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Virtual meeting for 76th CCOP Steering Committee held

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 80, 14th Waning of Nayon 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Thursday, 8 July 2021

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.

Roads and Bridges are blooming like flowers in Ramanya Land of Mon

EVERY time I pass by this bridge, I am reminded that when I travelled from Yangon to Mawlamyine, the capital of Mon State, more than 16 years ago, I spent the night in Mottama (and Mawlamyine where Thanlwin River crosses.) and the next day I arrived at Mawlamyine by a passenger boat ferrying passengers between Mottama and Mawlamyine from the port of Mottama.

The Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) was built and opened by the government on 5 February 2005. Mon State has developed since then and has been free of the time-consuming troubles of waiting for a ferry boat to cross the river.

Since Mon State is located at the intersection of land routes and waterways in the lower part of Myanmar, transportation is in good condition of the State. With two districts, 10 townships, 17 towns, 106 wards and 1,143 villages, the population in Mon State is over 2.3 million.

The Ministry of Construction



The Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) was built and opened by the government on 5 February 2005. Mon State has developed since then and has been free of the time-consuming troubles of waiting for a ferry boat to cross the river.

and the Department of Highway Mon State are making efforts to meet the needs of the state and the people as per the geographical location. The Ministry has been developing and implement-

ing short term and long-term projects for road expansion and upgrading of existing roads according to local needs for the sake of road safety and unity of states/regions including border areas.

Aiming to build a new, secure, modern and developed nation, the Ministry of Construction and Department of Highway are performing the primary duty of expanding, maintaining and

upgrading roads in Mon State, helping to raise standards of living, economy, social and local development as well as promoting ethnic unity.

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Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Health and Sports

Order No 278/2021

13th Waning of Nayon 1383 ME

7 July 2021

THE Ministry of Health and Sports hereby announced the order by exercising the authority stipulated in Sub-Section (b) of Section 21 of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports has taken preventive measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in real-time. Therefore, people from some townships of Magway Region, Mon State and Yangon Region need to stay at home due to the number of confirmed patients on the rise in these townships.
2. Hence, the people residing in the following townships in Magway Region, Mon State and Yangon Region are involved in the Stay-at-Home programme.
 - (a) Magway Region
 - (1) Gangaw Township
 - (b) Mon State
 - (1) Mawlamyine Township
 - (2) Thanbyuzayat Township
 - (3) Thaton Township
 - (c) Yangon Region
 - (1) Mingaladon Township
 - (2) Hmawby Township
 - (3) Shwepyitha Township
 - (4) Hlinethaya Township
 - (5) Insein Township
 - (6) South Okkalapa Township
 - (7) Mingala Taungnyunt Township
 - (8) North Okkalapa Township
 - (9) Bahan Township
 - (10) Mayangon Township
3. The people inclusive of the Stay-at-Home programme of the townships need to abide by the following disciplines:
 - (a) Reside at their homes only
 - (1) except for service personnel serving at government department;
 - (2) except for those serving at private firms such as banks and monetary

- services, filling stations, foodstuffs and livestock and fishery, cold storage, medicine and medical equipment production and distribution, purified water production and sales, factories of manufacturing daily personal goods and related industries;
- (3) except for staff from airlines, such as relief flights, cargo flights and specially chartered flights, general aviation transport services, ground services, fuel services, aviation export and import services, international freight forwarder companies, customer service companies and agencies, boarding foodstuff production and transport services and aircraft maintenance;
 - (4) except for staff from private ports, shipping agencies offices, international freight forwarder companies, customer service companies and agencies, container truck services, port export and import cargo trucks and watercraft, inland container depot and dry ports;
 - (5) except for staff from communication service providers such as post services, line phones and mobile phone communication services, internet services (exclusive of sales of telephone and data at shops), tower and fibre maintenance services;
 - (b) relevant region and state administration councils to issue necessary orders and directives and supervision for the prevention of COVID-19 infection at CMP factories and workplaces;
 - (c) organizations and companies to perform their works from homes;
 - (d) one person from each house to go out shopping;
 - (e) only two persons per house to go to hospitals and clinics;
 - (f) wear masks if they go outside the houses;
 - (g) allow ferries and registered vehicles only to transport returnees from workplaces to pass the wards;
 - (h) allow one person only in addition to the driver in a vehicle for shopping in the ward and two persons except for the driver to go to hospitals or clinics;
 - (i) abide by the standard operating procedures (SOP) for trucks to ensure smooth flow of commodities in the township;
4. People need to inform relevant ward/village administration bodies about seeking approvals to go outside the houses if they have reasons to raise the limited number of participants in the measures and other emergency issues mentioned in subparagraphs (d), (e) and (h) of Paragraph 3. The relevant administrative bodies need not allow ingoing and outgoing persons, except for officials and those returnees from duty.
 5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by the order under the existing laws.
 6. The order came into force at 4 am on 8-7-2021.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister

3,947 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 July, total figure rises to 175,923

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **175,923** after **3,947 new cases** were reported on 7 July 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **141,255** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **3,570** after **57** died. —MNA

Announcement

1. It is found that some foreign correspondents based in Myanmar express the current government of the State Administration Council as military council or military junta or junta in their news stories and exaggerate their news quoting rootless sources and false news related to Myanmar.
2. The State Administration Council just controls various State duties in line with the provisions of the state of emergency under the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and it has been clearly announced that the government is not a coup d'état government.
3. The United Nations and global countries have recognized the State Administration Council as the legal government of Myanmar.
4. Especially, some foreign news agencies need to express news in line with news media ethics instead of quoting and exaggerating inaccurate and uncertain news and undermining the country by disseminating false news to global people.
5. The government emphasizes the holding of press conferences and the correct and quick replies to queries so as to ensure the correct and swift flow of information.
6. The announcement was hereby issued that some foreign news agencies were warned not to further apply the usage of military council/military junta/junta for the government in the future and not to quote and exaggerate the false news, and action will be taken against them under the existing laws if they apply wrong usages, quote and exaggerate fake news and disseminate false information.

Ministry of Information

BROADER OUTLOOK AND FARSIGHTEDNESS

Everyone who knows the world's history can consider that the nation-building task is too difficult to avoid encountering various kinds of ups and downs in this mundane world. Therefore, with a broader outlook and farsightedness, we shall seize whatever opportunity we have. That's the way we love Myanmar. We can build our Myanmar.

(Excerpt from the broadcasting speech made by Bogyoke Aung San to the national peoples in November 1944)



Press Release

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has learnt that Zaw Wai Soe, a member of the publicly declared terrorist group, the National Unity Government (NUG), had an interview with the France 24, a French state-owned international news television network on 1 July 2021. During the interview, he requested the international community to provide necessary assistance to the helpless people of Myanmar who are in need of assistance from possible channels they deem appropriate, as they have no other choice but to pursue a path of self-defence. He defended those committing terrorist acts by making such remarks and is trying to instigate further violence.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already conveyed its objection through diplomatic channel to the French side with regard to the holding of virtual meetings between members of terrorist group, the NUG, and some members of the National Assembly and some French Senators of the French Parliament on 24 June and 30 June 2021, respectively.

Myanmar steadfastly adheres to the position of condemning terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations. Myanmar reaffirms its determination to take legal actions against those committing terrorist acts.

Therefore, Myanmar strongly protests the interview of Zaw Wai Soe using the France 24, a state-owned international news television network as a platform to further instigate internal violence and to fabricate and distort the true prevailing situation of the country.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated, 7 July 2021*

Coordination Meeting for Covid-19 Disease Prevention, Control held

A COORDINATION meeting for Covid-19 disease prevention and control was held yesterday morning at Conference Hall of Ministry of Health and Sports Office No (4).

At the meeting, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win said that currently the number of Covid-19 cases are increasing daily and the incidence rate and the percentage of cases are high due to the genetic mutations of the virus.

Officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports are not only taking laboratory samples from suspected and confirmed patients but also constantly monitoring the situation of Covid-19 disease and monitoring the people's contacts in every region and state, the Union Minister added.

The townships participating in the home-stay programme are being expanded in time and disease control regulations to be strictly followed are issued in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, administration bodies and relevant states and regions, the Union Minister continued. "Immunizations are also being provided in a timely



The COVID-19 Disease Prevention and Control Coordination Meeting in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

manner, bringing the total number of vaccinated people to 1.75 million. About 2 more million vaccines will arrive soon and more will be available later this year. Private health care organizations have also been allowed to import and sell their own vaccines with the approval of the Food and Drug Administration.

"The Ministry distributed 12 million surgical masks in June and is planning to distribute 5 more million in order to raise awareness of preventive measures among the people. Free dis-

tribution of these surgical masks is being carried out at places such as bus stops, and crowded markets in townships, wards and villages," said Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win.

"It is very important to strictly follow the rules and regulations issued as the number of infections increases. Those who are not tested for the virus can be accommodated in the Facility Quarantine Centers. Home quarantine is being allowed for those who meet the criteria if there is a problem of space," the Union

Minister added.

"Depending on the patient's medical condition and the need for medical care, the confirmed patients will be placed first in the treatment centres and transferred to central hospitals if necessary. Covid-19 disease treatment centres are also being expanded and special treatment for the confirmed patients and suspected patients (PUI) is being provided in most township public hospitals. Eliminating oxygen shortage, which is very important in the medical field, is being made

a special priority. Acquired drugs and medical supplies plus sufficient human resources are also being systematically managed. Only effective action can avoid overcrowding in hospitals and treatment centres and reduce deaths from disease," Union Minister added.

Next, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Aye Tun, said that the Bed Management Committee was being formed to accommodate the growing number of patients on a daily basis.

After that, the Director of the Medical Services, Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin, discussed the current situation of the Tatmadaw Medical Corps being involved in the prevention and control of the Covid-19 disease and future activities. Director-General U Sein Win from the office of the Ministry of Health and Sports, Director-General Dr Myat Wunna Soe from the Department of Public Health and Medical Services, officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Directorate of Military Medical Services also attended the meeting. — MNA

Roads and Bridges are blooming like flowers in Ramanya Land of Mon

FROM PAGE-1

Department of Highway has built a total of 44 roads in Mon State, 37 of which are managed by the state and seven roads are managed by the Union Government, with a total of 731 miles, 5 furlongs and 561 feet long. In addition, a total of 2,530 bridges have been built in Mon State and the paved ratio of the whole state is 94 per cent.

During the five-year term from the 2016-2017 financial year to the 2020-2021FY, The Mon State Highway Department upgraded 96 miles and 6 furlongs of asphalt road into asphalt concrete (AC) road; 20 miles and 5 furlongs of earthen road into asphalt road; 8 miles of concrete road paving; 9 miles and 2 furlongs of earthen work; 192 miles and 3 furlongs of asphalt road expansion; 18 wooden bridges into the permanent concrete ones and 321 concrete bridges and box culverts.

In addition, 3 miles and 5 furlongs long Kyaikto Bypass and 13 concrete bridges have been built to solve the traffic conjunction on the Kyaikto-Kinmon Camp Road section. These roads are busy with over 5,000 and 10,000 vehicles coming for pilgrimage to Kyaikhtiye pagoda during the pilgrimage season. The 18-foot wide Kyaikto-Kinmon Road was upgraded to a 14.63-metre wide 4-lane AC road in the 2017-2018 FY.

In terms of bridges, Thanlwin Bridge (Chaungzon),



Mawlamyine-Kyaikmaraw Road.

connecting Mawlamyine and Chaungzon towns, was completed and opened on 9 May 2017. In addition, the construction of the Attaran Bridge (Sabai Gu) and 7 small concrete bridges which were opened on 3 November 2020 has benefited more than 200,000 people in 158 villages in the east and west sides of the Attaran River.

The Thanbyuzayat-Phayathonzu Road, an international link to Thailand, is 9 miles and 5 miles long from the Mon/Kayin border and has been upgraded from an earthen road to an asphalt road, with the project expected to be upgraded to four lanes. Of 15 miles of the 24-foot-wide Thanbyuzayat-Kyaikkhami road, 6 miles and 2 furlongs was upgraded to AC section at the end of 2020-2021FY and the rest 8 miles and 6 furlongs will be upgraded in the coming FY. Therefore, it will be more convenient for the



A bird's eye view of the Thanlwin Bridge (Chaungzon).

pilgrims to visit Kyaikkhami Pagoda. Due to the upgrade work of Mawlamyine (Hinthar roundabout)-Kyaikmaraw (9 miles and 7 furlongs) into a 24-foot-wide asphalt concrete road, it is more accessible for pilgrims to Kyaikmaraw Pagoda and the local people.

Moreover, Phayargyi-Sittoung-Kyaikto-Thaton-Mawlamyine Road built by Shwe Thanlwin Highway Company Ltd. by B.O.T system was expanded from 24-foot wide into 36 feet and 48 feet wide ones and upgraded to the 104 miles one furlong road into asphalt

concrete road in 2006 and 2009. The company also upgraded 216 wooden bridges to concrete bridges.

The Mon State Highway Department also started the upgrading of the ASEAN Highway, Phayargyi-Mawlamyine-Dawei-Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung ASEAN Highway (220 miles and one furlong long and 355 feet wide) into 24-foot-wide asphalt concrete road since the 2016-2017 FY and 199 miles and one furlong long and 335 feet wide was completed at the end of the 2020-2021 FY.

In summary, the roads and bridges in Ramanya Land, Mon

State, are blooming like flowers with the efforts of Mon State Highway Department that upgrades, expand and construct roads and bridges as well as provides transportation in a timely manner in the event of natural disasters. – Chan Myae Maung/GNLM

Warning for visitors to Martyr Beikman

THE people wishing to visit the Martyr Beikman on the 74th Anniversary of Martyr Day are urged to strictly abide by the following points not to suffer from infection of Coronavirus Disease-COVID-19 due to the high infection rate at present.

- Systematically wear the mask on the mouth and the nose and if necessary, and wear a face shield during the period of departure from the house to arrival.
- Take six feet distance to each other.
- Systematically wash hands with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand gel for cleaning the hands, and not to touch eyes, nose and face without cleaning the hands.
- If everybody wishes to sneeze or cough, cover the nose and mouth with a handkerchief or tissue or bunt elbow, after moving to the site in a far distance from the crowds.
- Not to take a long time for viewing round there if not necessary.
- If anyone suffers from symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, body pain, tiredness, coughing, defecating, neck pain, headache, suffocation and exhaustion or currently contacts any confirmed patient, they should reside at home and present reports to the relevant township health department.

Health Subcommittee

74th Anniversary of Martyr Day Organizing Work Committee

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

Development of Human Resources

IT is of vital importance that the development of human resources contributes towards the development of the State. We need to inevitably implement the uplift of education so as to generate plenty of educated personnel. Nowadays, schools are reopening though teachers are teaching amidst formidable hardships due to the CDM staff and opposite groups. Remaining schools are yet to reopen.

(Excerpt from the speech of the Management Committee Meeting of the State Administration Council by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 18 June 2021)

Announcement of Union Election Commission 7 July 2021

- Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in seven townships of Kayin State.
- There were 1,236,838 eligible voters at 852 polling stations in seven townships of Kayin State, and of them, 661,698 voters cast their votes that showed 53.50 per cent. The following 14 parties' candidates and independent candidates ran in the 2020 multiparty general election.
 - National League for Democracy
 - Karen National Democratic Party
 - Union Solidarity and Development Party
 - Mon Unity Party
 - Union Betterment Party
 - United Nationalities Democracy Party
 - People's Pioneer Party
 - Karen People Party
 - National Unity Party
 - People's Party
 - Karen National Party
 - National Democratic Force
 - Bamar People's Party
 - PaO National Organization
 - Independent
- The Union Election Commission has conducted inspection together with the respective township election sub-commissions, head of police force, Immigration and Population, administrators and representatives of parties under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
- According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 1,236,838 eligible voters in these seven townships of Kayin State. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 1,047,865 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 241,953 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 15,258 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 128,230 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- According to the inspection, a total of 852 polling stations in these seven townships took out 1,366,222 ballots and used 641,848. It left 654,029 ballots instead of 724,374. The difference was 72,272 ballots and it found 1,927 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations.
- Findings on voter lists and ballot papers for the Pyithu Hluttaw election in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CSC
1	Myawady	83	172,025	96,161	47,035	3,710	19,908
2	Hlaingbwe	176	239,620	210,407	52,688	1,434	20,968
3	Thandaunggyi	95	62,289	50,000	7,805	997	7,578
4	Hpa-an	230	370,752	337,255	80,177	3,117	36,742
5	Kawkareik	123	205,356	176,284	33,859	1,863	22,626
6	Kya-in-seikyi	120	163,966	154,550	17,633	4,137	20,114
7	Papun	25	22,830	23,208	2,756		294
	Total	852	1236,838	1047,865	241,953	15,258	128,230

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw election in each township

Sr	Subject	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myawady	83	177,839	80,693	97,146	89,885	7,269	8
2	Hlaingbwe	176	268,093	114,997	153,096	142,864	10,410	178
3	Thandaunggyi	95	72,037	40,254	31,783	30,139	2,052	408
4	Hpa-an	230	415,699	204,273	211,426	182,844	28,683	101
5	Kawkareik	123	229,762	103,237	126,525	122,083	4,508	66
6	Kya-in-seikyi	120	177,246	82,340	9,4906	76,716	18,608	418
7	Papun	25	25,546	16,054	9,492	9,498	742	748
	Total	852	1,366,222	641,848	724,374	654,029	72,272	1,927

7. Findings in seven townships of Kayin State were as follows: -

- According to Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a), citizen, associate citizen, naturalized citizen or holder of a temporary certificate who has completed the age of 18 years on the day of commencement of election and who does not contravene the provisions of this Law. There are 241,953 non-identity voters. There were 15,258 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 12,830 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships.
- A total of 852 polling stations withdrew 1,366,222 ballots and used 641,848 ballots. It left 654,029 ballots instead of 724,374. The difference was 72,272 and the extra ballot was 1,927. The missing/ extra ballots were found at some polling stations. The exact numbers of ballots were granted to the polling stations and such extra and missing ballots were found due to illegal activities.
- 661,698 people cast votes for Pyithu Hluttaw in seven townships of Kayin State
- Of 661,698 voters in seven townships of Kayin State, 475,928 people cast votes at the polling stations while there were 185,770 advance voters. The percentage for casting vote at the polling station was 71.93 per cent and 28.07 per cent for the advance vote.
- The voters under the age of 18 were allowed to cast vote.
- It did not find the names of voters, voting numbers, polling station numbers, Ward/village-tracts, signatures of voters on the ballot receipts.
- In Form (1), the ballots were granted to cast votes without signatures or fin-

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- gerprint of voters at some polling stations.
- (h) The signatures of ward/village-tract sub-commission chairman and secretary were not found on every page of Forms (1) according to the respective Hluttaw Election Rules 15 (a).
- (i) The ward/village-tract election sub-commission failed to return the advance ballots and remaining ballots to the officials under the law.
- (j) The non-identity voters were found in the voter lists and they were allowed to cast vote just with voter certificates without ID cards.
- (k) They conducted measures that violate the law when they started collecting advance ballots.
- (l) They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.
- (m) The frauds conducted in November 8 election were found as follows: -
8. The electoral frauds conducted in November 8 election were found as follows:
- (a) In organizing the election sub-commissions, NLD committed some illegal activities in election processes in advance to select their party supporters. They revoked their orders in the formation of election sub-commissions and released them again to form with the nominees submitted by regions/states chief ministers.
- (b) The former UEC did not follow the respective Hluttaw Election and Rules in compiling the voter lists. They released the instructions if necessary and so, the voter lists were massively inflated and incorrect. They formed organizations with regions/states chief ministers to gain correct basic voter lists and those who were not verified yet whether they meet the eligibility requirements were found on the voter lists.
- (c) Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin sent notifications to UEC as State Hluttaw to cancel the election in the seven village-tracts in Hlaingbwe Township. Therefore, he was found guilty of intentionally interfering in the responsibilities and authorities of UEC by misusing his State Hluttaw power.
- (d) U Nyi Nyi Kyaw, leader of Papun Township election campaign group of NLD party submitted a proposal to the Chairman of Kayin State election sub-commission to add 54 further voters of Papun Township on voter lists while Daw Nyein Nyein Aung, organizer of NLD election campaign of Hpa-an requested to add 775 voters in Hlaingbwe Township.
- (e) In inspection against 417 voters who were rejected with Form (4) in Papun Township, the Ministry of Immigration and Human Resources of Kayin State government replied that those who expressed NRC No, temporary ID card, NVC No and those who did not express any certificates or cards were supposed to be Indian and they were not the foreigners or the ones who did not recognize them as foreigners. Therefore, the officials can conduct necessary measures. The respective election sub-commission added 158 voters to the voter lists and the rest 313 were removed from the voter lists as they were not in conformity with the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.
- (f) Former Kayin State Chief Minister Nan Khin Htwe Myint threatened the Secretary of the State Election Sub-Commission to include the mix-blooded NLD supporters on the relevant voter list and if not, the respective Township/Ward/Village-Tract Election Sub-Commission will be reported to the Human Rights Commission after the election. It was replied that it was not possible to include those who did not comply with the Election Law and rules in the voter list.
- (g) The Kayin State Election Sub-Commission submitted the permission request to the Union Election Commission to allow indelible ink procedure on the advance voting day to avoid vote-rigging and double-voting by one voter but the permission was not granted.
- (h) Ko Soe, the son of Former Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than supervised the making and issuance of voter ID cards (fake ballot papers) in the No (3) ward polling station in Myawady Township. NLD party members gathered 50 yards from the advance polling station on 5 November 2020, campaigning by playing NLD victory songs on vehicles equipped with NLD flags and badges. Illegal acts such as sealing/locking the advance ballot box illegally; campaigning for the NLD while advance voting; casting the ballots on behalf of the voters.
- (i) In Kya-in-Seikkyi Township, during the NLD's strong campaign, Kayin State Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No (3) U Saw Sha Phaung Awar paid 5,000 kyats to each of the NLD support in the campaign and there were reports on that.
- (j) It was found that NLD candidates and election victory groups violated the Hluttaw Election Laws, Rules and Regulations, Orders and Instructions, COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines and local orders, during the campaign period, advance voting days and the voting day at the polling stations for the 2020 multiparty democratic general election. The former Election Commission also failed to act as an independent body that complies with the Election Law, Rule and Regulations due to being under the control of the ruling NLD.
- (k) The ward/village-tract administrators served as chairpersons in collecting the numbers of the population to compile the voter lists. In this process, the ward/village-tract administrators appointed by the NLD government and some NLD members jointly collected the numbers of the population. They did not inspect whether the people live in their ward/village tract, whether they are eligible voters under Hluttaw Election Law. Therefore, there were many non-identity voters on the voter lists and some repeated on the voter lists two times or over three times with just one CSC card. Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI "Preparation of Voting Roll" stated, "Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time." And, it found activities that violate the law. According to Section 19 (b), the names not eligible are included in the voting roll, delete such names from the voting roll. But they did not remove the names.
- (l) The former UEC also released instructions that the advance voting process for people over 60 can be conducted starting 29-10-2020 before the election day. But some NLD members conducted door-to-door service in collecting advance votes in some places and it caused voting fraud. According to COVID-19 health rules, the announcement and instruction for voters who were unable to return to their constituencies were released on 8-10-2020 and 11-10-2020 respectively by the former UEC. Due to such directives, the voters were found repeated on the voter lists and non-identity voters were also on the lists and were allowed to cast vote.
- (m) The former UEC also released a statement for voters without any ID cards to cast their vote on 19-8-2020. The non-identity voters cast votes just with voter certificates at the polling stations. Therefore, the non-identity voters, those who repeated on voter lists two times or over three times were allowed to cast vote without complying with the Hluttaw Election Law section 59. Regarding the voting stamps, the instruction that the ballots with a tick without a UEC label will be recognized as valid votes also caused complicated situations in counting the votes.
- (n) Repeated voter registration appears to be an opportunity for electoral fraud, with more than one voter appearing in two or three ballots being investigated and prosecuted. Two- or three-times voting can be made in the following situations and are scrutinized in detail according to the evidence signed on the voter registration forms (1).
- (1) It was found that voter could cast their advance ballots once on the advance voting day and another time on the actual election day.
- (2) Advance voting was also possible in situations where the township or village on which the voter is registered and the other township or village on which the other voter list, are close to each other.
- (3) On election day, voters cast their ballots and avoid touching the ink on their little fingers so that they can vote at other polling stations.
9. The voting frauds were supposed to be intentionally committed. Moreover, they also interfere in collecting voter lists, election campaigns, advance voting processes and voting processes even on election day with their power. Then, the former UEC also misused their authorities and violated the Law and rules.
10. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the officials inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in seven townships in Kayin State. NLD party misused the COVID-19 restrictions and State Power in election processes, including election campaigns of rival parties and Hluttaw MPs, to win the election and form a government. The party also arranged to seize power in advance. According to the above analysis, it was found that the election was not in conformity with the relevant Hluttaw Election laws/rules, so the election was not free and fair.

Union Election Commission

Health and Sports Ministry opens COVID-19 call centre

THE Ministry of Health and Sports opens the COVID-19 call centre at its office in Nay Pyi Taw as of 8 am on 22 June for the reply to queries on health awareness about COVID-19 and facts for abiding by the restrictions to the people on time.

The people can dial the following telephone numbers from 8 am to 9 pm on a daily basis for facts about the COVID-19 disease.

Contact numbers: (1) 067-3411508
(2) 067-3411509
(3) 067-3411144

(4) 09-882557991
(5) 09-882557992
(6) 09-882557993

Virtual meeting for 76th CCOP Steering Committee held

A virtual meeting for the 76th Coordinating Committee on Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia-CCOP Steering Committee was held yesterday.

The Virtual Meeting was chaired by officials from CCOP Headquarters in Bangkok and CCOP Member Permanent Representative to Myanmar Director-General Dr Thet Tin Nyunt from Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, participated in the discussion.

The CCOP is facilitating and coordinating the implementation of applied geoscience programmes in East and Southeast Asia to contribute to economic development and improved quality of life within the region.

Myanmar joined the meeting and discussed research and identify disaster risk reduction measures of Geological Sciences and the practical implementation of the benefits available.

The meeting was attended by a total of 66 representatives from the International Geological Survey (CCOP Technical Secretariat). —MNA



Director-General Dr Thet Tin Nyunt joins the virtual meeting for the 76th Coordinating Committee on Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia-CCOP Steering Committee.

Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 267,000 outpatients



A local patient is undergoing operation at the Thabeikyin Tatmadaw hospital.

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

Tatmadaw medical teams, which comprise Tatmadaw doctors, specialists, medical assistants and nurses, have given medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 267,670 outpatients and 77,712 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medics,

medical assistants and nurses have conducted 12,398 major operations and 6,575 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatments to the severe cases.

These hospitals managed the birth of 15,216 babies to date. Of those, 6,281 cases are done in the caesarean section and 8,935 cases in ordinary delivery.

In addition to providing medical care to patients in need of hospitalization, Tatmadaw is making arrangements for the well-being of hospitalized patients and caregivers. — MNA

Tatmadaw continues providing medical services to locals

THE Tatmadaw medical teams consisted of Tatmadaw doctors, specialists and nurses have been providing necessary medical treatment to the patients in military hospitals and public hospitals in Thazi Township Hospital, Hanza station hospital, Yinmabin hospital, Nyaungyan station hospital in Meiktila District of Mandalay Region, Tagaung station hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Madaaya Hospital, Singaing hospital in Kyaukse township, Yintaw hospital, Myittha Hospital and Kume Hospital in Pyawbwe township,



A local patient is receiving treatment at the Nyaungyan station hospital in Meiktila District.

Wailaung hospital in Taungtha Township, Kyaukpadaung Hospital and NyaungU District Hospital.

The medics offered health-

care related to surgery, dental and oral healthcare, osteoporosis, obstetrics, gynaecology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients yesterday. — MNA

Security forces seize homemade weapons in Amarapura Tsp



A man named Aung San Oo from Amarapura Township seen with seized homemade weapons.

SUSPECTS and those who kept weapons and ammunition equipment were arrested in Amarapura Township on 6 July. Aung San Oo, 32, of Pyay Lone Kyaw village, Amarapura

Township was reportedly selling handguns online when a joint team of security forces raided his home.

Aung San Oo was found with a handgun made of PVC pipe, two plastic buffs, 3 parts of handguns made of PVC pipe, 5 pieces of PVC pipe, one steel pipe, one gas cylinder, three catapults, 40 iron balls, and two acid bottles inside the house.

Those arrested will face effective legal actions, and investigations are underway to arrest the rest of the suspects, officials said. — MNA

Establish firewood plantations to fulfil basic needs of people

NOWADAYS, the land of Myanmar is facing deforestation in some areas based on climate change, extreme extraction of timber, illegal timber extraction, expansion of agricultural lands, an extension of new satellite towns and high demand for firewood and charcoal by local people. Areas of damaged forest across the nation amounted to 1.7 per cent on a yearly basis, leaving environmental degradation and climate change to the people.

With regard to deforestation, each family in an urban area uses 1.4 tonnes of firewood and charcoal per year and those from the rural area, 2.5 tonnes per year. As such, it is necessary to provide 18.95 million cubic tonnes of firewood and charcoal to the people per year.

Therefore, both kinds of participants in the environment are responsible for the conservation of environments with prevention of deforestation, efforts to reforest and growing of new forest plantations.

Whatever it may be, village firewood plantations will benefit the local people by using firewood for the daily life of the local people and green the environment. As these plantations give firewood and raw materials for making charcoal to local people, it will help prevent environmental degradation and regional development.

A favourable climate is based on the proper movements of participants in the environment. Living beings and forests must be placed in proper interrelations for creating a good ecosystem. Therefore, both kinds of participants in the environment are responsible for the conservation of environments with prevention of deforestation, efforts to reforest and growing of new forest plantations.

Forests must be beneficial for living beings including humans. Reciprocally, living beings including humans should contribute much toward thriving forests in the long run.

Scientists seek Covid protection boost for people with weakened immunity

How effective are Covid vaccines if your immune system is compromised by HIV, cancer or a recent organ transplant?

FACED with very little data — and fears that some of these patients could be particularly vulnerable to the virus — scientists are seeking to figure out how to best protect them. In one of the largest research projects into the issue so far, dozens of French hospitals have launched a two-year study of some 10,000 people to help shine light onto how people with these conditions respond to immunization for the coronavirus.

“The goal is to find out how we can best protect those patients,” the study’s head Odile Launay told AFP.

Authorities like the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say people with compromised immune systems can receive the vaccine, but stress that there is still little data on safety.

“If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may NOT be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated,” the CDC adds, urging people to continue to take precautions and

to consult their doctor.

Multiple doses

People’s immune systems can be suppressed by disease — or by treatments taken to deal with other conditions — and this may mean their body has trouble producing the antibodies vaccines are meant to trigger.

Conditions where this might be the case include diabetes, obesity, cancer, organ and bone marrow transplants, chronic severe kidney failure, HIV or multiple sclerosis.

In the case of a transplant, a patient’s immune response is suppressed on purpose to prevent his or her body from attacking the new organ.

Another French study published in the New England Journal of Medicine looked at 100 transplant patients and found their immune response to vaccines was insufficient after two doses.

Scientists recommended three doses for those patients, which is now the rule in France.

The new study, which involves 30 hospitals and has



People wait to receive an injection of a COVID-19 vaccine at the temporary vaccination centre in a gymnasium in Saint-Maur-des-Fossés, outside Paris. PHOTO: BERTRAND GUAY / AFP

been signing up participants since March, is aiming for 8,650 participants with compromised immune systems and a control group of 1,850 un-compromised people.

Participants will have their

blood drawn to measure the presence of antibodies at the time of vaccination and then again after one month, six months, one year and then two years after the last dose. “The data will allow us to adapt our vaccine recommenda-

tions to specific patient populations,” Launay said.

Other measures

Health authorities could for example decide to shorten the waiting period between the first

dose and the two or three booster shots that would likely follow for immune compromised patients.

And in cases where vaccines failed to produce any results, doctors would opt for other strategies like vaccinating the patient’s family and caregivers and maintaining social distancing.

If a vaccine failure results in infection with Covid-19, researchers will also sequence the virus. This could pick up whether the illness is caused by an existing variant - or even pick up any new mutations.

While the Covid-19 virus typically infects individuals for around 10 days before being neutralized by the body, some studies have shown that certain patients, particularly those with compromised immune systems, may carry it for several weeks or longer. This increases the window of opportunity for the virus to mutate, potentially resulting in new variants.

A similar study was launched in the UK in March, which will monitor 5,000 immunocompromised patients’ responses to Covid-19 vaccinations.

SOURCE : AFP

Indonesia’s tourism recovery on hold amid COVID-19 outbreak

The re-opening of Indonesia’s holiday islands to international tourists still seem a long shot.



Foreign tourists on a traditional boat enjoy the sunset at Kuta beach in Bali.

INDONESIA’S COVID-19 cases started soaring since mid-June, which accompanied with the strictest restrictions on public activities so far, holding the recovery of both domestic and foreign tourism at bay.

Travel agencies have been either downsizing or closed, and some transferred to other business segments to survive.

BUSY REFUNDING

“All of our clients have cancelled their trips. We’re quite busy refunding and rescheduling,” said Oki Kurniawan, owner of a travel agency, in a recent interview with

Xinhua. “June was quite good for us, but the PPKM enforced since July brought us back to square one.”

In order to curb the recent COVID-19 outbreak, with daily increased cases surpassing 20,000 for several days in a row, the Indonesian government imposed emergency community activity restrictions (locally known as PPKM) in Java and Bali from July 3 to 20.

Shopping malls are closed, as well as schools and worship places. Restaurants only allow takeouts. And full work-from-home is mandatory for businesses

in non-essential sectors. Travel for leisure is probably out of the question.

Bahriansyah Momod, secretary general of Association of Indonesian Tours and Travel Agencies (ASITA), told Xinhua that from February to Ramadan, there was a bit of a pick-up in business for travel agencies, but since the end of the fasting month until now, sales have gone downhill again.

Meanwhile the international travel ban of entering Indonesia limited foreign arrivals except for essential purposes.

During the period of January to May this year, Indonesia re-

corded 664,550 arrivals of foreign visitors, a 77.62 per cent drop compared to the same period last year, according to Indonesia’s Central Agency of Statistics (BPS).

TO SURVIVE

According to ASITA’s internal data, out of 1,000 surveyed travel agency members, at least 30 per cent have closed down and stopped all activities due to forced lay-offs. Furthermore, 65 per cent are still operational albeit without offices and employees, and only 5 per cent claim to still have employees.

SOURCE : XINHUA

Appointment of Head of Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Dr Phyu Phyu Win, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Research and Innovation under the Ministry of Education, as Director-General at the same department on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Wednesday 7 July, 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 8 July, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Shan, Rakhine, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of regionally heavy rainfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 July, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 July, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 July, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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100 years of resilience

By JIM O'NEILL | China Daily

OTHER countries can learn from China's success in weathering challenges, whatever political system they may have.

As the Communist Party of China celebrates its 100th anniversary, what can one say about China, from an economist's perspective?

At the core, it is worth remarking how, at least based on the evidence of that 100 years, China stands out not only in contrast to the achievements of most countries that have achieved lasting growth and reduced poverty, but also as a big contrast to other countries that one might think of having models of governance similar to China's. Notably, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics failed to stick together, and its biggest defined country, Russia, has shown very little evidence of achieving the success that China has. Other countries of similar governance structure have also, so far, failed to achieve China's success, including those with much smaller populations, such as Cuba.

Over the past 30 years or so, China's achievements have been so especially notable not just because of their scale, but also considering the repeated global economic shocks that have reoccurred through this period. Just think about the forces that China and every country has had to navigate: the so-called Asian crisis in 1997-98, an event which set back a number of other Asian economies for many years; the bursting of the dotcom bubble in financial markets in 2001; the devastating financial crisis of 2007-08, from which many economies and their societies have arguably not really recovered; and then of course, the current COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in the biggest economic decline around the world since the 1930s.

Let me show some numbers before I delve into possible reasons why China has had this success. When I dreamed up the BRIC acronym in 2001, to describe the possible growth potential of the largest emerging economies in the world, China's economy was around \$1 trillion in size. It had already experienced a



LI MIN/CHINA DAILY

decade of double-digit real GDP growth despite the devastation caused by the Asian crisis. Today, China is close to \$15 trillion in current US dollar terms nominally, some 15 times bigger. It is more than three times the size of the world's third-largest economy, Japan, and has become at least three-fourths the size of the US economy. It is actually more than twice the size of the other BRIC economies put together, and of course, even during the past remarkable year, China managed to achieve positive real GDP growth of around 2 per cent. China's economy today is larger than it was in 2019, which is something we cannot say for probably any other economy. And of course, in purchasing power parity terms, China is actually bigger than the United States.

China's ability to eradicate poverty has been possible because of this remarkable growth, and because of this, China has been central to a substantial decline in global poverty. While there has been significant acceleration in the

wealth of the most prosperous in China, the GDP per capita is around \$11,000 to \$12,000, and it is well placed to double by 2035 as desired by the CPC.

One of the statistics I love to dwell on is that it is estimated that around 300 million Chinese citizens, primarily urban residents, share GDP per capita of around \$40,000, which is equivalent to the average level in the United Kingdom, a country with about 65 million people. As a British citizen, it is something I ponder a lot. China's system of governance has created the same wealth as my country does, but for four times the number of people. Incredible really. So why? This is the harder part to answer.

One of the reflections I have, which I rarely see others mention, possibly does relate directly to the form of governance. Given my background in international finance, I have had a front row seat for many of the international crises and shocks I have mentioned, and somehow, despite them all being different, China has responded, seemingly appropriately

to all of them. In 1997, despite currencies collapsing around it, China resisted the pressure and temptation for the RMB to weaken, which at the time could have caused havoc. Similarly with occasional bouts of financial market pressures since, somehow China has managed to respond to them. And of course, in the 2007-08 financial crisis, when China's dependency on exports was much bigger, it managed to respond quickly, and shifted its economic dependency away from low value exports, allowing wages to rise, and the renminbi to appreciate, which together with a massive domestic infrastructure stimulus, allowed the economy to shift to a more domestically driven position. And then in the past 15 months, despite the initial devastation that the COVID-19 pandemic caused in China, a nation of 1.4 billion people, the country has seemingly got to grips with it, and got back to some normality, unlike much of the rest of the world.

At the center of this appears to be not only clear decisive leadership of the CPC, but also a team of civil servants and bureaucrats that are well educated and trained, and implement with speed and thought the policy responses to help navigate through a crisis. This is something many other nations have not managed. So in this regard, this is perhaps something other nations can learn. You cannot allow your political system to smother the need for thoughtful and decisive policies when the need is highest.

Are there things that China can learn from others in the next 100 years? That is probably the topic for another article, but I might suggest that as China's economy becomes larger and more important for the rest of the world, it perhaps needs to derive some softer skill diplomacy and with it, realize that other countries might not choose the same form or governance, and that China's model may not be easily translatable elsewhere. But its success in navigating economic challenges is definitely something the rest of the world can learn from.



Amid US withdrawal, China ramping up its involvement in Afghanistan

CHINA appears to be preparing to ramp up its involvement in Afghanistan amid US troops withdrawal -- with Beijing eyeing the war-torn nation for investment and influence opportunities.

According to The New York Post, in recent weeks, Beijing has been vocal in slamming the United States for pushing forward with its troop withdrawal, citing the deteriorating situation on the ground. Still, it had not made any public commit-

ments regarding a response.

US President Joe Biden has set a deadline of September 11 for the final pullout of the few remaining troops from Afghanistan.

Citing the media reports, the Newspaper outlet reported that the Kabul authorities have become much more deeply engaged with Chinese leaders as the two work toward a deal to invest in Afghanistan's infrastructure through China's

international "Belt and Road Initiative."

As per the outlet, the trillion-dollar programme has funded multiple projects -- generally focusing on hard infrastructures like airports, roads, and seaports -- throughout Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. It has been used by the Chinese Communist Party to grow its influence by providing infrastructure loans to poorer countries in return for control over local resources.

The media report stated that the deal would extend the USD 62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Beijing-led initiative.

"There is a discussion on a Peshawar-Kabul motorway between the authorities in Kabul and Beijing," New York Post quoted the sources. "Linking Kabul with Peshawar by road means Afghanistan's formal joining of CPEC," it said.—ANI

100 companies struck off register due to AR absence: DICA

A total of 100 companies has been struck off the register as they fail to submit an annual return (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to submit its AR on MyCO are to be suspended. The DICA found that 100 companies failed to restore their status within six months of suspension under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law and the companies were struck off the register starting from 5 July, according to the DICA's notification.

All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two

months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, more than 16,000 companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies



The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR

within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of docu-

ments, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. The number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, topped more than 2,000 in the first half of this year. Normally, MyCO is receiving more than 1,000 applications from new companies every month. At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to data provided by the DICA. — GNLM

1 mln fingerlings released into Dokhtawady River in Singaing



So far, the Kyaukse township fisheries department has already released over 10.8 million fingerlings from Nat Yekan, Kume, Thayetgone, Yay Nantthar fish hatching camps.

FOR the development of fish resources in Singaing township, Mandalay region, a total of 1 million fingerlings were released into the Dokhtawady River at 8:30 am on 7 July.

The ceremony was led by the Mandalay region fisheries department. They released 150,000 fingerlings of Barbus fish and 850,000 fingerlings of carp variety.

The ceremony was attended by the Kyaukse District Administration body member, Lieutenant Colonel Zaw Nang Oo and his team, Singaing township Administration body chairman U Bo Aung Maung

Maung and party, District/Township level related department, District fisheries department assistant director Daw Khaing Khaing Win and Kume, Nat Yekan, Thayetgone fisheries camps and fisheries entrepreneurs.

Kyaukse township fisheries department releases fingerlings species yearly into the rivers, natural creek and lakes aims to effectuate sustainable development of the fisheries resources, ensuring sufficient fish ration and enhancing domestic fisheries consumption.

Kume fisheries camp head U Saw Aung Ko Latt gave

awareness talk to the fisherman and public that they prohibited some fishing methods to prevent the destruction of fish resources, such as battery electrofishing, poisonous fishing and explosives fishing. The fishermen are also not allowed to catch up the fish in May, June and July, with no fishing season and not allowed fishing in the restricted fishing area.

So far, the Kyaukse township fisheries department has already released over 10.8 million fingerlings from Nat Yekan, Kume, Thayetgone, Yay Nantthar fish hatching camps. — Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM

Over 340 people from Myawady infected with COVID-19 in two weeks

MORE than 340 people from Myawady town, Kayin State were found infected with the COVID-19 virus within two weeks, resulting in seven deaths as of 6 July, according to the public health department.

From 21 June to 5 July, there were a total of 342 confirmed COVID-19 patients in Myawady town. Seven deaths have been reported after contracting COVID-19 including two deaths on 5 July and one death on 6 July, according to the Myawady health department.

Those confirmed COVID-19 patients are being treated at Maekanae COVID centre, Kyauk Lone Gyi rescue camp

in ward 4, Shwe Myawady new market, Myawady district hospital and Thingan Nyi Naung military hospital.

The schools are also closed for two weeks after more patients are found infected with COVID-19 in No. 1 high school in Myawady town.

More quarantine centres have been opened in Myawady township of Kayin State to handle the growing number of COVID-19 infections in the township.

The township municipal committee has instructed every restaurant and teashop in the Myawady region to adopt only a take-away system. — Aye Maung/GNLM



More quarantine centres have been opened in Myawady township of Kayin State to handle the growing number of COVID-19 infections in the township.

Stock trading volume on YSX slightly rises in June

THE number of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) slightly increased to 79,296 shares in June 2021 but the trading value slipped to K430.285 million, the YSX's monthly report indicated.

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

In June, the shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFR) and AMATA were traded in the equity market. The share prices per unit were closed at K9,000 for FMI, K3,500 for MTSH, K8,100 for MCB, K20,000 for FPB, K2,800 for TMH, K3,200 for EFR and K5,000 for AMATA respectively.



A total of K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on the exchange in 2020, a significant drop compared to 2019.

In February 2021, K442 million worth of 77,388 shares were traded on the exchange. The figures extended further drops to K110 million worth of 19,816 shares in March 2021. Then, the market slightly rose in April with K280 million worth of 42,964 shares. The stocks maintained in the bull market in May with 78,642 shares worth K432.448

million as well.

The stock markets worldwide have reported their largest declines since the 2008 financial crisis. Similarly, the local equities market is also scared by the COVID-19 crash, a market observer points out.

At present, people are keeping emergency savings, rather than making investments amid

the COVID-19 crisis and current political conditions, he added.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis and political changes, Myanmar's securities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading.

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

A total of K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on the exchange in 2020, a significant drop compared to 2019. Over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

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

Furthermore, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX, YSX stated.

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

Kyat weakening in local forex market despite CBM dollar selling

KYAT is depreciating against the US dollar at K1,660 in the local forex market although the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold dollars to control the value of the currency.

In the first week of July, the CBM sold 6 million dollars at an auction rate. To govern the market volatility, it also sold 12 million dollars in June.

The bullish hard currency gained in the local forex market, reaching the peak of K1,730 on 12 May from K1,330 in January-end. In a bid to control the sharp daily gains of the US dollar in the local market, the CBM reportedly sold \$24 million in May. Consequently, the ex-

change rate slightly fell to K1,580 in May. Nevertheless, it touches a high of above K1,650 for now.

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

The local forex market's data showed that the dollar exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April. The rate fluctuated between K1,585

and K1,730 in May and it moved to the maximum of K1,595-1,620 last month.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524



Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon.

in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the

dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market. — NN/GNLM

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Border trade down over \$693 mln

THE total border trade value exceeded US\$7.65 billion, down over \$693 million compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period, the country's export via land border crossings amounted to \$4.98 billion while its import shared \$2.66 billion.

This financial year's border trade decreased by over \$693 million, compared to the same period of the last budget year 2020-2021 when it amounted to 8.34 billion, the ministry's figures said.

The trade volume at Muse border trade on the China-Myanmar border exceeded \$2.92 billion, down over \$638 million compared with the same

period last year.

Myanmar has opened 18 border trade camps and conducts border trade with neighbouring China through Muse, Lwejel, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei gates, with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaung and with India through Tamu and Reed checkpoints, respectively.

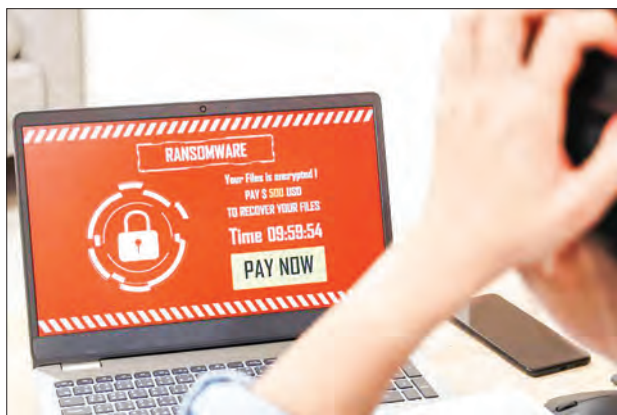
Myanmar's major export items are farm, animal, marine, forest, mining, CMP and other products. Myanmar mainly imports capital goods, industrial raw materials, personal goods and CMP raw materials. — ACM/GNLM

Hackers demand \$70m after Kaseya ransomware attack

HACKERS were on Monday demanding \$70 million (€60bn) in bitcoin in exchange for data stolen during a “gargantuan” attack on a US IT company that has shuttered hundreds of Swedish supermarkets.

Researchers believe up to 1,500 companies could have been affected by the attack on Miami-based firm Kaseya, which provides IT services to some 40,000 businesses around the world.

The FBI warned on Sunday that the scale of the “ransomware” attack – a form of digital hos-



The hackers have been reaching out to individual victims and demanding ransoms ranging from about \$50,000 for smaller organisations rising to \$5m for larger ones. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP

tage-taking where hackers encrypt victims’ data and then demand money for re-

stored access – is so large that it may be “unable to respond to each victim

individually”.

“It’s probably the biggest ransomware attack of all time,” said Ciaran Martin, cybersecurity professor at the University of Oxford. “Because of the nature of the attack there’s still a lot of uncertainty over its impact,” he stressed. But he added that because this was a “supply chain attack” – targeting a company serving thousands of firms, many of whom in turn provide IT support to smaller businesses such as car dealerships – the total number of victims was potentially huge.—AFP ■

Chinese Tesla challenger debuts in Hong Kong with \$1.8 bn IPO



Electric car maker XPeng is chasing market leader Tesla in China. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

SHARES in electric car-maker XPeng debuted in Hong Kong on Wednesday, as Chinese-based firms trading in the United

States seek to avoid the glare of Beijing’s regulators by listing closer to home.

XPeng, which is al-

ready Nasdaq-listed and is chasing Tesla in China, is the latest Chinese company to list on the Hong Kong stock exchange, following other big tech firms such as video platform Bilibili and search giant Baidu.

The Guangzhou-headquartered car maker raised HK\$14 billion (\$1.8 billion) in its initial public offering ahead of the start of trade in Hong Kong on Wednesday, selling 85 million shares at HK\$165 (\$21.20) each.

Its shares traded around 1.8 per cent higher

on opening.

The IPO comes as Chinese companies face pressure to list closer to home, and shortly after ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing attracted scrutiny over data security when it listed abroad.

“Companies have to split their business,” said Ferdinand Dudenhöffer, head of the Centre Automotive Research in Germany.

Didi’s fate shows how important the protection of Chinese customer data is, he added.—AFP ■

New York’s ‘essential’ food delivery workers demand rights

NEW YORK’S legions of food delivery men and women – who were declared essential workers during the pandemic but have no on the job access to bathrooms, health insurance or a minimum wage – are mobilizing for the first time to demand better working conditions.

The 80,000 “deliveristas,” overwhelmingly Hispanic immigrants who zip around the Big Apple on electric or other bikes

come rain, snow or shine, are following the example of other “gig economy” workers such as Uber drivers in Britain who won the right to unionize in May after being recognized as “salaried workers,” in a world first.

In just a few months, “Los Deliveristas Unidos,” the first movement of independent riders for food delivery apps, has gained more than 1,000 members and over 13,000 Facebook



Hispanic food delivery men registered as members of the “Los Deliveristas Unidos” movement in Washington Heights, New York, on June 20, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

followers and set up numerous WhatsApp chats across New York City. The group has held large protests outside city hall and, with the help of the Work-

er’s Justice Project and several councilors, managed to get the municipal legislature to debate six bills that would improve their conditions.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Samsung Electronics says Q2 operating profit to jump more than half

South Korean tech giant Samsung Electronics forecast an expectations-beating jump of more than 53 per cent in second-quarter operating profit Wednesday, thanks to strong chip prices and operations resuming at a key US factory.

The world’s biggest smartphone maker said in an earnings estimate that it expected operating profit of around 12.5 trillion won (\$11 billion) for April to June, up from 8.15 trillion won a year earlier.

The figures were ahead of the 11 trillion won average of estimates, according to Bloomberg News.

Samsung Electronics is the flagship subsidiary of the giant Samsung group, by far the largest of the family-controlled empires known as chaebols that dominate business in South Korea, the world’s 12th largest economy.

The conglomerate’s overall turnover is equivalent to a fifth of the national gross domestic product.

The coronavirus has wreaked havoc with the world economy, with lockdowns and travel bans imposed around the globe for many months.—AFP ■

Italian bottle cap maker to build manufacturing base in east China

ITALIAN bottle cap maker Pelliconi has signed a deal with Changzhou national hi-tech district in east China’s Jiangsu Province to set up a manufacturing base, the district’s management committee said.

The Italian company with a history of over 80 years supplies around 30 billion bottle caps worldwide every year. It entered the Chinese market in 2016.

With an investment of 13 million U.S. dollars, the new project will manufacture low-carbon packaging items with the help of automated production lines and advanced technology.

The new project is expected to have an annual output of more than 100 million yuan (about 15.5 million U.S. dollars) within three years of operation.

“With advantage in transportation, industrial facilities and business environment, Changzhou national hi-tech district has become one of the most attractive investment destinations for Italian firms,” said Li Hao, deputy director of the district’s management committee, adding that so far 14 Italian companies have settled in the district.—Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0237-688N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0237-688N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-7-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S’PORE) PTE., LTD.

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Dilip Kumar,
Bollywood's 'tragedy
king', dies aged 98

DILIP Kumar, one of Bollywood's most accomplished and respected film stars, died on Wednesday aged 98, prompting tributes from across Indian cinema and politics. With Dev Anand and Raj Kapoor, Kumar was one of the three big names who dominated the golden age of Indian cinema from the 1940s to the 1960s, enjoying a career spanning more than 50 years and nearly 60 films.

Nicknamed "The Tragedy King" because of his brooding good looks, tousled hair and deep voice, he played the lead in some of the Indian film industry's most commercially successful films of the period. But he missed out on international fame after famously turning down the chance to play Sherif Ali in David Lean's 1962 classic "Lawrence of Arabia".

The part went to then little known Egyptian actor Omar Sharif. Kumar was born Mohammed Yusuf Khan on December 11, 1922, in Peshawar, Pakistan, then part of British-ruled India. His father was a fruit merchant who took his family to India's entertainment capital in the 1930s.—AFP ■

Targeting infidel 'crusaders': DR Congo's dreaded ADF militia

MADO was worshipping at an evangelical church in the town of Ndalya in February when her life changed forever.

Gunmen burst in, killed her two-month-old daughter at point-blank range, ordered her to leave the baby's body on the ground and follow them out along with the other worshippers. The young woman had become a hostage of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) -- the bloodiest and most dreaded of the many armed groups that roam eastern DR Congo.

The baby's killer said "now you won't be weighed down anymore," Mado, whose name has been changed for this article, recounted between sobs.

They made her carry a heavy package on her head through dense forest until the group came to a halt in a clearing.—AFP ■

Egypt to release megaship impounded over Suez blockage



The Panama-flagged MV Ever Given is set to be released from Egyptian custody on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

EGYPT is set to release the MV Ever Given on Wednesday, over 100 days since the megaship was refloated after blocking the Suez Canal for six days, crippling global supply lines and costing

billions.

The nearly 200,000-tonne container vessel became wedged across the canal during a sandstorm on March 23, blocking a vital artery from Asia to Europe

that carries 10 per cent of global maritime trade and pumps vital revenues into Egyptian state coffers. After a round-the-clock salvage operation to dislodge it, Egypt seized the ship and

demanded compensation from Japanese owners Shoei Kisen Kaisha for lost canal revenues, salvage costs and damage to the canal.

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) announced Sunday that a final deal had been reached, without disclosing the amount of compensation to be paid.

In a statement, it said a ceremony would be held on Wednesday to mark the deal, after which the ship would leave.

Cairo had initially demanded \$916 million in compensation before slashing that to around \$550 million, but the final amount has been the subject of tough negotiations. The SCA announced last month that it had signed a non-disclosure agreement with the Japanese firm ahead of reaching a final deal.—AFP ■

New York governor signs emergency measures to fight 'disaster' of gun violence

NEW YORK'S governor issued new emergency measures to fight gun violence Tuesday, as he made it easier for shooting victims to sue gun manufacturers.

Andrew Cuomo declared gun violence a "disaster emergency," against a backdrop of rising crime in New York City and across the United States.

He unveiled special measures aimed at curbing an increase in shootings that have beset New York City since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in spring last year.

"If you look at the recent numbers, more people are now dying from gun violence and crime than COVID," Cuomo said in a press release.



New York's governor issued new emergency measures to fight gun violence Tuesday, as he made it easier for shooting victims to sue gun manufacturers. PHOTO: AFP

"This is a national problem but someone has to step up and address this problem because our

future depends on it," he added.

The governor said he was appointing a special coordinator

for the prevention of gun violence attached to the state's health services.

The office will have to coordinate with social services, prison services, police forces and others.

A special police unit to fight the trafficking of firearms from other states will also be created.

New York has some of the strictest gun laws in America but it is easy to travel and buy weapons in the neighbouring states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, which are more lax.

Cuomo also announced \$138 million of investment in intervention and prevention programmes, including \$76 million to create jobs for young people deemed most at risk.—AFP ■

Dutch crime reporter 'fighting for his life' after Amsterdam shooting

A prominent Dutch crime reporter was rushed to hospital after being shot on the street in central Amsterdam on Tuesday evening, and remains in a serious condition, police said.

Peter R. de Vries -- a celebrity journalist in The Netherlands known for speaking on behalf of crime victims -- was "fighting for his life", Amsterdam mayor Femke Halsema told a news confer-

ence. Eyewitnesses told local media that the 64-year-old journalist and TV presenter was shot up to five times, including once in the head. Police said three people had been arrested, among them the suspected shooter, but gave no details on the possible reasons for the attack. Prime Minister Mark Rutte told a press conference in The Hague the attack was "shocking and inconceivable".—AFP ■



Police said three people had been arrested, among them the suspected shooter, but gave no details on the possible reasons for the attack. PHOTO: ANP/AFP

UK government accused of 'chumocracy' in handing out virus contracts

BRITAIN'S government is facing growing criticism over how it awarded contracts for virus-related goods and services during the pandemic, its detractors alleging a "chumocracy" in which politically connected companies got priority.

"I think in comparison to Britain 10 years ago, there's a level of corruption that we haven't reached before," said Emily Barritt, a lecturer in law at King's College London.

The latest revelation came in late June when Health Secretary Matt Hancock resigned after it emerged he was having an affair with a university friend he had appointed as an aide, Gina Colodangelo.

Hancock was already facing questions over a series of virus-related contracts.

One was a £30-million (\$41-million) contract to produce



The opposition Labour party is calling for an independent probe into the British government's handling of the pandemic. A health worker administers a dose of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine at Pride Park in Derby, Britain. **PHOTO: AFP**

vials for Covid-19 testing that was awarded without competition to a company run by his former neighbour -- someone who had no background in making medical goods.

The conservative Daily Telegraph has reported that another £28-million contract was awarded to a healthcare company where Colodangelo's brother is strategy director.

And in June, the High Court ruled against another senior Conservative minister, Michael Gove.

Gove had unlawfully awarded a £560,000 contract for virus-related communications to market research firm Public First, having failed to go through proper procedures.

The company's founders are friends of Dominic Cummings, who until recently served as Prime Minister Boris Johnson's top adviser.

Issues of 'cronyism'

The opposition Labour party is calling for an independent probe into the government's handling of the pandemic.

Its Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland Ian Murray told the BBC: "The huge part of the story is all the issues that remain unresolved with regards to cronyism."—AFP ■

Pentagon scraps \$10 billion cloud contract amid Amazon-Microsoft dispute

THE Pentagon said Tuesday it scrapped a massive \$10 billion cloud computing contract, sidestepping a bitter dispute between Amazon and Microsoft over allegations of political bias that swayed the bidding.

A Defence Department statement said the Joint Enterprise Defence Infrastructure (JEDI) contract was cancelled because it no longer meets current needs and that it would start a process for a new "multi-cloud/

multi-vendor" computing contract.

Microsoft in late 2019 won the contract, sparking a challenge by Amazon on grounds that vengeful politics by former president Donald Trump may have improperly influenced the outcome.

Officials said that instead of going forward with the deal in the face of litigation, the government would start over with the aim of getting the most up-



The US Pentagon said its JEDI contract specifications no longer met its current-day requirements. **PHOTO: AFP**

to-date technology.

"JEDI, conceived with noble intent, was developed at a time when the department's needs

were different," Defence Department spokesman John Sherman said during a press briefing.—AFP ■

Failure of Libya talks endangers December vote, analysts warn



Libya has seen a decade of bloodshed that had largely ended with an October ceasefire -- but will the calm last?. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE failure of UN-led talks on Libya to reach a compromise over December elections could endanger a roadmap that had raised hopes of ending a decade of chaos, analysts have warned.

Seventy-five delegates from the war-torn North African country aired their differences at rowdy meetings in Geneva last week. But despite an extra day of unscheduled talks, they remain divided over when to hold elections, what elections to hold, and on what constitutional grounds -- a blockage that threatens to

hurl Libya back into crisis.

"No consensus was reached among the LPDF (Libyan Political Dialogue Forum) members" on the contentious question of a constitutional basis for the previously agreed December 24 polls, the UN acknowledged Saturday.

Oil-rich Libya was plunged into chaos after dictator Moamer Kadhafi was toppled and killed in a 2011 NATO-backed uprising.

Two rival administrations later emerged, backed by a complex patchwork of militias, mercenaries and foreign powers.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran provocations endanger nuclear talks, US and Europe powers warn

THE United States and European powers on Tuesday warned Iran that its latest uranium enrichment efforts could imperil the nuclear talks in Vienna, with Washington calling on Tehran to halt its "brinkmanship".

The cross-Atlantic condemnation came hours after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that Iran intended to enrich uranium to 20 per cent, in the latest sign the talks based in Vienna -- aimed at reviving a 2015 nuclear accord -- could be stalling.

"We continue to urge Iran to stop this brinkmanship, to return to Vienna prepared for real talks, and to be in a position to be prepared to finish the work" that jump-started in April, State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters.—AFP ■

Canada names Mary Simon first indigenous governor general

CANADA named Mary Simon on Tuesday as its first indigenous governor general -- Queen Elizabeth II's official representative in the Commonwealth country -- as the nation faces a reckoning with its colonial history.

"Today, after 154 years, our country takes a historic step," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told a news conference. "I cannot think of a better person to meet the moment."

Simon, a former broadcast journalist, diplomat and advocate of indigenous rights, has previously served as president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Canada's national Inuit organization.

She was also leader of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, which represents Inuit in all Arctic countries, as well as Canada's first Inuk ambassador in Denmark. Her appointment as vice-regal representative, responsible for giving royal assent or making acts passed by parliament law, as well as heading Canada's military, comes at a difficult period in the country's relations with First Nations.—AFP ■

Mancini delights in defying expectations as Italy reach final

HAVING taken over Italy at their lowest ebb, Roberto Mancini revelled in defying expectations after the Azzurri made it through to the final of Euro 2020 with a dramatic penalty shoot-out win over Spain on Tuesday.

Italy's transformation under Mancini in the last three years has been extraordinary, from a team that failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup to one that has gone on a national record of 33 games unbeaten including their Wembley semi-final.

They were made to fight all the way against Spain, taking the lead through Federico Chiesa's brilliant goal but being pegged back as Alvaro Morata's equalizer made it 1-1 and forced extra time before the Azzurri prevailed 4-2 on penalties.

However, they merit their place in Sunday's final against England or Denmark having been the outstanding side thus far at this European Championship.

After putting seven goals without reply past Turkey, Switzerland and Wales in the group stage they ground out an extra-time win over Austria, then beat Belgium in the quarter-fi-



Having taken over Italy at their lowest ebb, Roberto Mancini revelled in defying expectations after the Azzurri made it through to the final of Euro 2020 with a dramatic penalty shoot-out win over Spain on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

nals despite losing star left-back Leonardo Spinazzola to a torn Achilles tendon. Now they are closing on a second European Championship title.

"When you play in a World Cup or a European Championship it is intense, and there always comes a game where you have to dig in and suffer to win," said Mancini. "It can't all be smooth as our progress had been up to now.

"We knew this was the one that was going to be really tough and that is why I think the players and everyone who

has worked with us over the last three years deserves a lot of credit because it has not been easy by any means.

"Almost nobody believed we could do it and yet we are in the final, so we are pleased for Italians everywhere."

Italians took to the streets across the country to celebrate while 11,000 of their fans — all UK-based as restrictions prevented supporters abroad from travelling — were inside Wembley to see Jorginho score the decisive kick in the shoot-out.— **AFP ■**

'Seize the chance', says Southgate as England eye Euro history

GARETH Southgate has challenged England to exorcise the ghosts of their painful past in Wednesday's Euro 2020 semi-final against Denmark as they look to reach the final for the first time.

Since winning the 1966 World Cup, England have endured four agonizing semi-final defeats in major tournaments, but South-

gate is convinced his team are ready to rewrite that bitter history at Wembley.

Beaten in the last four at the 1990 and 2018 World Cups and Euro 1968 and 1996, England are favourites to advance to Sunday's final after sweeping to the last four with impressive victories against Germany and Ukraine

in the knockout stage.

"The prize is one that we've never experienced. We've never been to a (Euro) final, so it's a great opportunity for our players to make some more history," Southgate said. "These players are making history and breaking barriers all the time, and have done so in this tournament. "The players are ready. They've got tremendous experience having been in this situation before. Our preparation has been calm."

When Southgate led England to the 2018 World Cup semi-finals in Russia, it was an unexpectedly strong campaign for a team that had suffered a humiliating Euro 2016 exit against minnows Iceland under his predecessor Roy Hodgson. England's defeat against Croatia was a disappointing conclusion to their adventure three years ago, but Southgate says the experience has been invaluable to their run at Euro 2020.— **AFP ■**



Gareth Southgate has challenged England to exorcise the ghosts of their painful past in Wednesday's Euro 2020 semi-final against Denmark as they look to reach the final for the first time. **PHOTO: AFP**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

'Has it ever come home?': Denmark's Schmeichel takes cheeky swipe at England

DENMARK goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel took a cheeky swipe at England on the eve of their Euro 2020 semi-final showdown as he poked fun at their long wait to win a major tournament.

England's only major trophy came when they won the 1966 World Cup and the nation is at fever pitch as Gareth Southgate's side move within touching distance of ending that long drought. A victory over underdogs Denmark in front of 60,000 frenzied fans at Wembley on Wednesday would take

England to their first final for 55 years.

England supporters have been serenading their team through the tournament with chants of 'Football's coming home', the anthem that first became popular when the Three Lions reached the Euro 96 semi-finals. Asked what it would mean to ruin England's dreams of Euro glory, Schmeichel said: "Has it ever been home? I don't know. Have you ever won it? '66? Was that not the World Cup? — **AFP ■**