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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

Number of tourist arrivals to Myanmar will reach 0.5 million to 1.8 million in 2023: Vice-Senior General

THE National Tourism Development Central Committee held the first meeting at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Speaking on the occasion, the Central Committee Chairman said today's meeting was to discuss the ways and means to rapidly develop Myanmar's tourism services for creating jobs for local people and resurge the businesses related to the tourism industry depending on control of COVID-19 infection.

The tourism industry can create millions of jobs and business opportunities in global countries and it is a drive for new generations to enjoy natural and ancient cultural heritages and preservation tasks. In some coun-



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the first National Tourism Development Central Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

tries having the development of tourism industry, income from the tourism industry is playing a key role in State economy. And, it is the third-largest export sector of the global economy. Moreover, the tourism sector is of great importance in the exploration of new sites for humans, culture and ex-

posures as well as conservation of natural biodiversity.

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Myanmar ships over 539,000 tonnes of green grams as of 18 June

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Long bean selling well in Natmawk Township

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19
 6th Waning of Nayon 1383 ME
 30 June 2021

IT is announced that the statements to the public, orders, notifications and directives (excluding eased restrictions) of the Union-level organizations and Union ministries effective until 30 June 2021 for prevention, control and treatment of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 31 July 2021 as it is required to continue containment of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 31 July 2021

1. With a view to the further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry re-strictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 30 June 2021 by the Ministry's announcement dated 31 May 2021.
 - (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
 - (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on Arrival and e-visa;
 - (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
 - (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the afore-mentioned entry re-restriction measures until 31 July 2021.
3. In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Mission for possible exception with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports relating to the pre-vention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
 Dated. 30 June 2021

Effective period for temporary measures to prevent importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through air travel extended until 31 July 2021

THE effective period for the Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel issued on 29 March 2020 by the Ministry of Health and Sports was extended up to 30 June 2021, 23:59 hours of Myanmar Standard Time, in line with the approval of the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

As the infection of this disease remains increasing in most of the countries, and the current effective period will be further extended with the approval of the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, until 31 July 2021, 23:59 hours of Myanmar Standard Time to prevent infection of COVID-19 to Myanmar through passengers of international airlines.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

1,580 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 June, total figure rises to 157,277

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **157,277** after **1,580 new cases** were reported on 30 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **136,443** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **3,334** after **14** died. —MNA

Public security system

POLITICAL protests were staged after Tatmadaw had taken the State power. Although the situation of taking over the State responsibilities has been explained many times, some people understood it, but some so didn't. Now, sabotages are committed via insurgents. They attend the explosive and sabotage courses in the area of armed insurgents. They formed CRPH, NUG and PDF declared as unlawful associations to commit terrorist acts on the destruction route. Myanmar Police Force and administrative bodies are to join hands for taking security measures through the public security system.

(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)

Facemask wearing campaigns must be raised in stay-at-home townships: Vice-Senior General

THE COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee needs to enhance coordination for undertaking suitable tasks, said Chairman of the Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the fifth coordination meeting of the committee at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The Vice-Senior General continued to say that as variant COVID-19 breaks out not only in neighbouring countries but in Myanmar, it is necessary to overcome the challenges without fail. Individual preventive measures must be taken and vaccination must be given for



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the 5th coordination meeting of the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

rapid mitigation of the infection rate of the pandemic.

During the visit to Russia,

the Chairman of the State Administration Council agreed to buy 2 million units of COVID-19

vaccine and bought three PCR machines to test the virus. Such a machine can test up to 140 per-

sons within one and a half hours. Likewise, the Ministry of Health

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Number of tourist arrivals to Myanmar will reach 0.5 million to ...

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As the tourism industry is important not only for Myanmar but for the whole world, all global countries including Myanmar are implementing the tourism sector in line with the sustainable development goals of the United Nations for systematic development in the long run.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, travelling across the world was restricted. As such, the year 2020 was the worst in the global tourism industry. According to the data of the United Nations World Tourism Organization-UNWTO in March 2021, visits of tourists across the world declined 94 per cent in comparison with the same period of last year, 83 per cent in Europe, 81 per cent in Africa, 78 per cent in the Middle East and 94 per cent in Asia-Pacific Region, and income from the tourism industry lost US\$1.1 trillion, Asia-Pacific Region 70 per cent and Middle

East 69 per cent.

Due to COVID-19, arrivals of tourists in Myanmar in 2020 declined 79 per cent in comparison with that of 2019 with an 81 per cent decrease of income from the tourism industry. Moreover, the country lost many opportunities for jobs related to the tourism industry.

Depending on the control of the disease, global countries resumed tourism services. So, destinations halted as of early September 2020 were resumed by 53 per cent. Based on data of the World Tourism Federation in January 2021, it is expected the international tourism services would resume by 40 per cent in 2021 and 60 more per cent in 2022. If COVID-19 could be controlled in full swing in 2023, the tourism industry would reach normalcy in 2024.

The World Tourism Federation formed the Global Tourism Crisis Committee which arranges

resumption of tourism services.

Moreover, the Global Tourism Crisis Committee will cooperate with UNWTO / IATA (International Air Transport Association) in implementing the destination tracker system while drawing the Harmonize Common Guidelines Recommendations on Health and Safety Protocols.

According to the data of the Asia-Pacific Tourism Board on arrivals of international tourists in 2021-2023, the number of tourist arrivals to Myanmar will reach 0.5 million to 1.8 million in 2023. But, such situations depend on control of COVID-19 infection and peace and stability of the State.

At present, infection of COVID-19 in the third wave was found in some global countries including neighbouring countries, so it needs to take time for resuming the arrival of international tourists.

Since its establishment, the State Administration Coun-

cil prioritizes the resumption of domestic tourism services. In the Thingyan period of 2021, 432,829 local travellers paid visits to destinations in the nation. But, variant COVID-19 infection started in early June. Officials of the Ministry of Health and Sports, volunteers and people should participate in the prevention, control and treatment of the disease.

Myanmar needs to implement Agri Tourism, Farming Tourism and Nature-based Tourism to be operated together with agricultural tasks.

Myanmar cooperates with ASEAN in drawing ASEAN level policies for recovery of businesses and the Common Health Guidelines, implementing ASEAN Travel Corridor, recognizing Travel Pass and Safety Protocol, and establishing ASEAN Tourism Recovery Fund.

Respective region and state administration councils were urged to cooperate in the en-

hancement of pilot projects for domestic tourism services in a short time.

Officials reported on the implementation of the meeting decisions, formation of tourism committees and enhancement of domestic tourism services.

Central Committee members Union ministers and deputy minister, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials discussed progress and challenges for the development of tourism sector, restrictions for domestic travel, issuance of entry visa, improvement of transport, laboratory tests, quarantine process and creation of new destinations.

Later, the Vice-Senior General urged officials to cooperate in guaranteeing security for the tourists and local people. The Ministry of Health and Sports and relevant businesspersons are to participate in the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic. — MNA

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing replies to queries raised by RIA news agency of Russian Federation

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 24 June received Special Correspondent Ms Kukushkina Tatiana of RIA news agency of the Russian Federation at Metropol Hotel in Moscow of Russia and replied to queries.

The questions and answers were mentioned as follows: -

Q: This is not the first time of trip for you to attend the International Security Conference in Moscow. At the 9th conference, we saw your discussions on security measures on the Asia-Pacific Region. Can you add your discussions on the security measures on the ground?

A: First and foremost, I'd like to discuss that the Asia-Pacific Region is an area in which the world powerful countries have been very interesting after the Second World War. The Pacific region, the Atlantic region and European frontlines are of great importance during the Second World War. The global countries are interested in the Far East and the Asia-Pacific Region. So, I'd like to note that it is necessary to take care of security measures in all tasks related to politics. For example, the Vietnamese war was one of the wars which happened after World War II. It can be said that it is an interest of the Asia-Pacific Region in Southeast Asia.

Q: With regard to the security measures at present, what are the dangers for the world?

A: There are many forms of danger. These are terror attacks. Moreover, we can see many items of influence over the countries with the purposes of politics, economics, peace and stability. I'd like to say these are dangers.

Q: We have heard that you held a meeting with Minister of Defense of Russia Army General Sergey Kuzhugotovich Shoigu on this trip to Russia on the cooperation in military technology. In this regard, what kinds of sectors



Ms Kukushkina Tatiana of RIA news agency interviews Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Moscow.

for cooperation in military technology will be further extended? May I know new stories?

A: There are many sectors. It may be wider. We held discussions on many topics. So, it is not new. We focused on further extension of existing work processes. We don't have new plans. Since starting, we operate a wider scale of sectors.

Q: What kinds of work fields do you further extend?

A: Yesterday, we discussed measures about air defence but it was not special. It is because there is much potential for imposing danger of air strikes into the international community. We don't have adequate finance to be powerful Myanmar's air force against the airstrikes. So, we focus on measures of air defence. It was included in yesterday's discussions.

Q: Our Russia and Myanmar are partner countries that would not stop their relations not just in military-technological cooperation. Do you have any plans to cooperate in other sectors?

A: It would be in various sectors. For example, we will cooperate in an extension of Tatmadaw (Navy), communi-

cations and technology. Detail information will be larger but it should not be disclosed.

Q: Let me ask a question on the current internal affairs of Myanmar. The expressions in the world's media on Myanmar are very different from the realities in Myanmar, we Russia knew. Why do the world's media mention the reverse forms instead of the realities? Why do you review it?

A: Mainly, I assume it is a trend of undermining the current our management and of making attempts to create the positions for those they give favour.

Q: Do you mean western countries?

A: Yes, of course.

Q: Do western countries write in the media? Or do they broadcast these items of false news as diplomats of relevant countries?

A: Of course. They do so much. Those from the diplomatic arena so do and the agencies under the United Nations also do it as well. NGOs and INGOs also commit so. The media arena also so does.

Q: According to the findings on observation over the con-

stitution of Myanmar, Russia sees there is no post of State Counsellor in the constitution. But, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the previous government term took the power of the State for a long time with the post of State Counsellor which is not mentioned in the constitution. Why does such a situation emerge? Why do you think how she considered doing so?

A: The post of State Counsellor was created herself. The constitution comprises a section that duty can be assigned to any organization or person. They created such a post in line with that section. But, it is authority. We have three powers as the authority. These are legislative power, executive power and judicial power. No one can do anything to influence these three powers. These three powers are the highest organizations. Nobody can be beyond these powers. Any law cannot be promulgated beyond the constitution. But, she grasped the post beyond the constitution.

At this junction, I'd like to note that Section 59 (f) of the constitution stipulates the restriction for relations of a citizen with a foreigner. Her event gets entangled with such restriction. She gets entangled with the

qualification for the president. So, she enacted the law on the state counsellor and took such a post. Criteria of qualification for the post of president and vice president are inclusive of Section 59 (f) of the constitution. When she was appointed as the state counsellor, she inserted her post into the protocol between the president and the vice president under the gazette. Actually, the person of the state counsellor must be inclusive of Section 59 (f). But, she evaded the provisions of the constitution. She could not be free from such a point. As further clarification, our country exercises the protocol of the positions. It comprises 25 positions: the president, followed by vice-presidents, the speakers of Hluttaw. Such kinds of the protocol are exercised in the international community. In your country, who is the most responsible after the President? How is the third responsible? It is protocol. The protocol is issued in an official letter. So, she issued the official State gazette signed by the president, mentioning that she took the second position. So, I say she gets entangled with the law. If she is outside the protocol without the issuance of the ga-

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zette, it is no problem. But she officially issued the letter.

Q: We know some prosecutions against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. What kinds of criminal cases can be adopted for punishing her? Did foreign countries demand over such cases? Please explain the demands of these countries.

A: It is not easy to say as I am not a judge. So, the judge will adopt decisions over the accusation of her at the trial based on the rationality of the judge. Prosecuted organizations sued her depending on their findings. But, the judge will adopt decisions after performing the

inquiry.
Q: The government of the State Administration Council initially said the election would be held within one year. Recently, you told me the election would be held within two years. Please explain such a matter.

A: The results of the election were scrutinized by the Tatmadaw at first and then released. It announced the wrong voter lists. When I took the responsibilities, the Union Election Commission called UEC was reconstituted and assigned to inspect the voter lists. Depending on its findings,

we issued the statements. So, if these tasks complete, we announced that we would hold the election. But the timeframe was not limited to take six months or one year. When the tasks in the state of emergency have been completed, I will make efforts to hold the election. I will perform to form the government by the elected party. I will hand over the responsibilities to it. I said so.

For further fact, the main theme of errors in the voter list is the lack of citizenship scrutiny cards. Those non-CSC holders were involved on the voter lists. More than 10 million people without CSC were

involved on the voter lists. In scrutiny, it is important to issue CSC to more than 4 million people urgently. Now, CSCs are being issued to them. Relevant officials estimate it needs to take at least 18 months for issuance. In so doing, it is necessary to issue the cards to 300 persons per day.

Only when CSCs are issued to 300 persons per day, will it be completed within 18 months. Otherwise, it needs to take a longer time.

We pointed the error voter list was based on those without CSCs. So, it will be guilty if we compile the voter lists comprising those with no CSC so as to

hold the new election. So, the issuance of CSC is prioritized. Such process has completed, we can hold the election based on correct data. So, we need to take adequate time. So, I said it needs to take about two years for the election.

For another point, we exercise the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law. It can be applied to give citizenship to relevant persons. It is a duty not to take a long time during the election period. So, we hold discussions with relevant persons. It should not be delayed. If it delays, it will make a problem. I'd like to say we have such a task.

TO BE CONTINUED

Facemask wearing campaigns must be raised in stay-at-home townships: Vice-Senior General

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and Sports is trying to purchase vaccines from China. On 29 June, 1,312 positive patients were found, accounting for 15.94 per cent. Hence, it is necessary to provide treatment to patients at the hospitals as well as extend more quarantine centres. Preventive measures of the disease must be taken at schools for disinfection over

the students. The Vice-Senior General urged them to raise the campaign of wearing facemasks in wards, towns, townships and regions and states.

The Ministry of Health and Sports and the Tatmadaw are increasing the production of face masks for the people. The facemask wearing campaigns must be raised in stay-at-home townships.

Secretary of the committee Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut explained infection of the disease in second and third waves, treatment and death rate, infection of staff of ministries in Nay Pyi Taw and preparations of facility quarantine for foreign returnees.

Participants of the meeting discussed testing, treatment and death in the disease, in-

fection of disease in neighbouring countries, information for control of the disease, preparations for quarantine centres, preparations of the Tatmadaw to assist in treatment and control of the disease, supply of oxygen, directives for religious edifices, nunneries and monasteries to abide by the COVID-19 restrictions, vaccination for drivers and staff, providing

social security assistance to infected workers, temporary closure of schools in stay-at-home townships, distribution of aid for prevention of disease at the schools, systematic supervision for SOP/guidelines, giving health training to volunteers and provision of health aid.

The Vice-Senior General gave a concluding remark at the meeting.—MNA

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*

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U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs attends meeting of Working Committee on cooperation with UN Agencies, International Organizations under Central Committee for Rakhine State's Peace, Stability and Development

THE meeting of the Working Committee on Cooperation with the United Nations Agencies and International Organizations (1/2021) under the Central Committee for the Rakhine State's Peace, Stability and Development was held at the Ayeyawady Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, in the capacity of Chairman of the Working Committee on the cooperation with the UN Agencies and the International Organizations, underscored that cooperation with the international organizations should be in compliance with the needs of national interests, on-the-ground situation and the government's policy. He also underlined that the tasks of the Working Committee encompass



not only humanitarian assistance but also poverty reduction and development. Accordingly, the implementation should focus on development of the Ra-

khine State as a whole. He also highlighted that cooperation with the UN agencies and international organizations should lead to tangible results. More-

over, he stressed that monitoring and evaluation along with the cooperation will be more effective. More importantly, he emphasized the importance

of disseminating reliable and credible information on the development of the Rakhine State.

Furthermore, the Deputy Ministers and the members of the Rakhine State Administration Council, the Committee members discussed the ongoing implementation and the areas for further cooperation including health, education, ongoing projects in the Rakhine State.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of the Working Committee also discussed the views relating to the future plan for the effective implementation of the tasks of the Working Committee while the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Co-Secretary of the Working Committee deliberated about the important role of disseminating the credible information. —MNA

Myanmar and Russia chair 11th ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism Meeting

MYANMAR and Russian Federation presided over the 11th ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism Meeting (EWG on CT Meeting) via videoconferencing on 29 and 30 June.

During the meeting, the Co-Chair countries — Myanmar and Russia first made opening remarks and discussed the topic called "On Assessment of Terrorist Threats in Southeast Asia."

The leaders highlighted the activities of the political and religious extremists in ASEAN regions, well-known acts of terrorism, reviews on such cases, other activities of unlawful Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), National Unity Government (NUG) and People Defence Force (PDF) like murder cases and attacks on schools committed by breaking the international law and existing law of the country.

During the discussion with the title "Discussion on Cooperation of Regional Countries to Combat Terrorist Groups", they exchanged views on the co-

operation work of ADMM-Plus countries in combating terrorist groups, terrorisms of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), NUG and PDF which were declared terrorist groups under the 2014 Anti-Terrorism Law, potential cooperation work of ARSA and NUG to accelerate the terrorisms for certain political gains with the Bengali issue on Bangladesh border areas and exchange of information to protect their cross-border crimes.

The Russian officials then discussed the acts of terrorism of Syria that threaten Russia, the establishment of an anti-terrorism system, counter-terrorism activities in the Northern Caucasus region and the role of the Russian Federation Army in combatting terrorism of Syria.

Then, the 10 ASEAN countries and partners also exchanged views on the respective papers and suggestions.

Myanmar and Russian Federation will conduct as co-chair of ADMM-Plus EWG on CT from 2021 to 2023. —MNA

Myanmar chairs 2nd regional workshop on reviewing and updating ASEAN CCSTP



THE 2nd Regional Workshop on Reviewing and Updating the ASEAN Common Competency Standards for Tourism Professionals-ACCSTP was chaired by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism through videoconferencing on 29 and 30 June.

The meeting was attended by members and chairperson of the ASEAN Tourism Pro-

fessional Monitoring Committee-ATPMC, members of each ASEAN member country's National Tourism Professional Board- NTPB, Tourism Professional Certification Board-TPCB, experts from private hotels and tourism sector, officials from the Office of the ASEAN Secretary-General and related ministries.

The Director-General of the Hotels and Tourism Department addressed the meet-

ing touching on the ACCSTP review progress and update process.

At the workshop, the participants actively discussed the core and generic competencies for hotel reception, housekeeping, food manufacturing for the hotel sector, and core and generic competencies and functional competencies for travel agencies and the tourism sector. — MNA

Success in cattle breeding found at Yae Pyae Village

BREEDING of cattle in Artificial Insemination (AI) method is successful in Yae Pyae Village-Tract, Myothit Township, Magway District, Magway Region, officials said.

The AI farm, located between Mile Post (60/2) to (60/4) on Nay Pyi Taw Highway, is owned by Good Brothers Company Limited.

Farmers breed high-quality cows in addition to domestic cattle. The artificial Insemination method is being used for dairy cows and beef cattle in a variety of ways.

In order to maintain good local varieties, the natural breeding of cattle is also carried out in collaboration with the relevant Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

Officials said they were treating cattle raised in and



around the village tract.

Then, in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary, livestock breeding and care awareness seminars and pieces of training are being conducted for the development of the live-

stock and meat sector.

Daw Khin Cho Win, in charge of the cattle farm, said that anyone could visit their cattle farm at (Good Brothers. Co. Ltd) to inquire about their breeding methods. — Ko Zaw (IPRD)/GNLM

Muse border trade drops by half in June

MUSE border trade fell by half in June this year as against last year, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre. After the detection of the coronavirus cases in the Sino-Myanmar border areas, Man Wein, a major border crossing areas, came to an abrupt halt on 30 March, the vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre said.

Traders have to send goods, including rice and broken rice, various pulses and beans, fishery products, onion, chilli and other export items to China via the Kyinsankyawt checkpoint due to the closure of the Man Wein post, added he.

“The freight transport through Mandalay-Muse route to China takes at least a month, causing delay and heavy traffic congestion. Consequently, the trade dropped 50 per cent in June 2021 compared to the

same corresponding period of last year”, U Min Thein elaborated. The Man Wein border closure is possibly to be extended even after three months shutdown, Muse Rice Wholesale Centre stated.

Additionally, Man Wein border post is not available for now according to the negotiation with Shweli’s Foreign Affairs Department. The border post will resume the trade only after drawing up a detailed project report, the Trade Department (Muse 105th mile trade zone) stated. Once Chinese authorities notify the Trade Department of the reopening of the border post, the traders will be apprised of this.

At present, Myanmar conducts border trade with China via five posts; Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung. Of them, Muse border post performed the best. — NN/GNLM

Cases of 2,296 people dropped in Nay Pyi Taw, States, Regions

THOSE who were prosecuted under Section 505-A of the Penal Code in connection with the riots in Nay Pyi Taw and respective regions and states are dismissed under the law, officials said.

A total of 2,296 cases were registered under the relevant laws and regulations, and all the cases were dropped in accord with the rules and regulations. All the people concerned with the cases were sent back home yesterday according to the laws and procedures.

Authorities responded systematically to the release of the people yesterday, and parents and relevant relatives came and picked them up on their way back home. — MNA

Inmates released from Insein Central Prison

A release ceremony of prisoners under Section 505-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure was held at Indoor Gymnasium of Insein Central Prison, Department of Prisons in Yangon yesterday.

Member of Yangon Region Administration Council (1) Colonel Win Tint, Secretary of Yangon Region Administration Council U Soe Soe Zaw, Yangon Region Police force Chief Police Brig-Gen Myo Min Htike, Director of the Department of Prisons of Yangon Region U Zaw Zaw, Myanmar district police commanders’ offices, Insein Central Prison officers, officials from township general administration departments, departmental organizations and the Department of Prisons attended



A total of 721 inmates: 590 males and 131 females were released from Insein Central Prison yesterday under Section 505-A of the Criminal Procedure Code.

the ceremony.

Yangon Region Administration Council Member Colonel Win Tint and Secretary U Soe Soe Zaw addressed the prisoners and concluded the ceremony by greeting the prisoners one by one. The released prisoners were

then escorted by YBS vehicles to the respective townships.

A total of 721 inmates: 590 males and 131 females were released from Insein Central Prison yesterday under Section 505-A of the Criminal Procedure Code. — MNA

One truck driver tested positive for COVID-19 in Shwegu town



ONE truck driver was tested COVID-19 positive when the health staff from the public health department conducted health checks at Shwegu town lower junction collective checkpoint in Kachin State on 29 June.

The health staff have been conducting COVID-19 tests on all 73 drivers and their assistants from 35 trucks with the use of RDT (Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kit). The RDT can provide results within 30 minutes.

The driver living in Aungmyaythazan township, Mandalay region was tested COVID-19 positive after running RDT.

The Shwegu township free funeral service society transported the COVID-19 confirmed

driver to the township public hospital (temporary treatment centre) to receive the medical treatment.

The authorities are having RDT tests conducted on the truck drivers and their conductors at Shwegu town lower junction collective checkpoint using the RDT test.

Then, three drivers were tested positive as of 30 June.

So far, those three COVID-19 confirmed patients are in good health condition and receiving medical treatment at the public hospital, according to Township Committee for Control and Emergency Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). — Township IPRD/GNLM

Choose options to nurture planted saplings or not

WHENEVER monsoon falls, the activities on growing saplings are staged across Myanmar as part of greening the environment and carrying out the reforestation.

All the ministries and organizations grow saplings in vacant and virgin lands as well as deforested areas in the nation by holding the monsoon tree growing ceremonies for many years. Massive participants actively participate in the activities.

In fact, the expenditure from the period of gathering seeds to planting the saplings is very high. Even if the cost alone of

growing the saplings is calculated, the expenditure for each ceremony will be very high. So, all the participants and authorities need to take care of their activities valuable for all.

With regard to the ground situation, saplings are grown in allotted areas every year but no one takes care of these plants. After completion of the ceremonies, all the participants never turn to these plants, forgetting not only the saplings but the activities.

The authorities do not focus on the activities of the tree growing ceremony whenever the activities have completed. Nobody thinks how to manage the saplings to thrive forever, how to nurture the saplings, who should be assigned duty to guard the saplings to be free from the destruction of animals.

It is important for not only watering the saplings but also weeding the plantations. If these tasks are set aside, it is unsure that the plants would thrive for their growth. Hence, officials need to consider how to nurture the saplings for their future. They need to choose the best ways of nurturing the plants.

If so, the saplings grown every year will be forests across the nation.

The expenditure for the ceremonies really contributed by the government budget which came from the public fund and the finance of respective organizations will be deserved for them.

In the future when the monsoon tree growing ceremonies would be held elsewhere, it is necessary to clearly adopt the decisions on how to nurture the saplings until they can thrive without reliance on any other sources. Otherwise, the areas where saplings were planted several times would be a burden forever. These areas would be green once but never green.



If so, the saplings grown every year will be forests across the nation. The expenditure for the ceremonies really contributed by the government budget which came from the public fund and the finance of respective organizations will be deserved for them.

Law, the rule of law

By U Khin Maung (

Introduction

FIRST of all, place permit me to assert that law is everybody's concern. Nobody is above the law. Equality before the law is a universally accepted doctrine. And as a well-known principle, we accept unanimously that man is a social animal. Men have to communicate, cooperate and coordinate with each other. In this law of nature, some may have done wrongful acts to others. Then, law, a criminal law comes into play to take action against the wrong doing or the offence. Though not a crime, if a man has done something wrong to others, or if there is a dispute between members of a family, or between man and woman in their marital relationship, then relevant civil law has to be taken up. Ever concerning relationships between sovereign states, we have such a universally accepted charter known as the United Nations Charter or constitution.

Then what is law? In essence, "law" is the regime that orders human activities and relations through systematic application of the force of politically organized society or through social pressure backed by force in such a society. It is the legal system. And Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines the term law as follows.

"Law is the whole system of rules that everyone in a country

or society must obey". Generally speaking, there are two kinds of laws. Local law or domestic law and international law. In essence, domestic law means the law of or the law relating to a country. It is also known as the law of the land. International law is the legal principles governing the relationships between nations, more modernly, the law of international relations embracing not only nations, but also such participants as international organizations, multinational corporations non-governmental organizations and even individuals such as those, who invoke the human rights and commit war crimes.

The Rule of law

The rule of law. This phrase means equality before the law, fair play, uniformity of laws for all citizens and public servants alike. It also means that disputes and differences will be brought to the courts of law and justice and peacefully settled in accordance with law. The rule of law is often equated with law and order. So, I would like to assert that "law is a necessity for the citizens, for the organizations, for the associations, for the states etc., so as to enjoy peace, progress, prosperity, harmony and development, such as economic development, technological development, etc. Law, in this regard, means both the law of the land or municipal

law and international law. As regards the rule of law, Dr. Maung Maung, the world famous and renowned legal giant, had stated that, "the first essential condition for making democracy secure in our lives to base all our activities firmly on the rule of law."

Law and order

Well, dear reader, as a retiree with some sort of legal background, I would like to present to you that, law and order and rule of law are the two principles, quite similar to each other. Where there is no law and order, there will be no rule of law. Instead, there will be anarchy, political unrest, social unrest, chaos and confusion. So, the rule of law, or law and order, is a necessity for a nation to enjoy peace, progress, prosperity, and development. Needless to say, where there is no rule of law, there will be no peace, no prosperity, no progress, no development. Where there is no rule of law, I don't think there would be one iota of peace, progress, and prosperity in this world of ours.

Conflict of laws

Conflict of laws is a difference between the laws of a state or a difference between states or countries. If there is a conflict of laws or if there is difference between the laws of the same state, then the later law shall prevail over the earlier one. Just for

Could your face m

TINY sensors incorporated into wearable fabrics like masks and jackets could provide instant information on exposure to disease-causing pathogens such as the coronavirus, according to research published on Monday in the journal Nature Biotechnology.

The highly-sensitive tests that up to now have been restricted to laboratory use are integrated into smart wearables "beyond what a FitBit or Applewatch can offer", said study co-author Peter Nguyen a research scientist at the Wyss Institute at Harvard University.

"The concept is similar to how our own skin works, where you automatically sense your environment with exquisite sen-

sitivity without needing to actively participate in the details of the process itself," he said.

In the new study, scientists were able to re-create the cell

parts that sense dangerous microorganisms and freeze-dry them.

They are then re-activated to begin testing by adding water



Countries around the world have introduced mask-wearing in public since the start of the pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

, and law and order

A retired diplomat

an example, if there is a conflict between the Opium Act enacted since colonial days of Burma and Suppression of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances law, then the later one, recently passed in our union, will prevail. And if there is a conflict between local law or municipal law and international law, then international law shall prevail. Moreover, if there is a conflict between an executive order and a provision of the constitution, then the guardian of the constitution, the supreme court of a state, will make a verdict and the court's verdict will prevail. In this regard, we could take a lesson or an example from the executive order of the former President Donald Trump of the United States of America and the Court's verdict. The former President Donald Trump issued immigration ban to the United States from some Suslim countries, But the U.S court of law temporarily blocked the President's immigration ban judging that the immigration ban was not in accord with the constitutions of the U.S.A legal phrases.

We have an old saying in our Myanmar language. If translated in English, with over hundred cases or problems'. And another old saying, that depicts our national Myanmar character, character of forgiveness. If translated that old saying, I think, we may say "Let bygones be bygones"

significant legal terms (Foreign terms used in law.)

Well, "Law is so wide a subject to explain only in one single article. So, may I present to you some significant legal terms and their definitions as follows:

- (1) Apriori (Latin) based on deduction rather than experience.
- (2) Ab initio (Latin) from the beginning — for example, this agreement is void "ab initio"
- (3) Bona fide (Latin) made or done for a purpose. For example "an ad hoc tribunal was set up to deal with the claims.
- (4) Bona fide (Latin) genuine, real, for example, a bona fide reason.
- (5) Defacto (Latin) in fact, whether by right or not. For example, "She has acquired defacto control of the company.
- (6) Dejure (Latin) rightful by right, For example, a dejure claim to the territory.
- (7) Ex parte (Latin) on the part of one side only, for example, the lawyer made an ex parte application to the court to obtain an emergency injunction.
- (8) In absentia (Latin) while not present. For example, as the defendant was abroad at the date of hearing, the case was continued in absentia.

Conclusion

As regards, "the rule of law", Dr Maung Maung, a world renowned legal giant, had mentioned in his book "Law and Custom in Burma and the Burmese Family" as follows:

"The first essential condition for making democracy secure our lives is to base all our activities firmly on the rule of law"

"In the afore-mentioned book, Dr Maung Maung has also mentioned,"laws are rules of civil conduct enforced by the state." "Law is founded on morality and morality finds its foundation in the moral integrity of the the individual. Destroy morality, we destroy law."

"Living laws are necessary for a living society, and the blood stream of change in its contivity, youth n its age."

So, let us learn the grow as the days go by. In this article, learn, I mean, to please learn anything worthwhile, including law, of course. Why? Because law is everybody's business and everybody's concern. "Ignorance of law is no excuse."

Reference:

- (1) Law and custom in Burma and the Burmese family.
- (2) Legal English-Rupert High.
- (3) အသက်တစ်ရာမနေရ၊ အမှုတစ်ရာတွေ့ရတတ်သည်။
- (4) ချစ်စကို ရှည်ပါစေ၊ မုန်းစကို တိုပါစေ။



ask detect Covid?

-- like a "package of instant ramen noodles", according to Nguyen.

Such tests have previously been based on living cells, which researchers said can be too fragile and sometimes dangerous in non-medical settings.

In the new study, researchers used cell-free reactions that contain the tools of a living cell without the cell itself.

Since they are not alive, the sensors can be freeze-dried and stored for months until they are ready to be activated.

The authors showed that these sensors, which use CRISPR gene editing technology, could match laboratory virus detection and be woven into wearable fabrics.

Nguyen said the wearable

detectors might be useful for "anyone working in an environment where they might be exposed to pathogens or toxins".

Researchers developed a prototype Covid-19 testing face mask with a patch of sensors attached to a pad that collects the user's breath particles.

After the wearer has used the mask for at least 15 minutes, they pierce a small pouch on the mask and water wicks the sample into the sensor for analysis.

A strip on the mask displays the result.

Wearable warning

The researchers also developed a jacket for a liquid "exposure event", for people working in dangerous environments.

It employs the gene-editing

tool CRISPR -- which is used in medicine to target specific genetic material such as are found in viruses -- to create sensors that light up when exposed to the target pathogen.

Fibre optic threads in the jacket carry information from tiny sensors in the fabric to a miniature detector within the garment that is the size of a small candy bar.

"In the short term, we see the wearables and especially the face masks being used in the clinic for specialised situations," he added.

But Nguyen also said that in the long run the garments could be used by regular people, especially in the case of local outbreaks for easy at-home testing.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. U Kyaw Swa Thwin Deputy Director-General Department of Basic Education Ministry of Education	Director-General Department of Basic Education Ministry of Education
2. Dr Soe Soe Aye Pro-Rector Hpa-an University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Hpa-an University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
3. Dr Yaw Han Tun Pro-Rector Haka University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Kalay University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
4. U Tun Myint Oo Deputy Director-General Sports and Physical Education Department Ministry of Health and Sports	Director-General Sports and Physical Education Department Ministry of Health and Sports

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

“Rebuild Better Together”
“လူမှုစီးပွားပိုမိုတိုးတက်ကောင်းမွန်ဖို့ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကြိုးပမ်းတည်ဆောက်ဖို့”

မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့ အထိမ်းအမှတ်အခမ်းအနား

၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၃) ရက် နေပြည်တော်

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သတင်းစာ မြန်မာ့လူ့စိတ်ဓာတ် ဆက်သွယ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာန

09 454 237 515

Myanmar ships over 539,000 tonnes of green grams as of 18 June

MYANMAR sent more than 539,000 tonnes of green grams to foreign trade partners between 1 October 2020 and 18 June 2021 in the current financial year 2020-2021, according to the Ministry of Commerce's trade data.

The country generated an income of US\$427.17 million from the exports of green gram over the past eight and a half months.

The prices of green grams range between K90,000 and K125,000 per three-basket bag depending on the varieties and quality.

China accounts for 60 per cent of Myanmar's green gram exports. In addition, countries in the European Union, India, Thailand and Viet Nam also purchase green grams from Myanmar. China prefers green grams (golden) variety. At pres-



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

ent, the demand slips due to border trade restrictions amid the

COVID-19, traders said.

China makes value-added

products from green grams and sends them to foreign markets.

Moreover, it produces bean by-products as feedstuffs.

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

Long bean selling well in Natmauk Township

THE long bean market in Natmauk Township this year has performed significantly better than last year.

The farmers from some villages in Natmauk Township, Magway Region are growing the long bean crops, and the long beans are selling well in the domestic market recently.

"The long beans currently sold in the market are cultivated using irrigation water in April after the water festival. After cultivating for 65 days, the long beans are harvested from farmland and sent to the market. Each viss of long beans is sold for K1,500. However, the price has dropped to K1,000 per viss, and it is widely selling in the market," said Daw San Shwe, a local grower.

"We annually grow the long bean which is one of the chief kitchen crops. Each pack of long bean seeds is priced at K4,500, and the yield is good as well. Each pack of long beans contains 500 seeds. We need to prepare well the soil and make the boundary to grow the long bean. We are also making the poles to grow the long bean. Each pack of long beans can yield about six or eight visses each time. It could be harvested every two days, said Ko Nyein, a local grower from West Lekkhokpin village.

Natmauk Township is usually a low rain access area. So, the local people are growing other kitchen crops apart from edible oil crops to earn extra income for their families. The high price of kitchen crops is driving the growers to cultivate more crops. — Mu Mu San (Natmauk)/GNLM



Natmauk Township is usually a low rain access area. So, the local people are growing other kitchen crops apart from edible oil crops to earn extra income for their families. The high price of kitchen crops is driving the growers to cultivate more crops.

Maritime trade plunges by 25 per cent as of 18 June



The country's total external trade over the past eight months touched a low of \$21.48 billion, which plunged from \$27 billion recorded in a year-ago period.

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade over the past eight and a half months (1 Oct-18 June) of the current financial year 2020-2021 sank to US\$14 billion, which is a 25 per cent drop compared with the same corresponding period of last year.

The figures plunged from \$18.9 billion during the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports are valued at \$5.8 billion, imports have registered at \$8.243 billion. Compared to the same period in the 2019-2020 financial year, imports fell by \$3.59 billion, while exports have registered a decrease of \$1.29 billion. The maritime trade fell by \$4.89 bil-

lion as of 18 June as against last year.

Meanwhile, the value of trade through the border this FY was estimated at \$7.43 billion, a decrease of \$806 million as against a year-ago period.

Myanmar witnessed a slump in exports and imports triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts and the political changes. For maritime trade, disruption in the logistic sector and cargo shipping crisis triggered by the COVID-19 impacts scaled-down the maritime trade somehow.

The country's total external trade over the past eight months touched a low of \$21.48 billion,

which plunged from \$27 billion recorded in a year-ago period.

Myanmar's sea trade generated \$26 billion out of an overall trade value of \$36 billion in the last FY2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

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

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade. It includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. —MM/GNLM

N. Korea's Kim says pandemic-related "great crisis" has occurred

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un said an unspecified "great crisis" related to the coronavirus pandemic that may jeopardize the safety of the country and its citizens has occurred, the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported Wednesday.

At a meeting of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea on Tuesday, Kim also sacked senior party members, KCNA said, adding they "neglected the implementation of the important deci-

sions" on the "prolonged state emergency epidemic prevention campaign".

Pyongyang claims it has detected no coronavirus infections within the nation's borders, but the latest report has caused speculation the situation has changed. The United States, South Korea and Japan have begun seeking relevant information, foreign affairs experts say.

Kim was quoted by the news agency as saying at the gather-

ing that a "major factor...hindering the implementation" is "the lack of ability and irresponsibility of cadres".

Senior party officials faced "sharp criticism" at the meeting, KCNA said, but it did not report which officials have been removed. Following the detection of the virus in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, North Korea, in principle, cut off traffic to and from China and Russia in early 2020.—Kyodo ■



Pyongyang claims it has detected no coronavirus infections within the nation's borders, but the latest report has caused speculation the situation has changed. The United States, South Korea and Japan have begun seeking relevant information, foreign affairs experts say. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

In US, experts make case for vaccine mandates

NEITHER the threat of dying from Covid nor an array of inducements from lottery tickets to guns and marijuana have been enough to sway America's staunchest vaccine holdouts.

As the divide between the country's pro- and anti-immunization regions widens, and the dangerous Delta variant keeps gaining ground, experts are calling for more mandates in jurisdictions, colleges and businesses so Americans are protected where they live and work.

The idea has sparked controversy in a nation that cherishes individual liberty, but these concerns need to be weighed against collective wellbeing,



As the divide in the US between pro- and anti-immunization regions widens, experts are calling for more mandates in jurisdictions, colleges and businesses so Americans are protected where they live and work. **PHOTO: AFP**

Gregory Poland, a professor of medicine and infectious diseases at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota told AFP.

"What happens when the world's on fire? Do you allow people to stand there with matches and gasoline? What

happens with the disease where the decision you make not only affects you, but affects people around you, or that you've come into contact with?" he said.

The administration of President Joe Biden stated at the end of March it would not create a federal vaccination database and there would be no federal mandate.

The decision might have been calculated to avoid dissuading people on the fence — but it ultimately means that the question has been delegated from the national to state level, and to the private sector.

Private sector push

The national vaccination campaign has stalled since hit-

ting a highwater mark in mid-April. Barely 600,000 a day are now rolling up their sleeves, down from a peak of more than four million, despite widened eligibility to everyone over the age of 12.

A clear divide has emerged across the country, with cases rising rapidly in communities that have low rates of vaccination.

Springfield, Missouri is recording more than 38 new cases per 100,000 and just 35 per cent have had one or more vaccine doses — well below the national average of 54 per cent — and the picture is similar in other parts of the country that are politically conservative.—AFP ■

Red Cross warns Indonesia on the brink of COVID-19 disaster

INDONESIA needs an urgent increase in medical care, testing and vaccination as the country is teetering on the brink of a COVID-19 catastrophe, the Red Cross said Tuesday.

"Every day we are seeing this Delta variant driving Indonesia closer to the edge of a COVID-19 catastrophe," Jan Gelfand, the head of Indonesia's delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said in a statement released by the Geneva-based group.

"We need lightning-fast action globally so that countries like Indonesia have access to the vaccines needed to avert tens of thousands of deaths," he added.

On Monday, Indonesia reported more than 20,000 new coronavirus cases and more than 400 deaths. The sprawling archipelago has had more than 2.1 million confirmed cases so far, with 57,561 deaths. The government aims to vaccinate 181.5 million people of the country's total population of 271 million. So far, about 27.4 million people have got the first dose of vaccine, and only 13.1 million people have completed the second one.

The IFRC observed that infections are skyrocketing across Indonesia, overwhelming hospitals and oxygen supplies in Jakarta and other areas of the country.—Kyodo ■

India approves Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use

INDIA on Tuesday authorized the emergency use of Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine as it seeks to ramp up its vaccination drive in the wake of a record-breaking surge in infections and deaths.

The vast nation of 1.3 billion people was hit by a massive spike in coronavirus cases in April and May that pushed the healthcare system to breaking point.



India reported 46,148 new Covid-19 cases and 979 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to data released by the union health and family welfare ministry on Monday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Moderna's shot is the fourth to be approved by New Delhi after Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield and Covaxin, which was developed by Indian firm Bharat Biotech, and Russia's Sputnik V.

"I am pleased to inform that an application received from Moderna through an Indian partner of theirs, Cipla, has been granted EUA (Emergency Use Authorisation)," a member of government advisory body NITI Aayog, Vinod K. Paul, said at a health ministry briefing. "Our efforts to invite and to have other internationally developed vaccines, specifically Pfizer and J&J (Johnson & Johnson), also continue." Paul added that the approval would pave the way for other foreign-made vaccines to be imported into India.—AFP ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Japan gov't to name Kanda as top currency diplomat

THE government plans to name Masato Kanda, director general of the International Bureau of the Finance Ministry, as Japan's new top currency diplomat, government sources said Tuesday.

Kanda, 56, who will succeed Kenji Okamura as vice finance minister for international affairs, also serves as chair of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Corporate Governance Committee.

The appointment is expected to be announced after a two-day in-person gathering of the finance chiefs of the Group of 20 major economies to be held in Italy next week, at which they aim to reach a broad agreement on global tax issues involving around 140 countries and regions, according to the sources.—Kyodo ■

Singapore-based IT firm to build \$1 bil. data center in Japan

PRINCETON Digital Group, a Singapore-based IT company that develops and operates data centres, said on Tuesday that it will invest US\$1 billion to build a data centre in Japan.

The data centre in Saitama, near Tokyo, will be built over a 33,047 square metre plot of land and have close to 100 megawatts of critical IT capacity, the company said in a press statement.

The facility is targeting leading hyperscalers in Japan, which it said is one of the most dynamic cloud markets in the world.

Japan is the fifth market for the company, which has established a presence in China, Singapore, Indonesia and India since being formed four years ago. Construction work is expected to start later this year and the data centre is expected to be completed and operational in the second quarter of 2024.

The company's website said it is backed by global private equity firm Warburg Pincus and the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board, which is the administrator of Canada's largest single-profession pension plan.—Kyodo ■

G-20 vows firmer coordination in combating COVID-19, food shortages



This file photo shows an employee of urban farming start-up Aeromate checks on vegetables and aromatic herbs growing on the rooftop of a building owned by French public transport group RATP as part of a rooftop farming project in Paris on 24 August, 2017. PHOTO: AFP

FOREIGN and development ministers from the Group of 20 major economies on Tuesday pledged to strengthen coordination in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and to boost invest-

ment toward ensuring food security.

In a declaration issued after a meeting in Matera, southern Italy, the G-20 ministers vowed to maintain transparent and non-discriminatory food trade in line with World Trade Organization rules. "We...convened here in Matera to contribute to strengthening international efforts to contain the effects of the pandemic on lives and livelihoods and to build forward better," they said in the document, while expressing their "deep concern" over food shortage situations thought to have been exacerbated by the spread of the novel coronavirus around the world.

It was the first in-person

meeting of the foreign ministers from the G-20, which represents more than 80 per cent of the world economy and three-quarters of global trade, since 2019.

A joint meeting involving development ministers was also held to discuss providing assistance to Africa, leading to the release of the "Matera Declaration" with an emphasis on food security issues.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said during the foreign ministerial meeting that in addition to providing coronavirus vaccines, Tokyo will assist African countries, which have been hard-hit by the pandemic, in building their health and medical systems.—Kyodo ■

China factory activity edges down in June on tight supplies

CHINESE factory activity stabilised in June, data showed Wednesday, but output was hit by supply shortages of key commodities and microchips as well as the coronavirus-induced closure of a key port that caused huge delivery delays.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a key gauge of manufacturing activity in the world's second-largest economy, came in at 50.9 in June from May's 51.0, the National Bureau of Statistics said. While the reading has been edging down for three straight months,

it appears to be levelling out. It was also broadly in line with forecasts and continued to stay above the 50 point mark that separates growth from expansion.

China's economy is well on the recovery track after overcoming the impact of the virus early by imposing strict lockdowns and mass testing.

But production activities have been hit by "a tight supply of chips, coal and power, as well as equipment maintenance," said NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe.—AFP ■



Data showed China's factory activity stabilised in June, with output hit by supply shortages of key commodities and microchips. PHOTO: AFP

Covid returnees give Bulgaria hope of stemming exodus

NICKO Ventsislav is part of an unprecedented phenomenon: one of the six Bulgarians who chose to return home last year for every one who left.

The 29-year-old joins returning emigres who have been pushed back in part by coronavirus-induced economic downturns and job losses in their adopted countries, and pulled back in part by lower costs and a better lifestyle in the land of their birth.

In the search for a silver lining from the pandemic, that's led some in Bulgaria to hope that the flood of returning emigrants may help stem the country's chronic population decline.

Bulgaria's population began to fall in 1989, the year its communist regime collapsed. It peaked



Nicko Ventsislav says he turned his focus back to his homeland of Bulgaria after losing his job at Nice airport. PHOTO: AFP

at around nine million and has since shrunk each year to seven million people by 2019, according to World Bank estimates.

Ventsislav was part of that drain, leaving the former Sovi-

et bloc country and now-European Union member almost a decade ago. But after losing his job at Nice airport in southeastern France at the start of the pandemic, Ventsislav's focus

returned to his homeland.

"On the 70th day of lockdown in France, I started to browse job adverts" back home, he told AFP.

He was lured by an offer from Telus International Bulgaria, a business process outsourcing company that targets potential returnees.

They paid for his plane ticket and offered him 5,000 leva (2,550 euros, \$3,040) to help him relocate.

Pandemic a 'big boost'

Since 2017, Telus has brought back about 150 young Bulgarians, says General Manager Kristina Ivanova, adding that the pandemic gave their efforts a big boost.

Even though life is getting back to normal across Europe, Ventsislav says he plans to "stay home".—AFP ■

US to require crash reports for driver-assistance autos

US safety regulators now will require Tesla and other auto manufacturers that make cars with driver assistance systems to report serious crashes, ramping up scrutiny of these systems after a series of troubling incidents.

Under an order issued Tuesday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, carmakers must inform authorities about fatalities within one day of learning of the incident to provide data for regulators to examine the safety these systems.

The rule also requires reporting of incidents that involve a hospital-treated injury, a vehicle tow-away, an air bag deployment or a vulnerable road user such as pedestrian or bicyclist, the agency said.

The new policy comes as auto safety experts have been calling on officials to more tightly



US traffic safety regulators will demand more data on crashes from automakers like Tesla that use advanced driver assistance technology to allow them to identify potential issues. PHOTO: KYODO

regulate driver-assistance systems such as Tesla's Autopilot following a number of crashes. NHTSA did not previously collect this crash data in a systematic

fashion. The agency said it also intends to make the information publicly available. "By mandating crash reporting, the agency will have access to critical data

that will help quickly identify safety issues that could emerge in these automated systems," said NHTSA Acting Administrator Steven Cliff. — AFP ■

China bubble tea firm debuts after \$650 mn IPO caps labour of love

CHINESE bubble tea chain Nayuki edged down on its Hong Kong market debut Wednesday after raising more than US\$650 million in an IPO that marked the culmination of a literal labour of love for the co-owners who created the firm on a blind date.

The company joins a handful of bubble tea outlets to go pub-

lic in recent years as the beverage — which comes loaded with milk, sugar and tapioca pearls — storms out from its Asian fanbase to gain a global following.

It also makes it the latest Chinese business to list in Hong Kong, even as a series of tepid performances by new companies spark concerns about the city's

IPO market.

Targeting well-heeled young consumers, the 550-store chain opened its first outlet in the southern metropolis of Shenzhen in 2015. Entrepreneur Peng Xin reportedly pitched her business idea to Zhao Lin — a professional in the food industry — over a blind date two years earlier.

Within months, the pair married and became business partners. "After we met, I enthusiastically told him about my entrepreneurial dream for two to three hours and asked, 'Mr Zhao, what do you think of my idea?'" Peng said, according to Chinese news site Jiemian in 2018. — AFP ■



Workers check cube-shaped watermelons in Zentsuji, Kagawa Prefecture, western Japan, on June 30, 2021, as the season's first shipments of the fruit start. The watermelons used as ornaments were grown in square plastic containers and they carry a wholesale price of around 10,000 yen (\$90) a piece. PHOTO: KYODO

Square watermelon shipments begin in western Japan city

THIS year's shipment of ornamental square watermelons to wholesalers began Wednesday in western Japan.

The shipment of cubic watermelons from Zentsuji on the island of Shikoku is expected to continue until late July, with each fruit priced at around 10,000 yen (\$90). Square watermelons, which are harvested while still unripe, are not edible and are purchased generally as ornaments at such places as department stores and fruit shops.

Shaped into about 18-centimetre cubes by being grown in transparent plastic containers with iron frames that allow for sufficient sunlight, the develop-

ment of such watermelons started about 50 years ago, with the aim of creating a fruit that was easy to store in a refrigerator.

The number of square watermelon growers has since declined to seven due to a lack of successors, while low temperatures since April this year saw the product harvested a week later than usual. Each watermelon weighs about 6 kilogrammes.

"I hope people will enjoy looking at these watermelons and blow away the summer heat," said Toshiyuki Yamashita, 73, who was involved in the development of square watermelons with his father. — Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

M'bishi Electric admits inspection lapses for train air conditioners

JAPANESE electronics conglomerate Mitsubishi Electric Corp. admitted Tuesday to problems regarding its inspections of air conditioners for train carriages, with sources familiar with the matter alleging data fabrication possibly spanning more than 30 years.

While asserting that safety has not been compromised, the company admitted to inspection failures and suspended shipments of affected products to train operators. It has also reported the matter to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

According to the sources, the air conditioners are manufactured at its plant in Nagasaki Prefecture, southwestern Japan. Mitsubishi Electric was supposed to conduct customer-tailored inspections on the products, but the company has failed to do so. — Kyodo ■

United Airlines unveils huge jet order in bet on travel recovery

UNITED Airlines announced on Tuesday a huge new plane order with Boeing and Airbus in the biggest bet thus far by a major carrier on a travel industry recovery from COVID-19.

The US carrier plans to acquire 270 new planes consisting of 200 Boeing aircraft and 70 Airbus jets. The order would be valued at \$35.4 billion (€30bn) based on the listed price of the jets, although airlines often end up paying much less than the list price.

United executives described the order — the biggest in the airline's history — as a landmark moment symbolising the radically improved outlook for travel due to coronavirus vaccines. Still, United and other major airlines are expected to report another quarterly loss for the April-June period when they release their earnings reports in July, reflecting the continued drag of a travel crisis that has devastated travel revenue for more than a year. — AFP ■

China certified malaria-free after 70-year fight

CHINA was certified as malaria-free on Wednesday (Jun 30) by the World Health Organization (WHO) following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease.

The country reported 30 million cases of the infectious disease annually in the 1940s but has now gone four consecutive years without an indigenous case.

“We congratulate the people of China on ridding the country of malaria,” said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

“Their success was hard-earned and came only after decades of targeted and sustained action. With this announcement, China joins the growing number of countries that are showing the world that a malaria-free future



Countries that have achieved at least three consecutive years of zero indigenous cases can apply for WHO certification of their malaria-free status. **PHOTO: AFP/PEDRO RANCES MATTEY**

is a viable goal.”

Countries that have achieved at least three consecutive

years of zero indigenous cases can apply for WHO certification of their malaria-free sta-

tus. They must present rigorous evidence and demonstrate the capacity to prevent transmission

re-emerging.

China becomes the 40th territory certified malaria-free by WHO.

The last countries to gain the status were El Salvador this year, Algeria and Argentina in 2019 and Paraguay and Uzbekistan in 2018.

There is a separate list of 61 countries where malaria never existed, or disappeared without specific measures.

GLOBAL PROGRESS PLATEAUIING

China is the first country in the WHO's Western Pacific region to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than three decades. The only others with certified status are Australia in 1981, Singapore in 1982 and Brunei in 1987.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Milosevic aides face 'death squads' retrial verdict

TWO former Serbian spy chiefs in Slobodan Milosevic's regime face a UN court verdict Wednesday in a retrial on charges of running death squads in the 1990s Balkans wars.

Jovica Stanisic, 70, the former head of Serbia's state security service, and his deputy Franko Simatovic, 71, are accused of backing paramilitary groups behind a reign of terror in Bosnia and Croatia.

They included an elite unit dubbed the “Red Berets” and the feared paramilitary outfit run by Zeljko “Arkan” Raznatovic, called “Arkan's Tigers”, which together allegedly killed hundreds of people.

In 2013 Stanisic and Simatovic were both acquitted of crimes against humanity and war crimes in a shock verdict at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague.

But in 2015, in a rare turnaround after a storm of protest and an appeal by prosecutors, judges ordered a retrial on the grounds that the initial trial made errors of law.—AFP ■

Colombian forces seize six tons of cocaine from ELN rebel jungle labs

COLOMBIA'S military seized six tons of cocaine from a jungle laboratory run by ELN guerillas in the southwest of the country, Defense Minister Diego Molano said Tuesday.

“I want to announce to the country the most important blow to the ELN drug trafficking this year, with the seizure of six tons of cocaine hydrochloride,” he said in a video released to the media.

Operation Jared, in which three “large laboratories” were destroyed by the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, was carried out in the municipality of Samaniego, in department of Narino, near the border with Ecuador. “The cocaine, equipment and other elements found would have been worth more than \$9 million. The narcotic was ready to be packed and transported to the Colombian Pacific coast (...) to be sent to Mexico and the United States” said attorney general Francisco Barbosa.—AFP ■

7 dead, 11 missing as passenger ferry sinks off Bali

AT least seven people died and 11 others were missing after a passenger ferry sank off the western coast of the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Tuesday evening, a rescue agency said Wednesday.

The KMP Yunice, which departed from Ketapang Harbor in the town of Banyuwangi on the eastern tip of Java Island, was just a few minutes away from reaching its destination of Gilimanuk Harbor on Bali when it sank, according to authorities.

The ferry's manifest showed a total of 57 passengers and crew were onboard when it sank. Albert Wenko, spokesman of the National Search and Rescue Agency, revised his earlier statement that the ferry had been carrying 123 people.

At least 39 people have been rescued. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear, but local media quoted a survivor as saying that high waves cap-

sized the ship. The Meteorological, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said it was cloudy at the time of the accident and waves were not high.—Kyodo ■



Motorists board a ferry heading for Java island from the port of Gilimanuk in Jembrana on the mainly Hindu resort island of Bali on July 3, 2016. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Embattled Huawei fights for slice of European market at Mobile World Congress

AT the world's biggest mobile fair underway in Spain this week, only one major handset maker opted to take part in person: China's embattled Huawei whose business has been battered by sanctions imposed by the United States which considers it a spy threat.

Samsung, the world's top smartphone maker, Nokia and

other major telecoms firms pulled out of attending the four-day Mobile World Congress (MWC) which got underway Monday (June 28) in Barcelona, citing virus concerns, although some are taking part virtually.

But with its business under pressure from the US sanctions, Huawei is eager to fight for its slice of the lucrative European

market for smartphones and 5G wireless network equipment and could not afford to stay away from the event, analysts said.

“If they didn't show up it would basically be them basically saying ‘we're done, we are not able to compete in this business because of the sanctions’,” senior IDC researcher Ryan Reith told AFP.—AFP ■

Russian officials, experts commend extension of China-Russia cooperation treaty

THE China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation has contributed to bilateral ties and global stability, and its extension conforms to the fundamental interests of both countries and provides guidance and impetus for the long-term growth of bilateral relations, according to Russian officials and experts.

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday via video link. The leaders issued a joint statement, officially announcing the extension of the treaty.

Commenting on the talks between the two heads of state, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the video link “reflects the special and trusting nature of the relations between our two countries.”

Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the Russian State Duma or the lower house of the parliament, pointed out how Russia-China ties were fundamental to maintaining global stability and tackling international challenges through an approach that takes into account the interests of each country. —Xinhua ■



People take a selfie at the Red Square in Moscow, Russia, on 23 March 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/BAI XUEQI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany completes troop pull-out from Afghanistan: minister

GERMANY has completed its troop pull-out from Afghanistan, started in May, the defence ministry announced Tuesday, ending a nearly 20-year deployment there alongside US and other international forces.

The announcement of the pull-out of German troops, whose presence there was second only to the US forces, came as the US aims to complete its own withdrawal by September 11.

“After nearly 20 years of deployment, the last soldiers of our Bundeswehr have left Afghanistan this evening,” said German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer in a statement. “They are on the way back.—AFP ■

EU children in care face uncertain post-Brexit future

CHILDREN like Adam and Nastashia are already scarred from the trauma of a troubled upbringing and being placed in care, but Brexit has placed another new terrifying burden on them.

Even though both were born in Britain, and are currently living in care there, because their birth parents were EU nationals, Adam and Nastashia risk becoming undocumented and losing their residency rights as a result of Britain’s withdrawal from the 27-nation bloc.

And that means they may even face the threat of removal once they turn 18.

“They will not have the right to access free medical care, work, claim benefits, rent a home, learn



The British government insists its EU Settlement Scheme is a “success”, with some five million EU nationals granted temporary or permanent status -- far more than the three million originally estimated. PHOTO: AFP

to drive and hold a bank account,” Marianne Lagrue, policy manager at the Coram Children’s Legal Centre charity, told AFP

Since the end of the Brexit transition period on January 1, EU citizens wishing to settle or stay in Britain have had to clear

extra hurdles.

Although new European arrivals face tougher immigration rules, those who were already in Britain as of December 31, 2020 can retain their rights by applying to the EU Settlement Scheme by June 30. The British government insists its scheme is a “success”, with some five million EU nationals granted temporary (pre-settled) or permanent (settled) status -- far more than the three million originally estimated.

However, some have slipped through the scheme’s net.

“It is straightforward if you are in employment, digitally savvy, have all your documents and file,” said Azmina Siddique, of The Children’s Society.—AFP ■

Parched Los Angeles launches fireworks buyback program ahead of July 4

THE drought-plagued city of Los Angeles announced a fireworks buyback program would be held Wednesday ahead of the US July 4 holiday, hoping to rein in the explosives’ illegal use in a setup similar to gun buyback programs.

The initiative will make it possible to anonymously hand in fireworks -- whose sale and use are banned in the city -- to the police in exchange for baseball tickets and other gifts.

The majority of California is under extreme drought conditions, according to the US Drought Monitor, creating parched vegetation and conditions ripe for wildfires.

“Last year with the pandemic and the necessity of canceling public-sanctioned fireworks shows, we saw a 72 percent increase in calls” concerning illegal fireworks, Los Angeles Police Department chief Michel Moore said.—AFP ■

Dutch say Russian jets buzzed warship in Black Sea

THE Netherlands on Tuesday (June 29) accused Russian

fighter jets of “aggressive” behaviour in an encounter with a

Dutch warship in the Black Sea. The incident last Thursday



The incident last Thursday involved the frigate HNMLS Evertsen, part of a carrier strike group with the British destroyer HMS Defender, which itself purportedly came under Russian warning fire a day earlier. PHOTO: SEAFORCES.ORG/AFP/FILE

involved the frigate HNMLS Evertsen, part of a carrier strike group with the British destroyer HMS Defender, which itself purportedly came under Russian warning fire a day earlier.

The Dutch defence ministry said Russian planes “repeatedly harassed the Evertsen” over a period of five hours when it was south-east of Russian-annexed Crimea, adding that they “flew dangerously low and close by, performing feint attacks”. “The fighters were armed with bombs and so-called air-to-surface missiles... After hours of intimidation, disruptions to electronic equipment of the Evertsen also took place,” the ministry said in a statement.—AFP ■

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.

Mueller's Wembley miss 'hurts like hell' as Germany exit Euro 2020



Germany forward Thomas Mueller rues his missed opportunity to equalise against England. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

THOMAS Mueller admits his crucial miss at Wembley for a late equalizer in the 2-0 defeat to England which knocked Germany out of Euro 2020 "hurts like hell".

With England 1-0 up in Tuesday's last 16 clash thanks to a Raheem Sterling goal, Mueller managed to break clear of the England defence with nine minutes left, but fired agonisingly wide with the goal at his mercy.

"To get that opportunity and then have it go to waste, it hurts like hell," Mueller wrote on Instagram Wednesday under a picture with his head in his hands on the Wembley turf.

"There it was, that one moment that stays in your memory at the end, that keeps you awake at night.

"The moment you work, train and live for as a footballer.

"That moment when you alone have it in your hands to bring your team back into a tight knockout game and send an entire football nation into ecstasy."

With the Germans ruing Mueller's miss, England doubled their lead moments later when Harry Kane scored to put the Three Lions in the quarter-finals and send Germany out.

"It hurts me for the whole @dfb_team (German FA), my teammates and our coach who all put their trust in me to be there right then," added Mueller, as Joachim Loew had his final game as Germany coach after 15 years in charge.

"But most of all, it hurts because of all the Germany fans out there who have stood by us and supported us during this European Championship. Thank you for your support." — AFP ■

31st SEA Games' detail facts to be set this month

AUTHORITIES and organizers will decide whether the XXXI South East Asian Games (SEA Games) will be held this year or otherwise, said the source with the ASEAN Football Federation.

The detailed facts and figures will be known within two weeks, said the SEA Games authorities. "This was the decision that was reached following a virtual meeting between all member countries with the

Organizing Committee of the Vietnam 2021 SEA Games asking for another two weeks for the final decision. The next meeting where the final decision will be announced will be on 8 July 2021.

Earlier this month, eight of the 11 SEA Games Federation (SEAGF) countries objected to the Vietnam 2021 SEA Games Organizing Committee's proposal to postpone the Games to next year following an increase

in COVID-19 cases," SEA Games officials said.

The 2021 Southeast Asian Games commonly known as the XXXI SEA Games, was originally scheduled to take place in Hanoi, Vietnam from 21 November to 2 December 2021, but the final decision will be set this month.

The tourney will feature around 40 kinds of sport, mainly those played at the Olympic Games.—GNLM ■

Southgate urges England to seize golden chance at Euro 2020

GARETH Southgate urged England to seize their chance to win Euro 2020 after Tuesday's historic 2-0 victory against Germany set up a quarter-final clash with Ukraine.

With old nemesis Germany

finally vanquished, Southgate's side have a golden opportunity to lift England's first major international trophy since the 1966 World Cup.

England's cathartic last-16 win over the Germans at rau-

cous Wembley on Tuesday was a landmark moment after decades of misery at the hands of Die Mannschaft.

Knocked out of the 1970, 1990 and 2010 World Cups by Germany, who also beat them in the Euro 96 semi-finals, England held their nerve in a tense clash as second-half goals from Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane sent Wembley into ecstasy.

But while England fans belled "Football's coming home" in celebration of the long-awaited victory, Southgate knows the memorable evening will count for little if they don't win the tournament.

"It didn't really need me to say it but when we got in the dressing room, we were talking about Saturday already," Southgate said.— AFP ■



Gareth Southgate urged England to seize their chance to win Euro 2020 after Tuesday's historic 2-0 victory against Germany set up a quarter-final clash with Ukraine. PHOTO: AFP