honour to the country.

By holding more professional competitions like Myanmar Lethwei Golden Belt Tournament that can be attended by new generations from respective states and regions, brutal combat sport will be able to show the glory of the country by competing against foreign events in a standard way.

### May become famous

Due to the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar Traditional Lethwei tournaments has been suspended in Yangon since early December 2020 after a bout between Tun Tun Min and Raman.

According to the analysis of Myanmar Lethwei specialists, traditional Lethwei may one day become famous in international martial arts competitions. — Nyein Thu/GNLM

## Myanmar defender Zaw Min Tun joins Thai Club Trat FC

ACCORDING to the source of the football club, Myanmar defender Zaw Min Tun has moved to Thai League 2 club Trad and signed a final contract on 17 June.

Zaw Min Tun's contract with the Sukho Thai team expired at the end of the 2020-2021 season, and he was looking for a new team because his contract was not renewed with Sukho Thai.

Many Thai and Malaysian clubs have tried to sign Zaw Min Tun but have finally reached an agreement with the Trat FC.

Zaw Min Tun started moving to Thai clubs in 2019. In the 2019 season, he played for Thai League-1 club Chonburi. In the 2020-2021 season, he played for

Thai League 1 club Sukhoi Thai FC.

Trat FC is the third Thai club for the Myanmar defender and the first to play in the Thai League 2. Zaw Min Tun has played for many well-known clubs in his professional career. He has played for Yadanabon, Yangon and Magway Football Clubs for Myanmar National League. He now has three teams in the Thai League.

Trat also recruited Myanmar talented football players from last football season, including striker Aung Kaung Marn and Sum Laman. Trat FC also played in Thai League One last season but was relegated at the end of the season. — Ko Nyein Lay/GNLM



Myanmar football star Zaw Min Tun holds the insignia of the Trat FC of Thai League II. **PHOTO: TRAT FC**

## Denmark set for 'emotional' Belgium game as Dutch target Euro 2020 knockouts

DENMARK host the world's top-ranked side Belgium at Euro 2020 on Thursday with the trauma of Christian Eriksen's collapse still raw, while the Netherlands can move into the last 16 on their return to a major tournament. Five days after Eriksen required emergency medical treatment to revive him at Copenhagen's Parken Stadium, Denmark play Group B leaders Belgium looking to move on from a harrowing 1-0 defeat by Finland.

"It will be very emotional to return to the Parken, we expect to have incredible support from our fans and from the whole country," said Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand.

"We have to be ready for that and use this energy in a positive way." Denmark fans will stage a minute's applause in the 10th minute in support of Eriksen, who remains in a nearby hospital



Denmark captain Simon Kjaer was praised for his quick-thinking after coming to the rescue of stricken team-mate Christian Eriksen. **PHOTO: AFP**

but is doing "fine" after suffering a cardiac arrest during his team's opening game.

"What's crazy is that the hospital where Christian is staying is not far from the stadium. He can see the stadium and he might even be able to hear everything that is happening

there," added Hjulmand.

Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku, who scored twice in their 3-0 win over Russia and shouted a message of support to Eriksen into a pitchside camera, said the players would kick the ball out of play for the minute's applause. — AFP ■

## Italy coach Mancini hails 'well-deserved victory'

ROBERTO Mancini hailed a "well-deserved victory" as Italy swept into the last 16 of Euro 2020 with a 3-0 win over Switzerland in Rome on Wednesday. "Switzerland are a strong team. It was a very hard game. We could have scored earlier, but in the end it is a well-deserved victory," said the Italy coach.

"We played well, we wanted to win at all costs. They started well, it was not easy to win a second game in five days." Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini left the pitch injured in the first half with the 36-year-old holding his thigh. "We hope that there is nothing serious, we will see tomorrow," said Mancini. — AFP ■

## McIlroy seeks relaxed swing as US Open tests mental game

RORY McIlroy is trying to recapture his free-swinging style from a decade ago that made him a major champion and snap a seven-year major win drought at the US Open.

The 32-year-old from Northern Ireland won his first major at the 2011 US Open at Congressional and seeks that form again when he tees off Thursday afternoon at Torrey Pines.

"I'm feeling good about where my game is," McIlroy said. "It's about going out there and playing as free as I can and having that mentality I had as a 22-year-old and just trying to get into that mindset." World number 11 McIlroy ended an 18-month win drought last month at Quail Hollow but hasn't won a major since the 2014 PGA Championship. — AFP ■