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Military University of Defense Ministry of Russia confers honorary professor on Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing



The ceremony to confer the honorary professor on State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing by the Military University of the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation in progress.

A CEREMONY to confer the honorary professor on Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who attended the 9th Moscow Conference on International Security-2021 (MCIS-2021) took place at the Military University of the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation on 23

June evening. On arrival at the university, the Senior General and party were welcomed by the commanding officer and officials of the university. The commanding officer introduced the instructors from the university to the Senior General. The Senior General and party visited the library of the university where officials conducted

them round the library. Commanding Officer Lieutenant General Igor Mishutkin of the university explained the conferring of the honorary professor on the Senior General for his performance to cement relations between two armed forces of both countries, cooperation in the improvement of military technologies, and

sending the trainees to Russia for further strengthening friendly relations between the two armed forces and the two governments of both countries according to the decision of the boards from the university. Next, the Commanding Officer presented the academic gown, the graduation cap, medal and certificate of degree and certificate of honour

for the Honorary Professor of the Russian Military University of the Defense Ministry to the Senior General. Moreover, the Senior General was decorated with a brooch to mark the centennial celebration of the university. Meanwhile, the Guard of Honour of the university played the national anthems of both countries.

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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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 142/2021

Fullmoon of Nayon 1383 ME

24 June 2021

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Union Minister

The State Administration Council has appointed U Hla Moe as Union Minister for Cooperatives and Development of Rural Areas in accordance with Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant- General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Myanmar Press Council Announcement 3/2021 10 June 2021

1. It is highly crucial for the four estates to collaboratively safeguard the State's peace, stability and the rule of law towards tranquillity amidst current conflicts among Myanmar society.
2. It is found that even some news agencies that have officially registered at the Myanmar Government publish and broadcast false news items.
3. Accuracy of news is basically an ethical feature of responsibility. It is considered that the spreading of inaccurate information and unverifiable news amongst the public leads towards the deterioration of dignity of the media, which is the fourth estate, as well as towards the growth of the conflicts.
4. Myanmar Press Council is responsible for undertaking the development of the media world and promotion of media freedom. Furthermore, it stands tall, as an institution, in coordination with other similar estates to carry out the development of peace and democracy in line with the News Media Law and news media ethics.
5. Thus, it is hereby announced that all news agencies should be responsible and accountable for news items, facts and contents they publish and broadcast. It is also necessary that they should abide by media ethics and the News Media Law in order to earn the public trust upon the fourth estate.

Myanmar Press Council

Myanmar Press Council Announcement 4/2021 21 June 2021

1. While paying the emphasis and undertaking the State's stability, the rule of law and community peace and tranquillity by the four estates, the Myanmar Press Council released the announcement on 10 June 2021 for the media not to publish and broadcast false news that would be growing conflicts amongst the people.
2. However, it was found that some local news media, which were revoked of their media licences, some international news agencies and some embassies were publishing and broadcasting false information about the incident of Kinma Village in Pauk Township of the Magway Region on 15 June 2021.
3. Such misinformation and disinformation spread by internal and external news media as well as international organizations are contradictory to international media ethics and journalistic provisions stipulated in the Myanmar News Media Law. It is also obviously detrimental to Myanmar's peaceful transition process.
4. It is considered as synchronized actions that some news agencies and some embassies are intentionally spreading such false news so as to make pressure upon Myanmar by the world organization that is steering towards international solidarity and cooperation amongst nations.
5. Such doings may cause not only implicit interference in the sovereignty of Myanmar but also can affect regional and international peace. Thus, it is hereby announced that Myanmar Press Council strongly condemns such doings.

Myanmar Press Council

Politicians and media should not commit incitements and spread fake news

POLITICIANS and media should not commit incitements and spread fake news. The peacemaking process goes on as it is necessary to cease armed conflicts among the ethnic nationals for restoring peace and stability based on security measures.

(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 25 May 2021)

Military University of Defense Ministry of Russia confers honorary professor on Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

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The Senior General expressed his thanks to the university for conferring the honorary professor on him. He took pride in receiving the honorary professor conferred by the university which has been in the fine tradition of the Russian Federation. In line with the prestige of the honorary professor, the Senior General pledged to strive for issues of the Russia-Myanmar military cooperation, serving the interests of military-civilian social organizations of both countries and improvement of culture, military technology and science measures for further strengthening the relations in all arenas as much as he can.

Next, outstanding award-winning officers who graduated from Myanmar's Defence Services Academy, Defence Services Technological Academy, Defence Services Medical Academy, Defence Services (Army) Officers Training Schools in Bahtoo and Hmawby and Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences were introduced.



The Senior General and party visited the university and the booth of storing gifts given to the Minister of Defense of Russia by various countries. Both sides exchanged emblems and gifts.

The Military University of Defense Ministry opened in Moscow is one of the ancient universities in Russia. It was established as a training school on 5 November 1919 and upgraded to a military college on 20 July 1974. The institution was changed to the Military University on 20 July 1994 to conduct the subjects on leadership, sciences, economics and legal affairs in respective academic years.

Moreover, the university is combined with the Vladimir Lenin Military-Political Academy, the Military Institute of Foreign Languages, the Military Law Academy, the Military Financial Academy, the Lviv Higher Military-Political School and the Moscow Military Conservatory. The cadets who graduated from the university are serving at respective corps of the Russian Armed Forces. — MNA



Those serving State duties at embassy, office of military attaché must work in unison: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets families of the Myanmar Embassy and the office of Myanmar Military attaché (Army, Navy and Air) and scholarship trainees at Turandot restaurant in Moscow. He is giving gifts and cash awards to them.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 23 June afternoon met with families of the Myanmar Embassy to the Russian Federation and the Office of Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air)

and scholarship trainees at Turandot restaurant in Moscow.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General explained necessary to lend a helping hand to each other as they all are serving the State duties together abroad, political changes in Myanmar, strengthening

the multiparty democracy and arranging the situation to ensure the genuine democracy with honesty, need to strive for a mutual economy of both countries and getting the export and import opportunities through diplomatic relations as the economic drive plays a crucial role

in the development of a country, dutiful public service personnel for improvement of politics and economy of the State and serving the interests of the State, and needs to uplift the prestige of the State.

The Senior General also stressed the need for those

serving State duties at the embassy and the office of the military attaché to work in unison as diplomatic relations are of great importance in relating the countries to each other. Scholarship trainees in addition to the families of the embassy and the office of the military attaché should emphasize learning the techniques while continuously studying the technologies.

And, the Senior General urged them to strive for the development of the country on one hand with working in concert.

Next, the Senior General presented gifts and cash awards for families of the embassy and the office of the military attaché to Minister Counsellor U Zaw Lin Oo and Military Attaché Commodore Kyaw Soe Moe.

Later, the Senior General had a lunch together with families of the embassy and the office of the military attaché and scholarship trainees.—MNA

Chairman of SAC Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends dinner party to mark 9th MCIS-2021

MYANMAR delegation led by Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the dinner party to mark the 9th Moscow Conference on International Security-2021 (MCIS-2021) held in Moscow by Russian Defense Minister Army General Sergey Kuzhugetovich Shoigu on 23 June.

Firstly, the Russian Defense Minister and Senior Of-

ficials of the Army extended greetings to the delegations from respective countries. Then, the Russian Defense Minister expressed words of thanks for coming to the conference and dinner party and had dinner together.

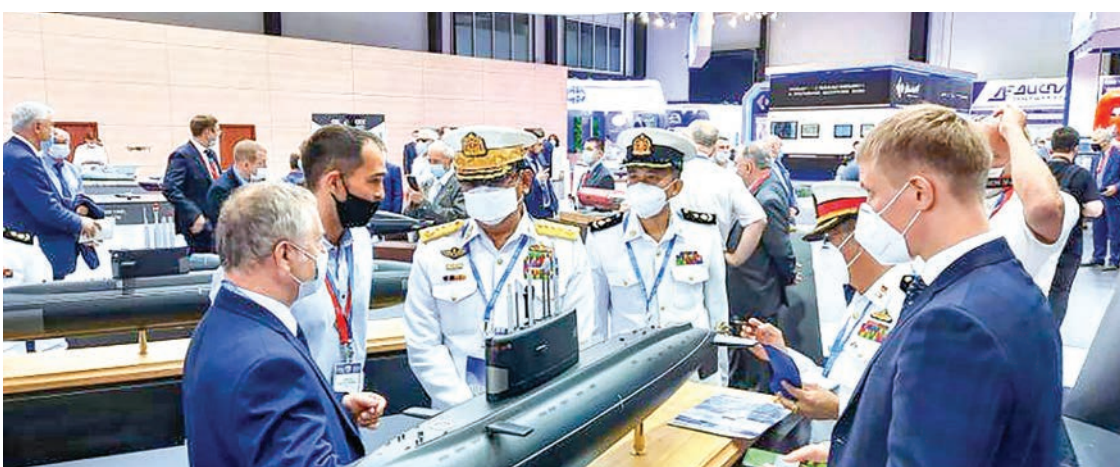
During the dinner reception period, the musical troupes of the Russian Defense Ministry performed the traditional songs and dance.

— MNA



During the dinner reception period, the musical troupes of the Russian Defense Ministry performed the traditional songs and dance.

Myanmar navy delegation attends int'l maritime defence show in Russia



THE delegation led by the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, along with the delegations from 28 countries, attended the International Maritime Defence Show (IMDS-2021) held yesterday morning in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation.

The delegation accompanied the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Chairman of the State Administration Council during the visit to the Russian Federation.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung met Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov of the Russian Federation and discussed the maritime cooperation between the two countries and training. They also exchanged views on maritime security and natural disaster prevention.

The Myanmar Navy delegation observed the defence equipment displayed in the JSC "Almaz-Antey" gallery.—MNA

SAC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives RIA news special correspondent in Russia

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received RIA News Agency's Special Correspondent Ms Kukushkina Tatiana for an interview at the Metropol Hotel in the Russian Federation.

During the interview, the Senior General gave a full explanation on his participation in the Moscow Conference on International Security-2021 (MCIS-2021), meetings in Moscow, Russia-Myanmar military-technological cooperation as well as cooperation in various sectors, the political transformation of Myanmar, State Administration Council's further activities under the law and COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment measures in the country.

It is reported that the full interview will be published soon.

— MNA



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's interview with RIA News Agency at the Metropol Hotel in the Russian Federation.

9th Moscow Conference on International Security-2021 (MCIS-2021) issues press release

THE main topic of the 9th Moscow Conference on International Security-2021 (MCIS-2021) held in Moscow of the Russian Federation on 23 and 24 June referred to the problems of global and regional stability.

The conference was attended by defence ministers, delegations of armed forces, the expert community of foreign countries, leaders from international organizations such as CIS, CSTO, UN, OSCE, ICRC and LAS, totalling more than 600 attendees.

The conference was inaugurated on 23 June. President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin delivered a video message. Likewise, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres delivered a video message. The inaugural addresses were followed by the statements of Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Sergey Shoygu and Director of the Federal Security Service Alexander Bortnikov who introduced the positions of the Russian Federation on key issues.

After that, the conference was held in four plenary sessions.

In the first session called Strategic Stability: transformation and prospect, the statements were made by the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Defense Minister Army General Valery Gerasimov, Minister of Defence of China Colonel-General Wei Fenghe from the People's Republic of China, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Qatar Dr Khalid Bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah, Minister of Defence of Belarus Viktor Khrenin, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross Peter Maurer and former President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai.

In the second session entitled the Asia-Pacific Region Within the framework of the global politics, the statements were made by Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chief of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation Admiral I Kostyukov, Vietnamese Minister of Defence Colonel General Phan Van Giang, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Maldives Hassan Zameel, Prime Minister and Defence Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and Minister of Defence of Brunei Mohd Yussof.

During the third session called the role of military institutions in the fight against the novel coronavirus infection COVID-19, the statements were made by Minister of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan Lieutenant General Nurlan Ermekbaev, Minister of Defence of Mongolia Brigadier General Gürsediin Saikhanbayar, Minister of Defence of Zimbabwe Oppah Muchinguri Kashiri, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Sudan Yassin Ibrahim, UN Deputy Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Chief of the Medical Military Directorate of the Armed Forces of Uganda Major-General Ambrose Musinguzi.

The fourth session of the conference entitled with the information security: problems and solutions, statements were presented by Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN Vassily Alekseevich Nebenzia, Deputy Minister of Defence of Pakistan Lieutenant General Muhammad Hilal Hussain, Co-President of the Alternative for Germany Party Tino Chrupalla, Deputy Minister of Defence for Planification and Development of the Armed Forces of Venezuela Admiral Alexander Velasquez Bastidas, Russian Senator and President of the Federation Council Committee on Information Policy and Interaction with Mass Media Alexander Pushkov, Director of the French Analytical Agency for International Security Alessandro Zanasi, Director of the Public Administration and Public Policy Center of Carleton University Piotr Dutkevich, President of the Union of War Veterans of the National Liberation Wars of Serbia retired Lieutenant General Vidosav Kovačević, Director of the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research Oleg Makarov, President of the Union of Russian-Slovak Community Charnogursky and Chief of The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies Rob de Wijk.

The conference will be opened with presentations of Secretary of Russia's Security Council Army General Nikolai Patrushev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergei Lavrov of the Russian Federation and Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation Sergey Naryshkin on 24 June.

The Moscow Conference on International Security has been organized by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation since 2012. The conference steadfastly firms its role as the believable platform for holding discussions on actual events for international security and it is a fine tradition not only for the Russian Federation but also for foreign countries.

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin participates in Asia and Pacific High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin participated in the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation on Combating the Pandemic for Sustainable Recovery at 06:30 pm on 23 June 2021 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The conference was chaired by State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Mr Wang Yi and attended by the President of the Republic of Colombia, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Fiji, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and high-ranking officials including Foreign Min-



isters and relevant ministers. A total of 29 countries as well as high-level representatives from the United Nations represented at the conference.

During the Conference, the participants shared their national efforts in addressing the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and approaches to sustainable economic recovery in post COVID-19 era. They also exchanged views on building a green silk

road by maintaining the balanced ecosystem, enhancing green infrastructure development, responding to the climate change in united efforts, and transforming countries' economies to be environmentally responsive.

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin highlighted Myanmar's responses to COVID-19 and the impact of pandemic on economy, through a range of measures, by adhering to the

principle of "Leaving no one behind". He stressed the significance of fair and transparent manner in global distribution of COVID vaccines and encouraged international financial institutions and development partners to consider, in all possible ways, providing financial assistance for least developed and developing countries in vaccine procurement process. Furthermore, the Union Minister expressed his

appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its assistance to Myanmar in the fight against the pandemic.

Subsequently, with regard to promoting a green silk road for sustainable development, Union Minister stated Myanmar's endeavours in fostering green and sustainable growth of the country in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Moreover, he also encouraged BRI members to strengthen the BRI development projects, to transform climate friendly economies and to enhance cooperation in pursuing the development of a green silk road.

At the conference, "Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on COVID-19 Vaccines Cooperation" and "Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development" were jointly launched by participating countries.

Also present at the Conference with the Union Minister were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

MRTV monsoon tree-planting ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw



THE monsoon tree-planting ceremony of the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), the Ministry of Information, was held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Information U Chitt Naing first planted the gum-kino tree (Padauk), and Deputy Minister U Ye Tint,

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and departmental officials planted seedlings at the designated places in the MRTV compound.

A total of 600 seedlings of various trees were planted at yesterday ceremony and a total of 2,000 seedlings and trees have been planted in this rainy

season.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party inspected the May Yu FM broadcasting on Radio Transmitter-1, the preparation for broadcasting on Radio Transmitter-2, the construction of MRTV Diamond Jubilee Museum, and the cartoon filmmaking course of MRTV. —MNA

MNHRC inspects Thayawady Central Prison, DaikU Central Prison

THE inspection teams led by the Commission Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), U Kyaw Soe and U Tin Aung made the inspection visits to the Thayawady Central Prison on 16 June, 2021 and the inspection teams led by the Commission Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), U Kyaw Soe, U Tin Aung and U Kyaw Myint made the inspection visits to the DaikU Central Prison on 24 June 2021.

During the inspection visits, in accordance with the

provisions of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, the inspection teams interviewed prisoners and detainees freely and privately group by group and asked them whether there is any problem to see their family members, the availability of appropriate facilities for them, whether there is health care or not, is there torture in prison and their living condition in the prison.

The inspection teams also met with the prisoners and detainees who wish to meet with

the team privately and recorded their reports.

While inspecting the Central Prisons, the inspection teams inspected the sleeping quarters of the inmates, the apartments, the hospital, the Quarantine apartments, the library, the kitchen, the food store, the water tanks, the latrines and the arrangements to prevent COVID-19 pandemic.

The findings and recommendations of the inspection teams will be put forward to the relevant departments for necessary actions. —MNA



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.

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations inspects investment projects in Yangon Region, Thilawa Special Economic Zone



UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) U Aung Naing Oo visited the investment of manufacturing high quality pharmaceuticals in Yangon Region with departmental officials this morning.

During inspection the responsible personnel from the industry explained the conditions of the operation, the operational challenges and investment issues. Then, the Union Minister encouraged and discussed to improve productivity, to manufacture import substitute high-quality pharmaceuti-

cals, to carry out more research activities and to expand market availability. In addition, the Union Minister also coordinated the difficulties and operational challenges of the industry at the end of the meeting.

In the afternoon, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo accompanied by the Union Minister for Commerce, Chairman of the central working body of Myanmar Special Economic Zones, Dr Pwint San and departmental officials inspected the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ). —MNA

Secretariat of COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee holds coordination meeting

THE Secretariat of the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee organized a coordination meeting yesterday.

During the meeting, Leader of Secretariat of the committee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing discussed the third-wave of COVID-19 occurred in Sagaing Region and Chin State starting the third week of May, strict COVID-19 health rules, communication with other COVID-19 committees in respective regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council and the effective COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities.

Then, he continued to highlight the arrangements of quar-

antine facilities for the returnees from the foreign countries, confirmed cases of the country, measures to express the lists of contact persons, actions to be taken against those who violate the COVID-19 rules, school reopening cases and other possibilities of the third wave of the pandemic.

Deputy Director-General for Health and Sports Dr Tun Tin clarified the Stay-at-Home order imposed in certain townships, travel restrictions, cooperation work with the volunteers in respective regions, expansion of lab test procedures, treatment for patients, public awareness programmes and other work plans with relevant ministries.

Then, the Deputy Leader of



the committee Police Brig-Gen Win Tun discussed the entry of people via flights, preventive

measures at border areas while other officials of health departments clarified their COVID-19

containment measures in respective regions and states. —MNA

787 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 June, total figure rises to 150,714

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **150,714** after **787 new cases** were reported on 24 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **134,589** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **3,275** after six died. —MNA

Systematically spend spare time for improvement of life

THE people are working jobs on a daily basis for earning incomes for themselves as well as for their families. No matter how busy anyone is, they must have spare time within 24 hours. So, they can allot the time of doing the daily routines focusing on the improvement of their lives.

Generally, everybody can enjoy three sessions of special times: working time, sleeping time and leisure time along with their lives. However, the duration of these times may not be equal. It is because someone takes a long time of sleeping. It may be more than eight hours a day.

All in all, everybody, including you, should take care of allotted times, appropriate for their lives, without committing activities against nature and society.

Someone may take a longer working time depending on demand. As such, they may take a long time of break due to tiredness in workplaces. Their time of long break may not be included in the leisurely time. Hence, both kinds of people may take leisurely time in a few hours.

Sometimes, somebody may take a long leisurely time because they don't have any jobs and responsibilities for their lives depending on wealth. Some artists need to take a long leisurely time for creating their masterpiece works. The leisurely time is invaluable for them so as to create quality products. Those artists have the endurance to be a short sleeping time per day.

Whatever it may be, people can identify leisurely time as their spare time, except the working time and sleeping time. The systematic time limits will contribute a great deal to managing their lifespans for securing the improvement. If they cannot apply the allotted times, it will distort their lives which would plunge into the plights.

In fact, the spare time must be applied as the creation of new strength to be used in doing future tasks. It is very important that the spare time can be spent in further studies to enhance their lives, taking meditation for sunset lives, sharing knowledge with friends, making preparations for jobs, improving themselves to be smart and so on.

All in all, everybody, including you, should take care of allotted times, appropriate for their lives, without committing activities against nature and society.



Maha Samaya Day, a milestone of Buddhism in restoring peace

By Aung Kyaw Thant

THE full moon day of Nayon in the Myanmar lunar calendar which generally falls in May or June was set for the Buddhist people to pay attributes in dedicating a significant religious day to the Lord Buddha. In this regard, Maha Samaya in Pali means a great occasion. It is a day when the Lord Buddha preached Maha Samaya Sutta to a gigantic number of His disciples such as members of the Sangha, laypersons, celestial beings, Brahmas and the others from various abodes.

In the fourth vasa of the Lord Buddha, a conflict based on competitively taking water from Rohani River for the farmlands located between Kapilavattu and Koliya states happened in Majjima Region which is now called the Indian continent. Such conflict was led by princes of both states. Rohani River was a great water source for both states. At that time, local people from both states suffered from the impacts of shortages of water based on the drought with lack of water consumption and cultivation. Water scarcity proved cracks of soil in the crop-lands. Hence, shortages in various sectors headed to starvation due to deficiency of foods. Gradually, the situation changed to almost sparking the war as both states were in severe tension.

The Lord Buddha rushed to the scene and preached the Dhamma sermon leading to restoring peace to the peoples from both states. When the Lord Buddha preached Dhamma, they respectfully took the Dhamma sermon by setting aside their anger from the conflict based on the water problem. Consequently, those from both sides saw their wrongdoings and improved their minds themselves with correct thoughts in order to cease their almost-blast conflict. Hence, they understood they needed to calm down their tension.

As part of efforts to be grateful to the Lord Buddha, kings of both states ordered their 250 princes each to receive the ordination in the order of Buddhism.

However, spouses who were left alone at the royal palaces wished to regain their husband princes. Hence, they made acts

designed to disturb their past husband princes who were already ordained as monks, with the use of luxurious facilities such as singing sweet songs, dancing, spreading fragrance, display of delicious meals, and showing off their physical beauties and so on. That was why those monks did not be happy in the order of Buddhism with the thoughts of attachment to their spouses at all time. Hence, most of them were in deformation of mental and physical appearances.

As such, the Lord Buddha took them to Kundala Lake, which was very pleasant for all in the jungle of Himalaya where the Lord Buddha preached the story of Kundala bird illustrated with the use of 300 verses to the monks. At the end of preaching, those 500 monks attained the first stage of enlightenment called Sotapatti. Afterwards, the Lord Buddha accompanied by those 500 monks proceeded to Mahavuna jungle near Kapilavattu state. On arrival at the jungle, the Lord Buddha gave guidance of meditation to the Sangha who had already attained the Arahatta enlightenment for a few days. On the evening of the full moon day of Nayon, those Ariya members of the Sangha went to the Lord Buddha so as to supplicate their progress in attaining Arahatta enlightenment.

The gathering of members of the Ariya Sangha was the most admirable and magnificent. Hence, celestial beings, Brahmas and other kinds of creatures from various abodes wishing to pay homage to those members of the Sangha arrived at Mahavuna jungle on that day.

On the occasion, the Lord Buddha extended greetings to celestial beings, Brahmas and other creatures based on their lineages wishing to listen to the preaching of the Lord Buddha. They were very pleased with the greetings of the Lord Buddha. They thanked the Lord Buddha for recognizing them for their attendance. Finally, the Lord Buddha administered Maha Samaya Sutta to all.

In this regard, the Lord Buddha preached the Suttas depending on the characters of the Sangha—Samma Paribbaniya



Buddhist devotees celebrate Maha Samaya Day at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT- MNA/FILE

Sutta to those with strong lust, Kalaha Vivada Sutta to those with strong anger, Maha Bharuha Sutta to those with strong delusion, Cula Bharuha Sutta to those with strong critical thinking, Tuvat-taka Sutta to those with strong generosity and Purabheda Sutta to those with strong knowledge respectively.

At the end of the preaching, one lakh crores of celestial beings and Brahmas each attained the Arahatta Magga enlightenment. The numbers of celestial beings and Brahmas who attained the first, second and third stages of enlightenment were uncountable.

That is why on the day of the great significant occasion called Maha Samaya Day, all the global people need to forge the good spirit with the intention to serve the interests of others as part of doing meritorious deeds. At this juncture, the meritorious deed is not only to donate cash and kindness to any others but also to show good mental and physical behaviours in relating to others by giving a helping hand for solving the various problems of others.

The above-mentioned event highlighted the compassion of the Lord Buddha in solving the water crisis of humans. Such an event was great evidence of restoring the peace. Likewise, everybody can serve others by ceasing flames in

the mind of the later ones. It may be identified as meritorious deeds.

In studying the occurrence of Maha Samaya Day, the attributes of the Lord Buddha can be vividly seen in solving the water crisis of people from both city-states. But, the compassion of the Lord Buddha helped them overcome the crisis successfully. Just the event to cause the good deeds which happened on the ground can be identified as the great significant occasion. Likewise, the celestial beings, Brahmas and many others from various abodes gathered at the scene where the Lord Buddha preached Dhamma sermon to all the congregations at that time that can also be dubbed as the great significant occasion.

In fact, the day on which Maha Samaya Day emerged was full of meritorious deeds and good things performed by the Buddhist people in honouring the day of milestone in Buddhism. All events comprised in the main episode of Maha Samaya Day did not have any faults.

But, we all have a lesson that just meritorious deeds are not enough for our lives. The primary theme of the event is to try hard to attain enlightenment so as to cut the route of the life cycle (Samsara). We all have to restore the peace of mind for the whole life circle. Actually, the Lord Buddha negotiated the restoration of

peace for both states. By taking the lesson from the story, we all need to keep peace of mind in our souls. It is the best theme of Maha Samaya Day.

We can review the lesson taken from the event of Maha Samaya Day. In this regard, everybody should avoid evil acts in their lives. They all should not manipulate others in all issues. Everybody needs to hold up righteousness and honest in relating to others. They should understand why should not encroach on others and assault anyone. They know why they don't disturb any others even they cannot lend a helping hand to each other.

The act of obedience that the people led by princes from both city-states abided by the words of advice of the Lord Buddha not to continue their conflicts proved the climax of the whole episode. If they did not obey the words of advice of the Lord Buddha, the Maha Samaya occasion would be amended. As the people who were involved in the episode had a wide range of scope, the process of emerging the Maha Samaya Day successfully came out. If not, we all have to amend the Buddhology.

The event on Maha Samaya Day highlighted that peace is of great importance for the life of the people. Whenever peace cannot be restored, worries and plights may

become the flames in the hearts of people. So, they may suffer from the impacts of conflicts till their final days. Maha Samaya Sutta cannot directly contribute to the people in seeking the best way for overcoming the challenges of the life circle (Samsara). As soon as they stop the worries and anxieties in the life circle, they can get the best chance for restoring peace. Consequently, they can see the Nibbana through the enlightenment.

Now, Buddhism is flourishing across the world. Likewise, the occurrence of Maha Samaya Day polished the image of Buddhism. On the other hand, the day of Maha Samaya was a milestone of Buddhism in its history for restoring peace avoiding the exaggeration of the event on crisis based on the water sharing problem.

That is why we all should restore perpetual peace for all living beings across the world. It needs to take an example from the event of Maha Samaya Day. In fact, Maha Samaya Day proved the Lord Buddha as the great peace negotiator in the past. By understanding the great importance of peace throughout the world, all global countries need to focus on ceasing the conflicts. Let's save the world! Let's protect Buddhism!



“မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကင်းစင်ဖို့ အသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေဖို့”

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာသမဝါယမနေ့ ၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၃) ရက် (စနေနေ့)



“Rebuild Better Together”

“လူမှုစီးပွားဖိမ့်တိုးတက်ကောင်းမွန်ဖို့ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကြိုးပမ်းတည်ဆောက်ဖို့”

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 24 June, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25 June, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and (Southern and Eastern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, Rakhine, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 June, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 June, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

ဆက်သွယ်ရန်အတွက် ဖုန်းနံပါတ်

09 454 237 515

Information Team of State Administration Council replies to the telephone inquiries of MRTV

MAJOR Kaung Htet San from the Information Team of the State Administration Council clarified the telephone interviews from MRTV as follows:

Q: Mizzima-news in Burmese reported that the military is pressuring parents not to bring their children back from schools due to the high incidence of COVID-19 diseases in schools in Myaungmya. Is that true?

A: With the reopening of primary schools, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Education has developed COVID-19 Guidelines for Disease Control and Prevention, and systematic surveillance and immediate response to suspected cases in collaboration with the relevant Region/ State Public Health Departments.

Currently, primary schools are temporarily closed in townships where Stay-at-Home restriction has been declared, and



Major Kaung Htet San of the SAC Information Team clarifies the MRTV's telephone interview.

the relevant ministries are cooperating in disease prevention and control activities.

I would like to say that there is no such thing that the military is forcing the schools not

to let the parents bring their children back home due to the resurgence of the COVID-19 cases in schools in Myaungmya. I would like to say that we are working as per the instructions

of the relevant ministries.

Q: According to DVB TV News, there was a clash between the Tatmadaw and the PDF on 22 June near Tayawkyin village, Yinmabin Township,

Sagaing Region. Can you tell us about it?

A: Terrorist groups are reportedly setting fire to the homes of innocent people outside Tayawkyin village and when security forces went to provide security in the area, a group of about 80 armed insurgents opened fire with homemade bombs and guns about 300 metres west of Tayawkyin village. During the clash, one member of the security forces was wounded. As more security forces were on their way to the scene, about 30 metres northwest of Bantbwe village, about 30 armed terrorists opened fire. During the clash, one homemade gun belonging to the terrorists was seized. It is also reported that 8 houses were destroyed by fire due to the armed insurgents. I would like to say that accurate information must come from a reliable source with a true news photo. —MNA

Four suspects including Yan Lin Aung (aka) Moe Tain, Wai Yan Lin (aka) Tun Tauk Naing arrested together with firearms

THE officials conduct effective security measures as the terrorists and NLD party members/supporters continuously commit bombing attack in some cities of the country to affect the government administrative mechanism.

On 22 June, the police raided the house located at the corner of 111th and 54th streets in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region. During the raid, there was a clash between the insurgents and security members. It left 8 insurgents dead and the police arrested another 8 together with small weapons. According to the confession of suspects, Lt Tu Pho and Lt Ko Rine of KIA were included in the list of deaths.

Moreover, the security forces raided the No (54) at the corner of 50th and 115th streets in Chanmyathazi Township based on the confession of the detainees. They did not find any suspects but seized the six homemade guns, 28 bombs and other components.

According to the words of suspects, the police received information that Mandalay PDF member Yan Lin Aung (aka) Moe Tain and Wai Yan Lin (aka) Tun Tauk Naing carried the firearms to Mandalay via Bhamo-Ng-

aoh-Thabeikkyin-Mandalay road on 23 June. Therefore, the security forces blocked the road and arrested Wai Yan Lan (aka) Tun Tauk Naing, Yan Lin Aung (aka) Moe Tain, Myo Min Tun and Sai Thet Paing Tun on Tagaung road section of Thabeikkyin Township.

According to the suspects, the firearms were transported by a six-wheel truck. The security forces seized the firearms including 32 K2-5 guns, 32 K2-5 (folding butt), 40 M-79 LL guns, 10 779 Pading III-S, 248 magazines, 10,000 K2-5 bullets, 499 grenades, 1,473 40 MM bombs, 35 remote controls and 25 packs of TNT, 150 strings, 1 electronic detonator and 3 cartons of detonators.

According to the confession, the PDF members including Yan Lin Aung (aka) Moe Tain completed the basic military training at Laiza of KIA from 21 March and 4 April via the communication of U Khin Maung Myint (aka) U Cho, former Amyotha Hluttaw MP of No (5) constituency in Kachin State (2015).

On their way to Laiza, former Pyigyitagun Township Hluttaw MP (2015) Myo Zaw Aung of the NLD party and former Kawlin



Four arrestees are seen with seized firearms.

Township Hluttaw MP Myo Zaw Aung came along with them in their cars. They made a plan to give training to the youths in Mandalay when they completed their military training courses.

On 17 June, four people including Wai Yan Lin (aka) Tun Tauk Naing went to Bhamo from Mandalay to carry the firearms. They met Saya Lun from KIA on 18 and 19 June and they arranged to transport the firearms from Mansi to Mandalay. The firearms were carried by the six-wheel truck under the arrangement of Saya Lun on 22 June. The truck

parked near Sin Khan bridge the whole night.

On 23 June, the truck kept going to Mandalay and the four guys including Wai Yan Lin (aka) Tun Tauk Naing followed the truck. They were arrested at Tagaung road in Thabeikkyin Township and the truck was seized near War Yone Gone Village at milepost No (25) on Mandalay-Bhamo Road section.

The terrorists attempted to threaten the public, affect the community peace and fail the duties of security members with homemade bombs and rifles.

Moreover, they contacted the armed groups to join the military courses. They conducted military courses, saved the firearms and recruited the task force. Therefore, the people should cooperate with the security members as the officials accelerate the security measures to stop the activities of insurgents and arrest the remaining suspects to ensure community peace. Legal actions will be taken against the suspects under the law and investigation will be also conducted to reveal the suspects who are still at large. —MNA

Kitchen crop prices inflated in Yangon market



The prices of kitchen crops (onion, garlic, chilli, potato and spices) are rising in the Yangon market, according to trade data released by Yangon Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre.

THE prices of kitchen crops such as onion, garlic, chilli, potato and spices are rising in the Yangon market, according to trade data released by Yangon Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre.

The price of onion was up by K100 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in the wholesale market, ranging between K375 and K475 per viss, while the price of garlic also increased to K1,350 to K1,950 per viss, with a gap of K100-150 within three weeks.

Quality garlic (Kyukok variety) dramatically surged to K2,900 on 23 June, with a sharp increase of K1,000, Bayintnaung market's data indicated.

The price of chilli also showed an increase of K100-300 per viss depending on quality. Similarly, the prices of potato and other spices also indicated a gap of K100 per viss within a week.

The consumer price spiked in food, non-food, household

goods and maintenance, rent, transportation, recreation and culture and the CPI fell in other commodities, tobacco and beverages and clothing groups. The price index of education, health and telecommunication went stable amid the COVID-19.

To reduce the inflation rate, the concerned authorities have been making efforts based on policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control. — GNLM

Manufacturing sector attracts \$254 mln this FY

THE majority of foreign enterprises eye the manufacturing sector for investments in the past eight months (Oct-Apr) of the current financial year 2020-2021, pumping the estimated capital of US\$254 million into 23 projects, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration stated.

The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need a large labour force are prioritized, Myanmar Investment Commission stated.

At present, labour-intensive enterprises are facing financial hardship amid the COVID-19 negative impacts and political changes.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

At present, Myanmar's garment export drastically dropped on the back of a slump in demand by the European Union market. Consequently, some CMP garment factories permanently and temporarily shut down and left thousands of workers unemployed.

The factories are facing

cancellation of order and slump in output, new orders. However, the Swedish fashion retailer H&M is gradually placing orders from Myanmar again after it paused in March.

Then, more international fashion retailers such as Primark and Bestseller starts to resume new orders.

Myanmar has drawn foreign direct investment of more than US\$3.7 billion in the past eight months of the 2020-2021 financial year, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the DICA's statistics indicated.

Of 44 foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by MIC and the respective investment committees between 1 October and 31 May of the current FY, 23 enterprises pumped FDI into the manufacturing sector.

The power sector received six large projects and the livestock and fisheries sector attracted six projects. Other service sector drew five projects while the agriculture sector pulled two projects and one foreign enterprise each entered industrial estate and the hotel and tourism sectors. — HH/GNLM

Mon state to hold workshop to manufacture value-added products in rubber sector

A workshop will be held together with the rubber factories clusters to negotiate manufacturing of the value-added products in the rubber sector in Mon State.

The workshop will take place at Mawlamyine Yamanya hotel on 27 June 2021.

At the workshop, the National Enlightenment Institute (NEI) and PUM Netherlands Senior Experts will explain the production of the value-added rubber technology procedure, gather the stakeholders interested in the production of value-added rubber products and discuss the potential production of value-added rubber products based on the local demand.

Mawlamyine commodity

depot and NEI are working together on seeking the market for Mon state local products, supporting the technical assistance and conducting market research.

NEI has attempted to seek technical assistance by connecting PUM Netherlands Senior Experts Organization, one of the leading businesses, since May 2021 for the development of the rubber sector.

The organization is a Dutch-based organization in The Hague that provides intellectual property advice and support free technical assistance in 35 countries for the long-term sustainability of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Currently, a mutual agreement has been reached already

between NEI and PUM Netherlands Senior Experts Organization to receive technical assistance to manufacture the value-added products in the rubber sector.

The workshop can be attended by the rubber entrepreneurs in Mon State, rubber farmland owners, rubber factory owners, rubber buyers, other rubber related businessmen and value-added rubber producers who are interested in value-added rubber production.

Farmers began planting rubber in Mon state in 1988. Currently, there are over 2,400 acres of rubber plantations in Mon State, according to the 2020 official statistics of Mon State Agriculture Department. — NN/GNLM



Eurozone economy booms at fastest rate in 15 years

BUSINESS activity in the eurozone jumped at its fastest rate in 15 years this month, a closely watched survey said on Wednesday, as a reopened economy unleashed pent-up demand.

Economic data group IHS Markit said the “impressive progress” of vaccinations was jumpstarting the single-currency area, fuelled by eased restrictions that are at their lowest since September.

This “brightening prospect of life increasingly returning to

normal has... pushed confidence to an all-time high, fuelled greater spending and encouraged hiring,” said Chris Williamson, chief economist at IHS Markit.

Accordingly, the firm’s PMI index – which indicates trends in the manufacturing and service sectors – said activity leapt from 57.1 in May to a booming 59.2 in June, far above the 50-point level that indicates growth.

The data set the scene for major growth in the second and third quarters, closing the chap-

ter on a double-dip recession that came with the lockdowns of last autumn and winter, the firm said.

The explosive growth was creating its own spillover effects, with supply chains under pressure and prices reflecting the sharp increase in demand, IHS Markit said.

“The strength of the upturn – both within Europe and globally – means firms are struggling to meet demand, suffering shortages of both raw materials and staff,” Williamson said.—AFP



Business activity in the eurozone jumped at its fastest rate in 15 years in June. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tunisia ‘trailblazer’ in Mediterranean seaweed farming

Wading knee-deep in the calm waters of a lagoon, workers in northern Tunisia harvest red seaweed, in a nation dubbed a Mediterranean “trailblazer” in cultivating the in-demand plant.

Red seaweed or algae is used for gelling, thickening and texturing agents that are increasingly a substitute for animal-based products in processed foods, and it is also being used increasingly in cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. The harvest, the Selt Marine company’s first on an industrial scale, comes after years of research and a wait of more than two decades for authorisation to use the lagoons, said French-Tunisian entrepreneur Mounir Bouklout. Several countries, including nearby Morocco, have seen their natural reserves of red seaweed diminish in recent years due to overexploitation. Instead near Bizerte, north of the Tunisian capital, 10 per cent of what is harvested goes back into the water, said Bouklout, another seaweed expert. “We wait for nature to do its work, and after 45 days we harvest it,” Bouklout told AFP.

Surrounded by hills topped with wind turbines, workers pull seaweed growing around cylindrical netting from the lagoon and bring it to shore. The plant matter, which ranges from green to dark red in colour, is separated, dried in the sun and taken to a factory to be turned into substances such as agar-agar.

The sought-after red variety is mainly grown in Asia, which is the world’s biggest producer, consumer and exporter of seaweed. But Tunisia’s waters and climate also favour its farming, which can encourage the development of local marine life including shellfish.—AFP ■

IMF chief warns of ‘two-track recovery’ in Africa, calls for aid

Warning the continent faces slower growth, rising debt levels and a shortage of Covid-19 vaccines, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Wednesday appealed for more aid to African countries to help them bounce back from the pandemic.

“Africa is now facing the world’s fastest growth rate for new Covid cases, with an exponential trajectory even more alarming than during the second wave in January,” she said in an address to the African Development Bank’s annual meeting.

“It is a human tragedy -- and an economic calamity.”

While the global economy is expected to grow six percent this year, the Washington-based crisis lender forecasts Africa will see only a 3.2 per cent expansion, excluding oil-rich Libya.

And while wealthy countries are rolling out Covid-19 vaccines to large shares of their populations, Georgieva said only 0.6 per cent of Africa’s adult population has been fully vaccinated.

“The warning signs are clear: a two-track pandemic is leading to a two-track recovery. Africa is already falling behind in terms of growth prospects,” she said.—AFP ■

US new home sales drop for second straight month

US new home sales fell for the second straight month in May while the median sales price hit a new record high, government data said Wednesday, reinforcing the case that the housing market is slowing.

The Commerce Department said new home sales were at 769,000 annualized last month, 5.9 percent below April’s downwardly revised rate and also lower than analysts had forecast.

The median sales price of new properties climbed to \$374,400, even as supply increased so that, if no more houses came onto the market, the stock would sell in 5.1 months at the current pace.

“Sales look set to fall further, with a decent chance they’ll soon be back below the pre-Covid trend,” said Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Real estate demand soared during the worst of the Covid-19

pandemic as those who could afford it sought out new properties, and the pace in May was 9.2 percent higher than the same month in 2020.

However Shepherdson said the data indicate the arrival of vaccines against the virus has chilled demand, pointing to the uptick in supply of new properties.

“The brief, albeit frenetic, boom phase of the housing recovery is over,” he said.—AFP ■

Oman launches investment residency scheme for foreigners



Sultan Qaboos port in the Omani capital Muscat, from the air. PHOTO: AFP

OMAN will begin issuing long-term residency to foreign investors, the government said Wednesday as authorities attempt to shore up the Gulf nation’s flagging economy.

Depressed demand for oil and the coronavirus pandemic have hit the sultanate’s finances hard, pushing leaders to seek alternative sources of hard cur-

rency.

Foreign investors and retirees will be granted the right to long stays in the country under the scheme starting in September, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion said in a statement.

“The residency period is for a renewable period of five or 10 years,” it said, without specifying

the required level of investment.

Oman has seen rare protests over high unemployment and layoffs in recent months, developments the labour ministry said it was watching with “great concern”.

Since 2014, the oil-rich Gulf region has been hit hard by falling crude revenues.

The coronavirus pandemic has both compounded the pressure on oil prices and hampered efforts to jumpstart the economy in Oman, with 254,656 cases and 2,816 deaths reported since the beginning of the crisis.

The World Bank warned in October that “the drop in oil prices and COVID-19 are placing unprecedented strain on Oman’s economy”.

That has pushed it and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to step up efforts to create jobs for their own citizens, in a region that has long relied heavily on cheap foreign labour.—AFP ■

China to release 50,000 tons of aluminum reserves

CHINA will release 50,000 tonnes of aluminum from its national reserves amid efforts to ease commodity price hikes and cost pressure on firms.

Open bidding of the first batch of aluminum will start on July 5 at the website <https://www.norincogroup-ebuy.com>, the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration

said Tuesday in a statement.

Only aluminum processing and manufacturing enterprises will be eligible to bid, and the purchased aluminum shall be used for production promptly. It shall not be resold or hoarded, said the administration.

China will further release its state reserves of copper, aluminum, and zinc

to ensure stable commodity prices, the country's top economic planner, the National Development and Reform Commission, said earlier this month.

The commission said it would work with other departments to release the nonferrous metal reserves in multiple batches as needed in light of market price changes.—Xinhua ■



Employees check production at a smart facility of an aluminum product company in Liupanshui, Guizhou province. PHOTO: CHINA DAILY/XINHUA

Tears and defiance as Hong Kong's Apple Daily prints last edition



Members of the press take photos as executive editor in chief Lam Man-Chung (C) proof reads the next day's 'Apple Daily' newspaper before it goes to print for the last time. PHOTO: AFP

AS journalists from Hong Kong's embattled pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper scrambled to produce their final edition, they didn't need to go far to find their front page -- the news was right outside their doors.

With its confrontational style, caustic commentaries and sometimes tawdry reporting, the city's most popular tabloid was no stranger to being in the headlines. So it was perhaps fitting that its final front page after 26 years

of operation featured one of its own journalists waving goodbye to hundreds of supporters on the streets outside.

"Hong Kongers bid a painful farewell in the rain: 'We support Apple Daily,'" the paper's last headline read. Apple Daily is the latest Hong Kong institution to be upended by a national security law that Beijing imposed on the city last year to stamp out dissent after huge and often violent democracy protests.

Authorities used the law to freeze its assets and arrest five key executives last week.

Six days later, it folded.

'Complicated feeling'
Inside the bustling

newsroom on Wednesday evening, many staff wept as they put together the last edition. Others gathered for group photos and cheered.

"We're trying to do the best at the very last moment," a harried page designer, who gave his surname as Kwok, told AFP, as a gaggle of reporters from rival outlets crisscrossed the newsroom documenting a watershed moment for their embattled industry. "It's a complicated feeling," he added. One photographer, who declined to be named, said the newsroom was filled with far more employees than usual on its last night, almost like a reunion or a funeral.—AFP ■

Google gives workers tool for remote work planning

GOOGLE on Tuesday unveiled a platform that lets its workers calculate pay and benefits for remote work, and how this would change if they move to a cheaper -- or more expensive -- city.

With the company's new hybrid workplace, "more employees are considering where they live and how they work," a Google spokesperson said in response to an AFP inquiry.

The new Work Location Tool will show workers how their compensation will be adjusted depending on their location, since pay is based on costs of living in places and tuned to local job

markets.

Google, which employs some 140,000 people worldwide, expects that in the post-pandemic work model 60 per cent of its employees will meet in offices just a few days a week, and 20 per cent of its workers will be in new office locations. The remaining 20 per cent of "Googlers" are expected to work from home, according to the spokesperson. Google chief executive Sundar Pichai has spoken of a need for flexibility regarding remote work and changes of location as tech companies reopen campuses abandoned during the pandemic.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NESNA VOY.NO. (122S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NESNA VOY.NO. (122S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-6-2021** 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 TCI ARJUN VOY.NO. (100142021)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TCI ARJUN VOY.NO. (100142021)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING

Invitation For Open tender No.(3/2021)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (5008.574) Metric Tons, (21) Lots of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar as follow,

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| a) Cathode Copper (108.574) MT | (1) Lot, | Yangon, Eden Warehouse |
| b) Cathode Copper (100) MT | (5) Lots, | Yangon, Eden Warehouse |
| c) Cathode Copper (200) MT | (5) Lots, | Yangon, Eden Warehouse |
| d) Cathode Copper (200) MT | (7) Lots, | Monywa, Mine Site |
| e) Cathode Copper (500) MT | (2) Lots, | Monywa, Mine Site |
| f) Cathode Copper (1000) MT | (1) Lot, | Monywa, Mine Site |

2. Base price of Cathode Copper (Eden Warehouse, Yangon) shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount shall be winning tender.

3. Base price of Monywa, Mine Site Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.

4. Tender Closing Date and Time is 21.7.2021 (14:00)PM and Opening Tender is (15:00) PM.

5. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to (+95) 067 3409378 and 067 3409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee

Advertise with us/ Hot Line :09974424848

NEWS
IN BRIEFIran satellite
launch in early
June failed:
Pentagon

Iran failed in an attempt to launch a satellite into space in early June and apparently plans a new launch, according to the US Defense Department and images of the Iranian space center in Semnan province seen Wednesday.

"US Space Command is aware of the Iranian rocket launch failure which occurred early June 12th," said Pentagon spokesperson Uriah Orland.

No explanation was offered for why the launch failed and Iran rejected the original report of it by CNN, saying its satellites remain on the ground.

"The two satellites of the ministry of telecommunications (Nahid and Pars) are at the space organisation," Iran's telecoms minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said, according to the state news agency IRNA.—AFP ■

Brazil environment
minister resigns
amid investigation

BRAZIL'S controversial environment minister, Ricardo Salles, announced his resignation Wednesday, just over a month after the Supreme Court ordered an investigation into allegations he was involved in a timber trafficking scheme.

"I have presented my resignation to the president, which he accepted," Salles, 46, told a news conference at the presidential palace in Brasilia.

Salles, one of the most divisive figures in far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's government, has presided over a surge in deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and major cuts to environmental protection programs since taking office in January 2019.

The minister had faced even greater scrutiny since May 19, when a Supreme Court justice ordered an investigation into allegations that he and top officials in his ministry helped companies traffic illegally logged rainforest wood to Europe and the United States.

Police raided his home and environment ministry offices the same day.—AFP ■

'Must do more': British royals reveal staff diversity data

BRITAIN'S royal family for the first time revealed how many ethnic minority staff it employs on Thursday, and admitted it has not made sufficient progress on diversity.

The revelation comes three months after explosive claims of racism against the monarchy from Queen Elizabeth II's grandson Prince Harry and his mixed-race wife Meghan.

The couple, who stepped down from frontline royal duties in March last year, claimed an unnamed senior royal asked what colour skin their son, Archie, would have.

The palace disputed the claim, saying "recollections may vary", while Harry's elder brother, Prince William, insisted:



Britain's royal family for the first time revealed how many ethnic minority staff it employs on Thursday, and admitted it has not made sufficient progress on diversity. The Massed Bands perform. **PHOTO: ROYALFAMILY/AFP**

"We are very much not a racist family."

Just 8.5 per cent of royal

employees are from ethnic minorities compared with about 13 per cent of the overall UK

population, according to the last published census in 2011.

The royal statistic -- the source of much speculation -- had previously only been kept internally.

A Buckingham Palace source told Britain's domestic Press Association news agency that publishing the figures left the monarchy with "no place to hide" and would improve accountability.

A target of 10 per cent has been set for 2022.

"We are not where we would like to be. It is not that we have not been progressing diversity and inclusion initiatives, it is that the results have not been what we would like," the source said.—AFP ■

Biden lays out plan to curb violent crime surge



Armed demonstrators protest in Lansing, Michigan, May 14, 2020. **PHOTO: JEFF KOWALSKY /AFP**

US President Joe Biden laid out new measures Wednesday to tackle America's gun crisis against a backdrop of surging

violent crime that his Republican rivals have seized on for weeks.

And with major cities seeing alarming spikes in shootings, homicides and armed robberies, the president warned Americans that the uptick could carry into the summer, following months of coronavirus lockdowns.

Biden unveiled his strategy during a televised address following a White House meeting with Attorney General Merrick Garland, a bipartisan group of city mayors and law enforcement leaders. "We're taking on the bad actors," Biden said.

"We're not changing the Constitution, we're enforcing it," he added, apparently in re-

sponse to Republican critics who warn the president's efforts at gun control amount to constitutional overreach.

The president pointed to what his administration has acknowledged is a spike in violence -- homicides in the first quarter of 2021 were up 24 percent over the same period last year, it said -- as justification for stricter gun laws.

"We have an opportunity to come together now, as Democrats and Republicans, as fellow Americans, to fulfill the responsibility of government in our democracy: to keep each other safe," he said, urging Congress to act on sensible gun control legislation.—AFP ■

US military chief rebukes
Republican lawmakers' concerns
on 'critical race theory'

THE top US military official, General Mark Milley, on Wednesday defended the necessity of studying even controversial parts of history, saying accusations by Republican lawmakers that the armed forces are teaching recruits a controversial theory about racism were offensive.

At the core of the argument, which has mostly taken place on social media, is a legal framework called critical race theory.

The term refers to a school of thought that first appeared in American legal scholarship in the 1970s, as a way to analyze racism as part of a system with laws and

power structures, rather than at the level of individual prejudice.

But Republican detractors have recently turned the phrase into a catch-all term to refer to all efforts to teach grade school and high school students about grim themes of racism in American history, including slavery and segregation.

Two Republican lawmakers in the House of Representatives, including Trump supporter Matt Gaetz, took advantage of a congressional hearing with Milley, who is the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to ques-



The top US military official, General Mark Milley, on Wednesday defended the necessity of studying even controversial parts of history. **PHOTO: AFP**

tion the two about whether critical race theory is being taught in military academic institutions.

"And I personally find it offensive that we are accusing the United States military... of being,

quote, 'woke' or something else, because we're studying some theories that are out there," that "started at Harvard years ago," Milley said, while Gaetz shook his head in irritation.—AFP ■

International pressure on Russia to leave Syrian cross-border access open



In this file photo taken on February 22, 2020 Russian military vehicles patrol the M4 highway in the northeastern Syrian Hasakeh province on the border with Turkey. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE UN and a handful of countries pressured Russia Wednesday to continue allowing authorization of the only border crossing through which humanitarian aid

reaches Syria's insurgent Idlib region, but Moscow remained adamant that such a move threatens Syrian sovereignty.

"I strongly appeal to the

members of the Council to reach consensus on allowing cross border operations as a vital channel of support for another year," UN Secretary-General Antonio Gu-

terres told the Security Council.

However veto-wielding Russia, which is allied with President Bashar al-Assad, has made clear its opposition to a further extension of the border crossing's authorization, which allows aid to reach some three million people living in the Idlib region.

Russian UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia maintained that the Idlib region is "a refuge for terrorists and radicalized jihadists," insisting that the better alternative is to transport aid from Damascus through the frontlines.

Negotiations have been launched on a draft resolution – brought forth by Ireland and Norway, two non-permanent Security Council members – to extend the authorization of the Bab al-Hawa crossing, which is located on the Turkish border. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Southern African bloc to send troops to insurgency-hit Mozambique

SOUTHERN African countries agreed to deploy forces to help quell a jihadist insurgency, as military and security sources said late Wednesday there had been fresh clashes with Islamist militants in northern Mozambique.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) approved the deployment of the "SADC Standby Force in support of Mozambique to combat... terrorism and acts of violent extremism in Cabo Delgado," Executive Secretary Stergomena Tax said at the end of a one-day summit.

She gave no details of the strength of the force or how long it would be deployed.

As the leaders met, security and military sources said clashes had broken out in Palma district, near the multi-million-dollar Afungi LNG gas site. — AFP ■

Alms for terror: Indonesian extremists finance jihad with charity

Generous Indonesians donating their spare change to the poor and needy are unwittingly helping finance deadly terror attacks and jihadist training camps, in a scam that has netted big money for extremist groups.

Former radical Khairul Ghazali once spent his days visiting restaurants, convenience stores and supermarkets to drop off charity boxes, wearing an official-looking uniform to avoid suspicion.

Passers-by would slot in coins and crumpled banknotes in the belief that they were helping the impoverished, orphaned children or maybe a Palestinian aid organisation.

But Ghazali's boxes secretly



Hardline Islamist groups depend on a charity box scam to pay for operations across Indonesia, which has suffered a series of hotel bombings and other attacks over the years. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

belonged to Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) – the notorious network behind Indonesia's deadliest terror

attack, the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings.

"People can't tell the differ-

ence between these and other charity boxes," said Ghazali, 56, who now runs an Islamic boarding school and tries to de-radicalise former extremists.

"The money collected is usually used to pay for terrorism."

With little outside funding, hardline Islamist groups depend on the charity box scam to pay for operations across Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim-majority nation, which has suffered a series of hotel bombings and other attacks over the years.

North Sumatra police said in March they had seized more than 500 boxes suspected to be funding pipelines for the Islamic State group and radicals linked to Al-Qaeda. — AFP ■

Biden names widow of Republican McCain as envoy to UN agency

US President Joe Biden said Wednesday he will nominate Cindy McCain, widow of Republican senator John McCain, as the US Ambassador to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, headquartered in Rome.

Cindy McCain announced her support for the Democratic candidate for the White House last September, marking a break with incumbent Republican President Donald Trump, who was campaigning against Biden for re-election. "My husband John lived by a code: country first. We are Republicans, yes, but Americans foremost. There's only one candidate in this race who stands up for our values as a nation, and that is @JoeBiden," she wrote at the time on Twitter.

A furious Trump shot back on his own Twitter account.

"I hardly know Cindy McCain other than having put her on a Committee at her husband's request. Joe Biden was John McCain's lapdog. — AFP ■

Nicaragua's Ortega calls arrested opponents 'criminals' and US 'agents'

NICARAGUAN President Daniel Ortega said Wednesday that 19 of his opponents who have been arrested just five months before his country's presidential election are not candidates or politicians, but rather "criminals" who want to "overthrow the government."

"That is what we are pursuing, that is what is being investigated and that is what will be punished in due course," Ortega

said in an official televised ceremony, while accusing the imprisoned of being "agents of the Yankee empire" who "conspire against Nicaragua to overthrow the government."

Pro-government security and paramilitary forces have arrested 19 people, including five opposition presidential challengers as well as journalists, businessmen and a banker. — AFP ■



Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega (R) and Vice-President Rosario Murillo attend an anniversary ceremony for the birth of Sandinista leader Carlos Fonseca Amador in Managua on June 23, 2021. PHOTO: NICARAGUAN PRESIDENCY/AFP

Myanmar team falls in AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers Pot 1

MYANMAR women's national football team is falling in the Seeding Pot 1 of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers, according to the ASEAN Football figures.

All the women's football teams will be divided into four groups of four and four groups of three, with the winners entering

the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022, scheduled to take place from 20 January to 6 February.

"Additionally, Pot 1 teams or the hosts for the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 Qualifiers: Bangladesh, China Taipei, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will be placed in a separate host pot. They will

be drawn into separate groups based on their positions in their ranking pot.

Due to the lower number of hosts, there will be no host team drawn into Group H and the AFC will follow up with the Participating Member Associations drawn to this group for further arrangements on the venue

details. Meanwhile Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal are granted conditional hosting rights, which will be re-evaluated by the AFC six weeks before the first match of the Group for a final decision.

Thailand, Korea Republic, Philippines, Jordan, Vietnam and DPR Korea, will be placed in Pot 1, while Pot 2 will consist of Bah-

rain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Palestine, United Arab Emirates, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Pot 3 will include Iraq as well as non-ranked teams from Pot 4 (10 non-ranked teams) consisting of Afghanistan, Guam, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, and Turkmenistan," AFC officials said. — GNLM

Benzema delighted to lift 'pressure' with first goals since France return

KARIM Benzema said he was delighted to score his first goals for France since 2015 against Portugal on Wednesday, as there was "a little pressure" on him across the country. The Real Madrid striker was brought back for Euro 2020 by coach Didier Deschamps after a five-and-a-half year exile from international football over his alleged role in a blackmail plot. Benzema failed to score in his first four matches since returning for France, who won the 2018 World Cup without him.

But he netted a first-half penalty in the final Group F game against Portugal before slotting in a second to end his long wait. "A lot of joy, a lot of pride," he said to BeIN Sports. "I think everyone was waiting for it. There was a little pressure on me from all over the country but I'm a footballer, a professional—I need that pressure." A 2-2 draw, which also saw Cristiano Ronaldo score twice to equal the all-time international goalscoring record, sent France through as group winners. Deschamps' men will face Switzerland in the last 16 on Monday in Bucharest. "He (Benzema) was looking for that. He hasn't lost his confidence, or mine," Deschamps told TF1. "We will recover well and then we'll prepare for that (Switzerland game) as well as possible." — AFP ■



Karim Benzema said he was delighted to score his first goals for France since 2015 against Portugal on Wednesday, as there was "a little pressure" on him across the country. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Wembley suits us' - Germany relish facing England in last 16



Germany were facing elimination from Group F on Wednesday until second-half replacement Leon Goretzka fired in the crucial late equaliser to seal a 2-2 draw with Hungary which put Joachim Loew's side into the last 16. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANUEL Neuer says Germany are relishing a return to Wembley to face England in the last 16 of Euro 2020, 25 years after breaking English hearts at the tournament. Germany were facing elimination from Group F on Wednesday until second-half replacement Leon Goretzka fired in the crucial late equaliser to seal a 2-2 draw with Hungary which put Joachim Loew's side into the last 16.

Germany now face Gareth Southgate's England in London

next Tuesday for a place in the quarter-finals. "It was a thriller, tough on the nerves," said relieved Germany goalkeeper Neuer. "England will be a completely different game. We want to go further. And Wembley suits us," he added with a grin.

England will be looking to avenge their Euro 96 semi-final defeat to Germany at Wembley when the hosts lost on penalties while the Germans went on to beat the Czech Republic in the final.

Hungary took a shock lead in Munich through captain Adam Szalai. Kai Havertz headed in Germany's second-half equaliser, but the visitors scored again less than two minutes later through Andras Schaefer.

Goretzka spared Germany's blushes when the Bayern Munich midfielder came off the bench and smashed in the equaliser six minutes from time.

"I am delighted, we have no doubts now and are full of confidence," said Goretzka. — AFP ■

Ronaldo equals international scoring record as Portugal edge into last 16

CRISTIANO Ronaldo scored two penalties to equal the all-time international goalscoring record and help holders Portugal edge into the last 16 of Euro 2020 with a 2-2 draw against France in Budapest on Wednesday.

Portugal will face the world's top-ranked side Belgium in the first knockout round in Seville on Sunday. Fernando Santos' men moved through as one of the four best third-placed sides, for the second straight Euro, from Group F behind France and Germany, who only just qualified after a dramatic 2-2 draw with Hungary in Munich.

Ronaldo gave his side the lead just after the

half-hour mark with his first spot-kick, before France hit back through Karim Benzema's two goals either side of half-time.

But, with Portugal heading out as it stood with Hungary leading Germany, Ronaldo helped win and then scored their second penalty with half an hour remaining.

The 36-year-old's fifth goal of the group stage extended his record tally of Euro goals to 14 and drew him level with former Iran striker Ali Daei, in his 178th international match.

World champions France will next take on Switzerland in Bucharest on Monday.— AFP ■



Cristiano Ronaldo scored two penalties to equal the all-time international goalscoring record and help holders Portugal edge into the last 16 of Euro 2020 with a 2-2 draw against France in Budapest on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**