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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

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22 May 2021

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Union Minister

THE State Administration Council appointed and assigned Dr Charlie Than to the duty of Union Minister of the Ministry of Industry, under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

MoEE to organize research training courses for new-generation staff

UNION Minister U Aung Than Oo of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and Yangon Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe attended a ceremony in order to drive stakes and lay gem cornerstones for the construction of Lawka Yankin pagoda, a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, in the compound of No (4) Fertilizer Factory (Myaungdagar) of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise in Hmawby Township yesterday.

The Union minister and party then inspected urea fertilizer manufacturing processes, Distributed Control System (DCS), the operation of the testing laboratory for product quality and packing system of urea fertilizer.

The officials also went to the Myaungdagar substation of the Department of Power Transmission and System Control and inspected power distribution,



The MoEE Union Minister and party are paying an inspection tour around the Myaungdagar substation in Hmawby yesterday.

230 kV Shwe Taung-Myaungdagar grid in Switchyard and building of 230/66/11 kV 150 MVA transformer.

The Union Minister and

party then met the officials of the Applied Research Department (Htaukkyant) of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Mingaladon Township. During the meeting,

the Union Minister stressed the need to conduct research training courses for new-generation staff, share techniques and upgrade the Applied Research

Department in order to assist seismic measuring processes for oil exploration. He also inspected the labs and Core Samples in the warehouses. — MNA

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine state to Bangladesh is underway



Myanmar receives 790 returnees and issues NVCs to them.

MYANMAR and Bangladesh signed an agreement on the readmission of displaced persons from Rakhine State on 23 November 2017 after fleeing to Bangladesh due to the incidents in Rakhine State in 2017.

Of the profiles sent by Bangladesh six times, 10,356 households, 45,851 people were scrutinized, and 30,206 were found to have lived in Myanmar. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a total of 384 were terrorists, and 15,261 people were undocumented immigrants in Myanmar.

Although Bangladesh was repeatedly notified to repatriate those found living in Myanmar by sending the findings, no action has been taken.

However, the displaced people in Bangladesh who wanted to return home due to various difficulties contacted the UEHRD/CHRD committee. So a total of 790 people have returned to Myanmar on their own. Authority scrutinized, accepted the returnees and issued the National Verification Card (NVC) to them.

Under the Myanmar-Bangladesh Bilateral Agreement, the Government is working to ensure that the displaced people return with dignity and long-term livelihoods. It is also implementing plans for the stability and development of Rakhine State.

— MNA

About 160 killed in road accidents in Yangon in first four months of 2021

A total of 333 car accidents happened in the Yangon region in the first four months of 2021, killing about 160 people, according to the Yangon Region Traffic Police Force.

Although motorbikes have been banned and prohibited in the 33 townships administered by Yangon City Development Committee, people do not comply with the traffic rules. Therefore, the No.2 traffic police force (Yangon) has taken legal action against disobedient motorcyclists under Vehicle Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law 2020 to follow the traf-

fic rules and regulations and to reduce road accidents.

Deaths and injuries related to traffic accidents remain a significant concern in Myanmar. They were mainly caused by human error – over speeding, negligent driving and drowsy driving, and others, including defective vehicles and severe weather.

According to the Yangon Region Traffic Police Force, from January to April 2021, a total of 6,366 vehicles and 3,048 motorbikes were seized. — Aye Maung/GNLM

For athletes to have higher sports standards

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to appoint the physical coaches and sports technique coaches for athletes to have higher sports standards in the South-East Asian Games. Relevant universities and colleges need to turn out more physical trainers to be appointed at schools.

(Excerpt from the speech to the Management Committee meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 11 May 2021)

Eindu-Kawkareik road, part of greater Mekong sub-region east-west economic corridor, completed

THE inauguration ceremony for Eindu-Kawkareik road, connecting Hpa-an District and Kawkareik District in Kayin State, was held yesterday morning in line with the COVID-19 guidelines.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay, Chairman of the Kayin State Administration Council U Saw Myint Oo and members of the council, officials from the ministry and relevant departments/organizations and residents.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Shwe Lay said the Eindu-Kawkareik road is part of the Greater Mekong Sub-region East-West Economic Corridor and also part of the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral road.

Viet Nam, Laos and Thailand have completed their parts



The inauguration ceremony for Eindu-Kawkareik road, connecting Hpa-an District and Kawkareik District in Kayin State, was held yesterday morning in line with the COVID-19 guidelines.

in the East-West Economic Corridor as Asian Highway Standard Class 2-level. Myanmar has just upgraded its parts of the road.

He said the upgraded Ein-

du-Kawkareik road would be a major trade route connecting with neighbouring Thailand. It would speed up the flow of goods and reduce transport costs for regional and interna-

tional vehicles. As part of the project, upgrading Kyondoe port ring road will also benefit from transporting goods from Laos and Viet Nam to Mawlamyine in a short time at a low cost.

The upgraded Eindu-Kawkareik road to an international standard road (Asian Highway Standard Class 2) is 64.735 kilometres long and made of nylon asphalt (AC) type. —MNA

Terrorists continue launching bomb attacks



Three hand-made mines blast at the Muse-105 mile Trade Zone inspection gate.



TERRORISTS planted hand-made bombs at state-owned buildings, some houses of people and on public roads.

On 21 May, an explosion occurred at the entrance of Pauk Taw village of Nyaunglebin Township in the Bago Region. According to the tip-off, the security forces investigated and found that the hand-made bomb exploded at the house of U Tin Maung Than,

San Kalay village-tract administrator. In the blast, U Toe Toe from Thayet Gone village of Nyaunglebin died on the spot. Administrator U Tin Maung Than, Daw San San Maw, Maung San Han Shwe, U Zaw Win and Daw Khin Saw Myint (aka) Daw Tin were injured and taken to Nyaunglebin people's hospital.

Similarly, another bomb explosion occurred at the

inspection gate of Muse in Northern Shan State yesterday. According to the investigation, three handmade bombs exploded near the inspection buildings. Four men, including deputy assistant U Tun Win of the Customs Department, were injured.

The security forces inspect to take action against those who commit bomb attacks under the law. —MNA

17 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 May, total figure rises to 143,228

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **143,228** after **17 new cases** were reported on 22 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **132,177** have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

Public information

Yangon Administration Council is working with relevant departments to help the businesses in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their small and medium-scaled businesses and investments which are facing some delays and working to do new businesses.

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council

MoNREC to accelerate environmental conservation in Magway Region



UNION Minister U Khin Maung Yi of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation met Magway Region Administration Council Chairman and discussed the 2021 monsoon tree-planting process and conservation of the toddy palm tree in the Magway Region on 21 May.

Nursery, 100 acres of mountain plantation implemented in 2019 and 2020 out of Sin Khaung- Zee Ai forest reserve and preparation for 100-acre plantation target in the 2021 monsoon.

Then, the Union Minister inspected the production of A-1 stoves being operated by Myanmar Myay Industry in Minbu Township, cultivation of more than 40,000 seedlings for 2021 monsoon in Shwetapin

The Union Minister also inspected 30 acres of firewood plantations out of Tebokan forest reserve in Salin township, 30 acres of firewood plantations in 2019 and 30 acres for the 2021 monsoon.

These plantations will provide firewood for 1,800 households of three villages. — MNA

Rice export to China through Muse border checkpoint plummets

MYANMAR'S rice export to China through the Muse border checkpoint has plummeted recently, said Vice-Chair U Min Thein of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

the Man Wein checkpoint. In contrast, now only 10,000 bags are being traded through Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint," U Min Thein explained.

The drop was due to the closure of the Man Wein checkpoint, which is the major place of trading of rice and broken rice between Myanmar and China following the outbreak of COVID-19 positive cases. With the Man Wein checkpoint closing, export items, including rice and broken rice, are being traded through China via the Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint.

Currently, the price of Muse market is 117 Yuans for a bag of broken rice, 128 Yuans for Nga Sein, 129 Yuans for Thuka and 137 Yuans for Shin Tone, according to the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

Earlier, Myanmar exported about 30,000 bags of rice and broken rice to China daily. But now, only about 10,000 bags have been shipped, he added.

The Man Wein checkpoint has been closed for over one month because of the outbreak of COVID-19. According to Muse 105th Trade Zone of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce, China has no plan to reopen it yet.

"Previously, about 70 truckloads of rice and broken rice were traded daily through Man Wein checkpoint. Now, only 24 truckloads are traded. The export has dropped one third. Though three truckloads used to go earlier, only one truckload would go now. Earlier, about 30,000 bags of rice and broken rice were traded through

With the declining number of COVID-19 positive patients in the Kyalgaung area, the lockdown restrictions imposed on the Kyalgaung area were lifted starting from 4 May. But, the observation is still going on for another three more months. As a result, the Man Wein checkpoint has not been planned to reopen, according to the announcement of the Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone, the Trade Department on 5 May.

In addition, in coordination



with the Shweli Foreign Relations Department, the Man Wein crossing has not been reopened yet. It will reopen only after having the detailed plan, according to the statement.

February 2021.

The relevant traders will also be informed if there is an official notification from China to reopen the border.

This year, the Chinese government has allowed more rice export licenses to more companies. So, the volume of rice export will increase this year compared to that of the previous year.

Moreover, according to the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre, China's Customs authorities granted rice export licenses to 47 Myanmar companies on 26

During the first three months of the current financial year, Myanmar exported over 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth over US\$ 275 million, according to Myanmar Rice Federation.

However, Myanmar has ex-

pected to export only 2 million tonnes of rice in this FY because the weather changes have affected irrigation water. Consequently, summer paddy cultivation will have to be reduced, said U Ye Min Aung, the Chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar generated over \$ 800 million from rice export in the previous FY — 2019-2020 ending 30 September with an estimated volume of over 2.5 million tonnes. — NN/GNLM

State Administration Council Press Release

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

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries with worries because of incitement and intimidation of NLD members, the extremists who support that party, CRPH unlawful association, incitement of CDM and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since after 1 February 2021 when the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibility.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of CRPH unlawful association and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in their areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. As those who evaded from their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from evaded areas to various regions of Myanmar.
4. Information was released that if those who evaded to various areas except the persons who committed any kinds of crime wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord, the citizens abroad are to contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates without facing action taken in accord with the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Tatmadaw medical team performs RDT to returnees in Mawlamyine



DUE to difficulties in conducting necessary COVID-19 medical check-up, Mon and Kayin states residents repatriated from abroad were under quarantine in Mawlamyine.

Military doctors, nurses

and medics from the Tatmadaw hospital in South-East Command, in collaboration with the township administration council members and CSOs performed Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) to a total of

24 returnees in the quarantine centre.

The Tatmadaw hospital has conducted the COVID-19 medical check-up to a total of 6,973 returnees from 19 February to date.—MNA

Three policemen injured, some missing in KIA attack



THREE Nansipon Myoma police in Khamti Township of Sagaing Region were injured, and some still missing in the attack by KIA yesterday.

The KIA attacked the police station with small and heavy weapons. They moved back due to the counterattack of security forces.

Three police got gunshot wounds in the attack, and some police members were missing.

Tatmadaw troops and Myanmar police jointly conduct operations to search the missing police members and eliminate KIA.—MNA

Arson attacks occur in some townships

THE armed terrorists and insurgents set the state-owned buildings on fire in some townships of regions and states.

About 80 armed insurgents made an arson attack on the combined inspection gate, which was temporarily closed, near Htwee Lwee Bilar village beside Dimawhso-Prusho road in Dimawhso Township

of Kayah State on 21 May. The fire damaged two buildings.

On 22 May, another arson attack occurred at district court and township court of Tat Oo Thida Ward of Kalay Township in Sagaing Region. One hundred fifty-three motorcycles and four vehicles kept in the courts were destroyed in the fire.

Similarly, a basic education school in Oo Kyay Ward of Pynmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw was caught fire after being intentionally set on fire by the terrorists. The fire damaged some teaching materials.

The officials make efforts to take action against the terrorists who launched arson attacks.—MNA

One girl arrested with anti-State slogans in Htaukkyant, Mingaladon

ONE girl was arrested with 30 anti-State slogans and one transparent tape in Htaukkyant, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region yesterday morning.

Security forces found her pasting the anti-state slogans at lamp posts and bus stop near the Tatyin (9) bus stop on No (3) road while patrolling the area.

She is an eighteen-year-old resident living in Konetalapone village in Htaukkyant. An investigation is underway to take action against her under the law.—MNA

One law enforcement officer killed in attack by armed insurgents in Kayah state

ONE member of the security forces was killed by the terrorist attack on the police station in Bawlake Township, Kayah State, on 21 May.

About 30 armed insurgents attacked with small firearms to the Nanphe police station in Bawlake Township and retreated when the security forces retaliated. During the shooting, one member of the security forces was killed.

On the same day, a group of about 20 terrorists attacked the Dimawhso Township police station from the monastery located about 100 yards east of the police station at around 3 pm and retreated when the security forces retaliated. But, no member of the security forces was injured.

It is reported that security measures are being stepped up to identify and arrest the insurgents who carried out terrorist attacks on security police stations.—MNA

Three armed insurgents arrested with weapons and equipment used in terrorist attacks in Natogyi



THREE armed insurgents were arrested with firearms and equipment used in terrorist attacks during the security forces were patrolling the area in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

Terrorists are reportedly mobilizing to carry out acts of sabotage against the State, handmade guns and weapons are being made on the Sakyar mountain between Khansat Kone village and Nyaungzin village Natogyi. Security forces searched the mountain.

Three men were arrested together with weapons, equipment and materials used in terrorist attacks, in-

cluding one homemade pistol, two gas guns, 17 homemade mines, two bulletproof vests, hats, five backpacks, materials used in making mines, 30 black suits, six pairs of canvas shoes, four axes, 20 pears and one TYT-branded charger.

During the search, the security forces had to fight back against the terrorists who attacked with homemade firearms.

It is reported that arrested three men will be taken action according to the law. Security forces will continue to search for the perpetrators involved in the acts of sabotage.—MNA

Security forces serve security duties day and night

WITH the support of the so-called NUG government in exile and the Hluttaw Committee in exile (CRPH), the insurgents carry out violent disruptions in some townships.

For national stability, public safety, the rule of law, and community peace, the coalition of members of the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Myanmar Fire Brigade have been taking necessary security measures with patrols in townships of the respective states and regions since 14 February.

It is reported that security forces will continue to provide security duties day and night.—MNA



216,525 outpatients reach Tatmadaw hospitals as of 22 May



MILITARY hospitals and temporary hospitals in the townships of regions and states provide medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 216,525 outpatients and 65,590 inpatients reached

these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 10,124 major operations and 5,160 minor operations. The senior doctors treat severe cases. These hospitals

managed for the birth of 12,814 babies, while 12,814 pregnant women were taken to the respective military hospitals.

It is reported that Tatmadaw will continue to accelerate the cooperation to develop the public health sector.—MNA

Local people hand over homemade guns to security forces

TWO homemade guns were handed over to the security forces through village administration officials in Hti Phaung village, Taunggyi, Shan State (South) on 21 May.

It is reported that security forces received and stored the guns systematically. People who want to live in peace have handed over homemade guns they have on their hands to the security forces through the administration officials in some townships of the states and regions.—MNA



Tatmadaw medical corps provide healthcare in township hospitals



TATMADAW medical corps has been providing necessary medical treatment to the patients in the respective area according to the request of the residents and staff.

Tatmadaw medical team continued providing healthcare-related to surgery, dental and oral healthcare, osteoporosis, obstetrics, gynaecology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in Thazi Township Hospital, Hanza hospital, Yinmabin hospital, Nyaung Yan hospital in Meikti-

la District, Pintale hospital in Wundwin Township, Tagaung hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Madaya Township Hospital, Sintgaing Township Hospital, Myittha Township Hospital, Kume hospital, Taungtha Township Hospital, Wailaung hospital, Kyaukpadaung Township Hospital and NyaungU District People's Hospital in Mandalay Region.

It is reported that locals are satisfied with Tatmadaw's medical support.—MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

22 May 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 of Kongyan, Kehsi, Hsipaw, Pindaya, Pekon, Monghsat and Mongyan townships of Shan State.
- According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 146,472 eligible voters in these seven townships of Shan State. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population list in November 2020 showed 348,124 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned 98,799 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 1,805 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 30,766 persons repeated on the voter lists twice.
- Findings 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.	Kongyan	21	27,602	23,155	10,715	9	556
2.	Kehsi	60	58,599	35,264	20,083	178	3,352
3.	Hsipaw	111	136,021	103,984	42,021	500	9,348
4.	Pindaya	78	61,187	52,468	5,644	424	6,004
5.	Pekhoh	110	66,773	60,004	2,485	410	7,078
6.	Monghsat	58	59,703	44,340	17,734	281	4,218
7.	Mongyan	20	6,587	28,909	117	3	210
	Total	458	416,472	348,124	98,799	1,805	30,766

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Kongyan, Kehsi, Hsipaw, Pindaya, Pekon, Monghsat and Mongyan townships of Shan State together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
- According to the inspection, a total of 458 polling stations in these seven townships took out 477,780 ballots and used 282,928 ballots. It left 190,407 ballots instead of 194,852 ballots. The difference was 7,078 ballots, and it found 2,633 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Kongyan	21	29,050	10,591	18,459	18,385	74	
2	Kehsi	60	69,235	28,902	40,333	39,463	2,212	1,342
3	Hsipaw	111	154,853	88,051	66,802	66,223	941	362
4	Pindaya	78	69,007	56,603	12,404	11,430	1,476	502
5	Pekhoh	110	77,959	56,048	21,911	21,517	468	74
6	Monghsat	58	68,169	37,541	30,628	29,290	1,691	353
7	Mongyan	20	9,507	5,192	4,315	4,099	216	
	Total	458	477,780	282,928	194,852	190,407	7,078	2,633

- According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships of Shan State, the numbers of eligible voters are more 68,348 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens who had turned 18 in November 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).
- There are 98,799 non-identity voters. Moreover, 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." But, there were 1,805 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 30,766 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of Shan State.
- The officials put the three additional voters of No (1) polling station of Khaunt Sant Village-tract of Kehsi Township in Form (1) book with handwriting and allowed them to cast votes.
- Of 409, only two voters signed. The rest 407 voters cast votes just with a mark without signing or giving their fingerprint of left-hand thumb in Form (1) of No (1) polling station in Tuyar Village-tract of Kehsi Township.
- The head of No (1) polling station in Mongyun (Tarku) Village-tract in Monghsat Township failed to follow the Hluttaw Election Law rule 66 (h) and separately returned 300 ballot receipts and 303 remaining ballots to the township election sub-commission on 6-5-2021.
- Findings in these seven townships were as follows:
 - There were 283,585 voters, and they used 282,928 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 657 less than the numbers of voters.
 - It found 7,078 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots.
 - It found 2,633 extra ballots at some polling stations.
 - They did not follow the Hluttaw Election Law rule 66(h) and separately returned the ballot receipts/remaining ballots to the township election sub-commission only after the election.
 - It did not find signatures or fingerprints of voters in Form (1) books, and the voters were allowed to cast votes just with a mark.
 - It did not find voters' names, voting numbers, polling station No, Ward/village-tracts, signatures or fingerprints on the ballot receipts used in some polling stations.
 - Some of the ward/village-tract election commission failed to return the ballot receipts and extra ballots according to the law, so the ballots were found missing.
 - The non-identity voters were on the voter lists, and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any national identity cards.
 - They conducted measures that violate the law when they started collecting advance ballot.
 - 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.
- It found voting frauds in Kongyan, Kehsi, Hsipaw, Pindaya, Pekon, Monghsat and Mongyan townships of Shan State. The excess/shortage ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Let's supply clean water as a helping hand to people

DAMS, reservoirs and other irrigation facilities must be tools for solving the shortages of water the local people have been suffering from impacts since successive eras.

Water scarcity is primary problems for the local people residing in the dry zones of Myanmar. Not only agricultural water but also drinking water is staking their lives till today.

Various sizes of dams are mushrooming in the entire of Myanmar. These facilities were built by rulers of Myanmar from the time of the monarchical era to date. Depending on the situation and time, most of the dams disappeared and were useful.

Nonetheless, successive governments are striving for building the dams in necessary areas with might and main in order to irrigate the farmlands and croplands for ensuring a high yield of crops.

In fact, Myanmar's dams need to have modern techniques to improve their usefulness. Only when modern technologies can be applied will the dams be improved to green the motherland as well as to supply water to cultivable lands.

Nowadays, global countries try hard to overcome the challenges of climate change in various ways and means. In this regard, everybody knows that the greening task is the most useful tool to combat climate change.

To be able to fight against climate change, the water supply based on irrigation facilities and the green task are interrelated to each other.

As the result of water supply can shape the lifestyle of people, efforts should be made for seeking water sources such as aboveground and underground waters to be beneficially applied for all the ethnic, national people.

All should take lessons from the past and present irrigation facilities in supplying water to the people. The supply of water must be useful as well as a helping hand for the people. So, money, might and materials used in the supply of water for the people should be beneficial to the nation without depending on bribery and corruption. Generally, Myanmar people say that the donation of water is a meritorious deed.

In fact, the water must be clean without any colours. So also, the efforts and motivation to supply the water for the people residing in the whole nation must be of honesty.

■■■

The Atlantic Ocean

Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)

THIS is the third article on the World Ocean which will describe the Atlantic Ocean in brief. The Atlantic Ocean, a body of salt water covering approximately one-fifth of Earth's surface and separating the contents of Europe and Africa to the east from those of North and South America to the west. The ocean's name, derived from Greek mythology, means the "Sea of Atlas." It is second in size to the Pacific Ocean.

The Atlantic is, generally speaking, S-shaped and narrow in relation to its length. The area of the Atlantic without its dependent seas is approximately 31,830,000 square miles, and with them, its area is about 41,100,000 square miles. It has an average depth of 10,925 feet and a maximum depth of 27,493 feet in the Puerto Rico Trench, north of the island of Puerto Rico.

The ocean's breadth from east to west varies considerably. Between Newfoundland and Ireland, it is about 2,060 miles; farther south, it widens to more than 3,000 miles before narrowing again so that the distance from Cape São Roque, Brazil, to Cape Palmas, Liberia, is only some 1,770 miles. Southward it again becomes broader and is bordered by simple coasts almost without islands; between Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, the ocean approaches Antarctica on a broad front nearly 4,000 miles wide.

Although not the largest of the world's oceans, the Atlantic has by far the largest drainage area. The continents on both sides of the Atlantic tend to slope toward it so that it receives the waters of a great proportion of the major rivers of the world; these include St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, the Orinoco, the Amazon, the Rio de la Plata, the Congo, the Niger, the Loire, the Rhine, the Elbe, and the great rivers draining into the Mediterranean, Black, and Baltic seas. In contrast to the South Atlantic, the North Atlantic is rich in islands, in the variety of its coastline, and in tributary seas. The latter includes the Caribbean Sea, the Gulfs of Mexico and St. Lawrence, and Hudson and Baffin bays on the west and the Baltic, North, Mediterranean, and Black seas on the east.

Physiography
Various boundaries have been used to define particularly

the northern but also the southern limits of the Atlantic Ocean. There are no universally accepted boundary conventions. In the north, the situation is further complicated by the fact that the Arctic Ocean frequently is considered to be a dependent sea of the Atlantic. This is because the Arctic basin, which stretches from the Bering Strait across the North Pole to Spitsbergen and Greenland, resembles a semi-enclosed basin.

Relief of the ocean floor
The outstanding feature of the Atlantic floor is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, an immense median mountain range extending throughout the length of the Atlantic, claiming the centre third of the ocean bed and reaching roughly 1,000 miles in breadth. This feature, though of tremendous proportions, is but the Atlantic portion of the world-encircling oceanic ridge.

In some places, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge reaches above sea level to form islands. Iceland, which rises from its crest, is rent by an extension of the median rift valley. East and west of the ridge, about 12,000 to 18,000 feet below sea level, lie basins that seem to present a relatively even profile, but parts of the basin floor are as mountainous as the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, while other parts are extremely smooth. The former are rocky abyssal hills; the latter are the abyssal plains that form the upper surface of great ponds of mud that fill many of the broad depressions. Large ancient volcanoes are found singly or in rows in the basins; these have risen to form seamounts and, occasionally, islands.

Islands of the Atlantic Ocean
Among purely oceanic islands are Iceland, the Azores, Ascension, St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Bouvet, and Gough, which all rise from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge; and the Canary, Madeira, and Cape Verde islands and Fernando de Noronha (near Cape São Roque), which rise from the continental margins of Africa and South America. Volcanic islands of a different sort are those of the two great arcs: the Lesser Antilles and the South Sandwich Islands. Partly continental and partly oceanic are the Greater Antilles in the Caribbean and South Georgia and the South Orkney Islands in the Scotia Sea. Purely continental are the British Isles,



Atlantic Ocean, with depth contours and submarine features. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Newfoundland, the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), and Greenland, which is an extension of the Canadian Shield.

Geology
The origin and development of the Atlantic Ocean are now accounted for by the theories of continental drift and plate tectonics, according to which a vast proto-continent, Pangea, began to break up about 180 million years ago. The rifting caused the landmasses of the Western and Eastern hemispheres to separate, opening up the Atlantic Ocean basin. As can be seen on a map of the world, the continental coastlines of North America and Europe and of South America and Africa almost match. If the edges of the continental shelves are matched, the fit is nearly perfect. Other geologic and paleontological similarities found on both sides of the Atlantic substantiate the theory of plate tectonics and thus help explain the evolution of the Atlantic.

Perhaps the most conclusive evidence bearing out this theory of origin is to be found in the existence of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The ridge is, in effect a long rift zone of mountains, volcanoes, and faulted plateaus. A high heat flow, which is associated with the extrusion of magma and with seafloor spreading, exists in the rift zone. The crustal material on either side of the ridge is notably younger than that on the corresponding plateaus, indicating an uprising of material from Earth's mantle onto the crest of the ridge. The newer rock is composed mainly of gabbro (a coarse-grained rock formed deep within the mantle

under heat and pressure), basalt (a rock that originally poured out at the surface in molten form), and serpentine (a common rock-forming mineral). Consequent movement of the ocean floor and of the continents in opposite directions outward from the ridge is widening the Atlantic basin at an estimated rate of about 0.4 inch to a maximum of about 4 inches per year. The worldwide average rate has been estimated at 1 inch annually. The corresponding spreading is occurring at an even faster pace in the Pacific Ocean; in the Atlantic, however, the slower rate of spreading causes the flanks of the ridge to be built up steeply by accumulating lava.

Bottom deposits
The greater part of the bottom of the Atlantic is covered with calcareous ooze. At depths greater than 16,400 feet, the calcium carbonate content decreases, and the calcareous deposits give way to red clay. The finer material is not evident on submarine ridges, and the shells of pteropod gastropods (molluscs of the gastropod class comprising the snails) may be sufficiently abundant there to characterize the deposits as pteropod ooze. Diatom ooze (formed from microscopic unicellular algae having cell walls consisting of or resembling silica) is the most widespread deposit in the high southern latitudes but, unlike in the Pacific, is missing in northern latitudes.

Mineral resources
Submarine hydrocarbons
A wealth of petroleum and natural gas lies under the continental shelves and slopes and the oceanic rises and plateaus of the Atlantic basin proper and portions of its marginal seas. The amount of recoverable reserves is enormous: some estimates have ranged as high as one-third of the projected total for all of the world's recoverable oil and natural gas. The value of these resources represents the vast majority of all of the Atlantic's non-renewable resources. In the United States, revenues from offshore leases have been one of the largest sources of federal income, and receipts from offshore production have been important for the economies of the United Kingdom and Norway since the 1970s.

The earliest exploitation of Atlantic hydrocarbon reserves occurred in Lake Maracaibo (a nearly enclosed embayment in north-western Venezuela that is connected by a narrow channel to

the Caribbean Sea) during World War I, followed in the 1940s by the development of nearshore areas of the Gulf of Mexico. Extensive offshore seismic exploration since the 1960s has revealed recoverable oil and natural gas deposits elsewhere in the Atlantic.

Methane hydrates are an important potential energy resource found in some Atlantic ocean sediments. Hydrates are a gas (methane) surrounded by water molecules existing in a solid form. Below depths of roughly 1,650 feet, methane hydrates can occur as stable deposits in sediments of the ocean floor up to hundreds of feet thick.

Alluvial deposits
Extensive mining of sand, gravel, and shell deposits in shallow parts of the continental shelf take place off the coasts of the United States and Britain. The recovered aggregates are used as landfill, for construction, and for making concrete. Deposits of calcareous shells are dredged off the coast of Iceland and on the Great Bahama Bank in the Bahamas, and the shells are used in cement manufacture and as a soil additive. Offshore placer deposits of precious metals, metallic ores (e.g., of iron, tin, titanium, and chromium), and gemstones are found at various points along the Atlantic coastline, particularly off the south-eastern United States, Wales, Brazil, Mauritania, and Namibia. The exploitation of these deposits has been erratic. Diamonds have been dredged from the shallow waters and beaches off the coast of Namibia near the mouth of the Orange River. Exploitation has moved more recently into deeper waters offshore.

Deep-sea minerals
Certain regions of the ocean floor that are covered with red clay and siliceous ooze sediments are also carpeted with metallic nodules. The nodules form in concentric layers over millions of years and are composed primarily of manganese and iron, with lesser quantities of copper, nickel, and cobalt. The main concentrations of nodules are thought to be on the Sohm Plain east of Bermuda in the North Atlantic and in the Brazil Basin east of Brazil, and the Agulhas Basin south of South Africa in the South Atlantic. REFERENCE: Jeff Wallenfeldt (2020). *The Atlantic Ocean*.

MYANMAR DAILY WEATHER REPORT

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 22 May 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy over the North Bay and cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 23 May 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi regions and Mon State, fairly widespread in (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Kayah states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Wave height will be about (6-10) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of thundery activities in Deltaic areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 May 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 May 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 May 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

LOW PRESSURE AREA CONDITION

Issued at (18:00) hours MST on 22-5-2021
According to the observations at (17:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify in to a depression on (23.5.2021) and forecast to move North - Northwestwards. It is likely to intensify in to a Cyclonic Storm on 24.5.2021.

General caution
Due to the low pressure area, squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Wave height will be about (6-10) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. Advisory
People should be aware vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.9) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (10)miles southeast of Taungdwingyi), latitude 19.89°N, longitude 95.64°E, depth (2) kilometers, about (33)miles west-northwest of Nay Pyi Taw seismological observatory was recorded at (07)hr (08)min (31) sec MST on 22 May 2021.

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Files opened against nurses who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

THE following nurses have been charged under Section 505-a of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and health staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH and NUG unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Moe Moe San (Senior Nurse)	Kawthoung Hospital	Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
2	Daw Win Win Myint (Senior Nurse)	Myawady Hospital	Myawady, Kayin State	505-a	
3	Daw Ei Ei Mon (Nurse)	Taku Station Hospital	Launglon, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
4	Daw May Thet Htar (Nurse)	Magyipin Station Hospital	Maubin, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
5	U Aung Ye Yint Zaw (Nurse)	Kyaukchaung Station Hospital	Ngaputaw, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
6	Daw Hsu Sandi Win (Nurse)	Pyigyimandaing Station Hospital	Palaw, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
7	Daw Megar (Nurse)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung, Shan State (East)	505-a	
8	Daw Khaing Thin Wah (Nurse)	Kawlin Hospital	Kawlin, Sagaing Region	505-a	
9	U Than Myint Win (Nurse)	Shwebo Hospital	Shwebo, Sagaing Region	505-a	
10	U Chit Ko Ko Aung (Nurse)	Kyaukse Hospital	Sintgaing, Mandalay Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those nurses charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those persons, and action will be taken against the persons who admitted them under the law.—MNA

Files opened against education staff who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

THE following teachers have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and education staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH and NUG unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Yi Yi Maw	Professor, National University of Arts and Culture, (Mandalay), Patheingyi Township	Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
2	Dr Lwin Za Kyin	Head of Department, Technological University (Kalay), Kalay Township	Tiddim Township, Chin State	505-a	
3	Dr Bo Lay	Associate Professor, Monywa University, Monywa	Monywa, Sagaing Region	505-a	
4	Dr Myint Myint Kyi	Associate Professor, Mohnyin University, Mohnyin	Mandalay, Mandalay Region	505-a	
5	U Ngin Kap Htan	Associate Professor, Government Technology Institute (Haka), Haka	Haka, Chin State	505-a	
6	Dr Zarni Swe	Associate Professor, Lashio University, Lashio	Lashio, Shan State (North)	505-a	
7	Dr Su Myo Khin	Registrar, Meiktila Technological University, Meiktila	Meiktila, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	Dr Hnin Aye Thant	Head of Department, Information and Technology University (Yadanarbon Cyber City), PwinOoLwin	Myittha, Mandalay Region	505-a	
9	Daw Win Win Mya	Head of Department (Admin/Library), Government Technology Institute (Chauk), Chauk Township	Chauk, Magway Region	505-a	
10	U Tun Myint Aung	Staff Officer, Office of District Education Officer, Kyaukme	Myitnge, Mandalay Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those education staff charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those education staff, and action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff. — MNA

Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka nearly out of Covid vaccines: officials

BANGLADESH, Nepal and Sri Lanka are close to running out of coronavirus vaccines, authorities said Friday, and are hoping China and Russia will bolster South Asia's efforts to tackle a devastating pandemic wave.

Covid-19 cases and deaths have hit record levels across India and its neighbours in recent weeks and all are counting on vaccine campaigns to head off the next surge.

But India's move last month to ban vaccine exports because of growing domestic shortages has badly hit other countries, and the three South Asian nations have slowed their vaccination campaigns as they scour international markets for new stocks.

Bangladesh has about one million doses of AstraZeneca's Covishield and Chinese Sinop-



A health worker receives a dose of Covishield, AstraZeneca-Oxford's COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine made by local partner Serum Institute of India, at Patan Hospital near Kathmandu. PHOTO: AFP

harm jabs, and was expecting 100,000 Pfizer shots, but all will be gone in "days", government health chief A.B.M. Khorshed Alam said.

The country of 168 mil-

lion people has reported some 800,000 infections and 12,200 deaths. As in other South Asian nations, experts say the true toll is much higher.

Bangladesh had a deal to

buy 30 million Covishield doses from the Serum Institute of India, the world's biggest vaccine maker. Only seven million had been delivered when India halted exports last month. — AFP ■

Hungary's Roma battle Covid on their own



In many Roma settlements, residents have no public utilities, even water, and are forced to share communal facilities. PHOTO: AFP

HUNGARY'S Roma community has been largely left out of the country's aggressive Covid-19 immunization rollout and has been forced to fend for itself, leaders of the poverty-stricken minority say.

"No one else is looking after us, so we have to do it ourselves," said Jozsef Radics, 53, one of the organisers of the "Vaccines for Life!" campaign that aims to sign up Roma living in isolated communities for jabs.

Greeting local residents as they enter a ramshackle yard on the edge of Kistarcsa, a small town east of Budapest, Radics explains the

registration process, sets up email addresses if needed and inputs their data into an official database. "These people are disadvantaged in many ways, including lacking information and access to the internet, which makes them particularly vulnerable to the virus," the Roma activist told AFP.

Anti-vaccine sentiment

Often blamed for petty crime, the Roma -- who make up around seven per cent of Hungary's population of 9.8 million -- face widespread poverty and exclusion from mainstream Hungarian society and sometimes racially-motivated violence. — AFP ■

Thailand finds 1st local cases of Indian coronavirus variant

THAILAND'S health authorities on Friday reported the country's first community-acquired cases of the highly contagious Indian variant of the novel coronavirus, detected among 36 workers at a construction site in Bangkok.

The 36 -- 21 Thais, 10 Myanmar nationals and five Cambodians -- are among many workers at the site in Laksi district of northern Bangkok who were found to be infected with the coronavirus, though mostly the ordinary strain, according to Supakit Sirilak, director-general of the health ministry's Department of Medical Sciences.

Officials said they have been hospitalized as health

workers and investigators scramble to contain the outbreak, such as by suspending construction activity at the site and sealing off the workers camp, prohibiting entry and exit.

On May 10, Thailand reported its first cases of the Indian variant, detected from a Thai woman and her young son who travelled from Pakistan.

The variant was recorded for the first time in India last October, before spreading to other countries in South Asia such as Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. In Southeast Asia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam have also detected it. — AFP ■



Covid variants are seen as more dangerous than the original version of the virus because they are either more transmissible, deadly or able to get past some vaccine protections. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Everest hopefuls 'camp' at home to avoid Covid-19 in Nepal

MOUNTAINEER Akash Neggi is fully prepared to take on the world's highest mountain -- after spending several weeks sleeping in a tent in his living room in New Jersey.

As Nepal battles Covid-19, a growing number of climbers are using oxygen-deprivation tents ahead of their expeditions to reduce exposure to the coronavirus by cutting down the length of their Himalayan adventure.

Mount Everest aspirants typically spend eight days trekking from Kathmandu to base camp at 5,364 metres (17,598 feet), using the journey to acclimatise to high-altitude conditions. But this year, more than 30 mountaineers have already been evacuated from base camp for medical reasons since the start of the spring climbing season in April -- with three known to have contracted the coronavirus. — AFP ■

Australia urges over-50s to get jabbed as vaccine hesitancy grows

AUSTRALIA on Friday pressed over-50s to get their coronavirus shots, as fears mounted that vaccine hesitancy could be priming the country for disaster.

Australia is one of the few countries in the world to eliminate community transmission of Covid-19, but vaccine rollout has been slow.

After chronic delivery delays, there is growing evidence that older Australians are more concerned about the AstraZeneca vaccine's side effects than catching the virus.

"I encourage those over 50 to get the jab," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Friday, "and if you are over 70, I would very much encourage you to". "My mother has had it, my mother-in-law has had it, and they are doing great," Morrison added, trying to ease concerns about widely publicised risks of blood clotting. — AFP ■

Nepal calls new elections amid pandemic crisis



The parliament building in Kathmandu. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEPAL'S parliament was dissolved for the second time in five months Saturday and new elections called for November as the Himalayan country battled

political turmoil alongside the coronavirus pandemic. President Bidhya Devi Bhandari made the order after declaring that neither Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli

nor Sher Bahadur Deuba, leader of the opposition Nepali Congress, had a majority to form a new government.

Political rivalries between

the communist prime minister and his former Maoist allies hit a new peak as the country battles a severe coronavirus wave with acute shortages of oxygen and vaccines. Authorities have been reporting about 200 deaths a day, but experts say there are a lot more and the United Nations has launched an emergency Covid-19 appeal saying that Nepal is at "breaking point".

Bhandari dissolved parliament in the early hours of Saturday after a new breakdown in talks. "The president... has dissolved the current House of Representatives and fixed the first phase of general elections on November 12 and the second phase on November 19," his office said in a statement. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brussels looks to boost cooperation with Libya on migration

EU commissioner Yvula Johansson said on Friday that the bloc was working to relaunch negotiations with Libya on migration amid a rise in crossings to Europe from the North African country.

Several hundred migrants have died since January in perilous Mediterranean crossings, while 26,000 others have succeeded in reaching Europe.

Around 9,000 of those embarked from Libya, a hub for irregular migration toward Europe, along with neighbouring Tunisia.

Mired in chaos for a decade, a ceasefire in Libya has held since October and a new unity government was established in March. — AFP ■

G7 to end state financing for coal power plants this year

THE Group of Seven wealthy nations on Friday agreed to end state financing of coal-fired power plants by the end of this year, and to "mostly decarbonize" electricity supplies in the 2030s.

Ahead of a leaders meeting in Britain next month, G7 countries' climate and environment ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to limit keep temperature rises below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050, following a two-day virtual meeting.

Scientists say any increases beyond that will trigger uncontrollable climate change.

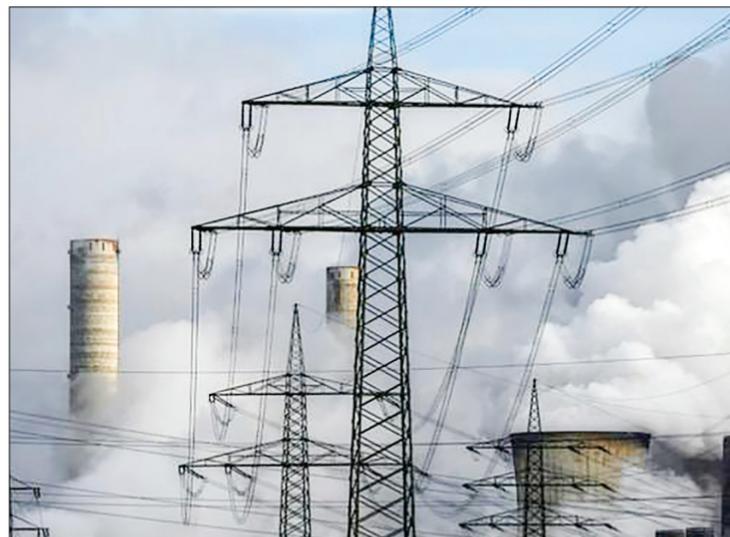
"Recognising that continued global investment in unabated coal power generation is incompatible with keeping 1.5C within

reach, we stress that international investments in unabated coal must stop now," the ministers said.

UK lawmaker Alok Sharma, who is president-designate of the COP26 UN climate summit to be held in Glasgow in November, said the consensus was "a clear signal to the world that coal is on the way out".

The move follows a recommendation from the International Energy Agency earlier this week that all future fossil fuel projects must be scrapped if the world is to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and limit warming to 1.5C.

German Environment Minister Svenja Schulze called the



German authorities recently raised the country's emissions reduction targets after a landmark ruling by its top court declared a flagship climate protection law "insufficient". **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

agreement "an important step forward" that gave credibility to industrialized nations to urge others to follow suit. — AFP ■

New York police probe hate crime after Jewish man attacked

NEW YORK police were conducting a hate crimes investigation Friday after several people shouting anti-Semitic slurs attacked a Jewish man while pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated in Times Square.

Five or six men beat and pepper-sprayed the 29-year-old man late Thursday, a police spokesperson said.

Officers arrested a 23-year-old man, identified as Waseem Awawdeh, on suspicion of taking part in the assault, and were searching for the others who were involved, as well as witnesses.

The victim was in stable condition in hospital, according to police. The attack came as protesters gathered in Times Square shortly after a ceasefire was announced between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian movement which controls the Gaza Strip, after 11 days of conflict.

Scuffles broke out between the protesters, and police arrested 26 people. "Anti-Semitism has no place in our city," tweeted New York Mayor Bill de Blasio. — AFP ■

Six killed by blast at pro-Palestinian rally in southwest Pakistan

A bomb blast Friday at a pro-Palestinian rally killed at least six people and injured 14 in a Pakistani city bordering Afghanistan, officials said, in the latest violence to hit the restive area.

Senior local police official Ahmad Mohiuddin said explosives were packed into a motorbike parked near the vehicle of a religious leader taking part in the rally in Chaman, Balochistan province.

Pictures from the scene showed broken glass, rubble, and blood stains.

"It was an improvised explosive device which went off as participants began to disperse," added Tariq Mengal,



A damaged vehicle at the site of a bomb blast during a pro-Palestinian rally Friday in Chaman in Pakistan's Balochistan province. **PHOTO: AFP**

a senior local administration official.

No group has claimed responsibility.

Thousands of people rallied across Pakistan Friday in support of Palestinians, hours after a ceasefire was announced

between Israel and Hamas, the Islamist group which governs the Gaza Strip. The rallies followed Friday prayers which usually draw huge crowds to mosques where firebrand sermons have in the past catalysed protests.

Demonstrators could be seen waving signs that said "Free Palestine", while a major road connecting the capital Islamabad to the neighbouring city Rawalpindi was blocked.

Attacks on religious gatherings are quite common in Pakistan, where preachers often rub shoulders and lend support to politicians enmeshed in bare-knuckle disputes with a host of rivals. — AFP ■

After battle, hedge fund wins Tribune Publishing newspaper chain

A hedge fund won approval Friday after a bitter campaign to acquire Tribune Publishing and create the second-largest US newspaper chain, raising fears of deeper newsroom cuts in the troubled sector.

Tribune shareholders approved the deal to sell the group to Alden Global Capital, rejecting pleas from unions and media watchdogs who have blasted the investment group for drastic newsroom job cuts it has made at its other media properties.

The transaction assigned a \$633 million value to the group, which includes the New York Daily News, Baltimore Sun, Orlando Sentinel, South



The Baltimore Sun and other dailies in the Tribune Publishing group will be sold to Alden Global Capital, a hedge fund criticized for slashing newsrooms at its other media operations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Florida's Sun-Sentinel, Virginia's Daily Press and Virginian-Pilot, Hartford Courant and The Morning Call in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Combining the

dailies with Alden's other properties will create the second-largest US newspaper group behind USA Today owner Gannett, industry analysts say. Alden,

which already owned about one-third of Tribune shares, will take the company private, delisting its shares, in the deal set to close June 30. —AFP ■

EU court orders Polish coal mine to suspend production



An excavator at an open-cast lignite mine in Poland. **PHOTO: DAREK REDOS / AFP**

EUROPE'S top court ordered Poland on Friday to halt the extraction of lignite – a low-quality

brown coal – at its Turow open-cast mine after a complaint from the neighbouring Czech Republic.

The Czechs argue that the vast operation to mine lignite is a cross-border environmental hazard and breaches EU law.

The Luxembourg-based Court of Justice of the European Union ruled in favour of the Czech Republic's request to suspend mining pending a final ruling on the case.

"Poland must immediately cease lignite extraction activities in the Turow mine," a statement said. "The pleas of

fact and law raised by the Czech Republic justify the granting of the interim measures sought."

In operation since 1904, the mine supplies coal mainly to a local power station. Poland's largest energy group PGE, which owns both the mine and the plant, is planning to extract coal at Turow until 2044. PGE wants to expand the mine from 25 to 30 square kilometres and extract coal from a depth of up to 330 metres. —AFP ■

Russia moves to force tech giants to set up local offices

RUSSIAN lawmakers on Friday submitted a bill that would force foreign technology companies to set up local offices or face punitive measures up to an outright ban.

Russia has in recent months stepped up efforts to impose more control on online platforms including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, with President Vladimir Putin saying large tech companies have become so influential they are "competing" with sovereign states.

Restrictive measures have raised concerns among Kremlin critics, who fear the clampdown is aimed at silencing opposition voices. Senior lawmaker Alexander Khinshtein said on Friday that draft legislation forcing major foreign IT companies to establish Russian offices had been submitted to parliament. "It concerns IT companies whose daily audience in Russia tops 500,000 people," Khinshtein, the head of the information policy, IT and



Russia has in recent months stepped up efforts to impose more control on online platforms including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. **PHOTO: OLIVIER DOULIERY / AFP**

communications committee at parliament's lower house State Duma, wrote on his Telegram channel.

"We expect that market players will treat this new measure with understanding". —AFP ■

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Sony, Kawasaki Heavy to form remote robotics joint venture

SONY Group Corp. and Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. said Friday they will form a joint venture this summer in Japan to provide services to remotely control robots, meeting corporate needs to address worker safety issues and the labour shortage.

The joint venture equally owned by the two companies will bring together Sony's sensor and wireless technology and Kawasaki Heavy's industrial robot expertise, the companies said. It will conduct trial operations at factories of the two companies before launching a commercial service in 2022.

"We will offer a safe and secure working scheme and a flexible working environment by enabling the remote control of robots through our new company," Hirokazu Tanaka of Sony Group, who will become the new company's president, said in an online press conference.

While teleworking has spread among office workers since the early days of the novel coronavirus pandemic, skilled workers engaged in manufacturing still have to work on-site, Tanaka said. — Kyodo News ■

French energy giant Total to change its name

FRENCH group Total, one of the world's biggest energy companies, is preparing to change its name to TotalEnergies to signal its diversification towards cleaner energy sources.

The group, founded in 1924 as the Compagnie Française des Pétroles, is set to propose the new name on May 28 during a shareholders' general assembly.

Total has begun to invest more in solar and wind power, but it is under pressure to do more as climate issues rise closer to the top of investors' agendas.

"The group is expressing its intention to transform itself into a multi-energy company to respond to the twin challenges faced by energy transitions: more energy and fewer emissions," chief executive Patrick Pouyanne said in a French-language statement.

This year, Total plans to devote more than 20 per cent of its investment budget to renewable energy sources as well as electricity.

But environmental activists say it must do more to fight climate change, and on Tuesday the International Energy Agency said all future fossil fuel projects must be scrapped if the world is to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SEAMASTER VOY. NO. (119S/120N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SEAMASTER VOY. NO. (119S/120N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-5-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

NEWS
IN BRIEFIMF proposes
\$50bn plan to end
the pandemic

THE IMF on Friday proposed a \$50 billion plan to end the Covid-19 pandemic, with a target of vaccinating at least 40 per cent of the world's population by the end of 2021.

The modest financial commitment pales in comparison to the massive stimulus rolled out by rich nations, including the latest \$1.9 trillion US package approved in March. One of the key messages of this proposal is that the amount that's needed is not very big," IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath told reporters. The plan is dwarfed by the economic benefits the International Monetary Fund calculates would be gained by an early end to the pandemic, amounting to \$9 trillion from the faster economic recovery.

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva presented the plan to world leaders at the G20 Global Health Summit in Rome, that aims to have at least 60 per cent of the world's population vaccinated by the end of 2022.

— AFP ■

Markets ponder
Musk role in
cryptocurrency
turbulence

FIRST he loved them, then he doubted them, but is he manipulating them? Tesla boss Elon Musk's tweets about cryptocurrencies like bitcoin are annoying their devotees and raising eyebrows among market watchers.

The saga started in February when Musk's company Tesla announced it would buy \$1.5 billion worth of bitcoin and later said it would accept the virtual currency as payment for its electric cars.

But in mid-May, he broke hearts with tweets questioning the digital asset, particularly its vast consumption of electricity produced from polluting substances like coal.

That sent bitcoin on a downward spiral causing it to plunge to \$30,000 from nearly double that 10 days earlier. It later regained some strength, climbing to about \$37,000 as of Friday. — AFP ■

Republicans reject Biden infrastructure
bill despite reduced cost

Republican lawmakers have rejected a new White House infrastructure proposal that lowers the overall price tag in a bid to gain the opposition party's support, potentially raising the likelihood President Joe Biden's Democrats pass the measure on their own. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

REPUBLICAN lawmakers have rejected a new White House infrastructure proposal that lowers the overall price tag in a bid to gain the opposition party's support, potentially raising the likelihood President Joe Biden's Democrats pass the measure

on their own. The White House on Friday had proposed reducing the cost of the \$2.3 trillion American Jobs Plan to \$1.7 trillion by having other bills cover some of the projects it would pay for and cutting out some spending altogether, but a key Republican lawmaker said she

still wouldn't support it.

"There continue to be vast differences between the White House and Senate Republicans when it comes to the definition of infrastructure, the magnitude of proposed spending and how to pay for it," said a spokeswoman for Shelley

Moore Capito, who is part of a group of Republican senators negotiating with the Biden administration over the proposal.

"Based on today's meeting, the groups seem further apart after two meetings with White House staff than they were after one meeting with President Biden.

Senate Republicans will further review the details in today's counteroffer and continue to engage in conversations with the administration".

Biden had in March proposed the measure that would direct money towards fixing roads and bridges as well as expanding services like broadband internet and increasing climate change resiliency across the United States.

But with his Democratic Party controlling Congress by a small margin, he is under pressure to find Republican support for the bill, and on Friday Press Secretary Jen Psaki said he would cut its cost down by \$500 billion "in the spirit of finding common ground." — AFP ■

US proposal lifts hopes for global minimum tax deal

THE US breathed new hope into global tax talks with a proposal, welcomed by Germany and France on Friday, to set a minimum rate of 15 per cent on profits of multinationals worldwide.

Washington floated the idea Thursday as part of US President Joe Biden's push to find an agreement with major econo-

mies on imposing a shared minimum corporate rate to end a race to lower taxes.

France and Germany are the eurozone's biggest economies and their support is key at talks taking place on the subject at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and G20.

Arriving for a meeting with

eurozone counterparts in Portugal, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said Paris "can live with 15 per cent, it can be a good compromise".

However, "the key question is not the figure", Le Maire said, insisting that a quick political agreement was key and needed no later than a G20 meeting in Italy in July.

German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz hailed the US proposal as a "breakthrough" that brought negotiations to a "point where we can see that we will make it".

The OECD negotiations are intended to stop what Washington calls a "race to the bottom" among countries to see who can offer the lowest rate.— AFP ■

Eurozone economy booms as virus restrictions recede

BUSINESS activity in the eurozone is growing at its fastest rate in three years, a survey said on Friday, as Europe's economy steadily reopens from months of Covid-19 restrictions.

The closely-watched study indicated that the jump in demand was even overwhelming the economy, with factories and businesses unable to keep up with the record demand.

According to the data, "order inflows surged to an extent not seen for almost 15 years," economic data group IHS Markit said. The firm's PMI

index, one of the earliest indicators for where the economy is heading, said activity rose from 53.8 in April to a strong 56.9 in May, above the 50-point level that indicates growth. Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit, said growth would have been "even stronger" had it not been for supply chain delays and difficulties restarting businesses quickly enough to meet demand. "The shortfall of business output relative to demand is running at the highest in the survey's 23-year history," Williamson said. — AFP ■



People enjoy bars and restaurants terraces along the Naviglio canal in south Milan on May 18, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP / MIGUEL MEDINA**

Biden has 'no illusions' on difficulty of N.Korea denuclearization

PRESIDENT Joe Biden acknowledged Friday there is no easy path to getting North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons but reaffirmed his "iron-clad" commitment to the US alliance with South Korea after talks with President Moon Jae-in.

"We're under no illusions how difficult this is -- none whatsoever. The past four administrations have not achieved the objective. It's an incredibly difficult objective," Biden told reporters at a press conference with his South Korean counterpart at the White House.

The US leader also announced he had named veteran diplomat Sung Kim, the former US ambassador to Seoul, as his special envoy for North Korea.

Facing a nuclear-armed North Korea and an increasingly assertive China, Biden stressed



South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and US President Joe Biden posed with retired colonel Ralph Puckett after his Medal of Honor ceremony. PHOTO: AFP

his faith in traditional US alliances.

Biden called the US-South Korean partnership "the linchpin of peace, security" and promised a "shared approach" to the stand-

off with North Korea.

He said that during their talks at the White House he and Moon discussed "freedom of navigation" for international shipping in the South China Sea, as well as

"peace and stability" around Taiwan, which has been subjected to growing Chinese sabre-rattling. Moon called denuclearization of the Korean peninsula "the most urgent common task". — AFP ■

Air India says data on 4.5 million passengers stolen



Hackers have stolen data on about 4.5 million Air India passengers around the world in the latest breach reported by a major airline.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

HACKERS have stolen data on about 4.5 million Air India passengers around the world in the

latest breach reported by a major airline.

Names, credit card numbers

and passport information were among the data stolen, Air India said in a statement released late Friday. The state-owned giant said it was "securing the compromised servers" and using "external specialists" on data security as well as working with credit card companies.

"We deeply regret the inconvenience caused and appreciate continued support and trust of our passengers," the airline said.

A number of airlines have been hit by data breaches in recent years. British Airways was fined \$28 million last year by a British watchdog after details of

400,000 passengers were lost in a 2018 cyberattack.

Cathay Pacific was fined \$700,000 after details of more than nine million clients were lost in 2018. And low-cost carrier EasyJet said last year that hackers had taken the email and travel details of about nine million customers. Air India announced in March that it had been informed in February by its data processing company, SITA PSS of a cyberattack.

The breach involved personal data registered between August 2011 and February 2021, the airline said. — AFP ■

Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire holding as aid arrives in Gaza

THE ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza was holding Saturday, as humanitarian aid began to enter the Israeli-blockaded enclave ravaged by 11 days of bloodshed.

As thousands of displaced Palestinians returned to their homes, and Israelis began to resume normal life on Friday, international focus turned to the reconstruction of the bomb-shattered Gaza Strip.

In Jerusalem, however, Israeli police cracked down on stone-throwing protesters at the highly sensitive Al-Aqsa mosque compound, in a sign of how volatile the situation re-



An aerial view of Al-Jalaa Tower in Gaza City, which was levelled by an Israeli air strike during the conflict. PHOTO: AFP

mains, two weeks after similar clashes sparked the conflict's worst escalation in years. Israeli forces beat an AFP photographer who was covering the unrest there.

Clashes also broke out in several other parts of Israeli-occupied east Jerusalem, and at the crossing point between Jerusalem and the West Bank, Israeli police said, add-

ing that hundreds of officers and border guards had been mobilized. US President Joe Biden said he had told the Israelis to stop "intercommunal fighting" in Jerusalem, and pledged to help organize efforts to rebuild Gaza.

He also stressed "we still need a two-state solution. It is the only answer, the only answer".

Aid arrives

Convoys of lorries carrying aid began passing into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing after it was reopened by Israel, bringing much-needed medicine, food and fuel. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian academic to face spying trial in China

CHINESE-BORN Australian academic and author Yang Jun will go on trial in China on espionage charges next week, after spending more than two years in detention, Canberra's foreign minister has confirmed.

Yang is one of two high-profile Australians detained in China on spying allegations amid escalating tensions between Canberra and Beijing.

The trial for Yang, who also goes by his pen name Yang Hengjun, will begin on Thursday, Australia's Foreign Minister Marise Payne said in a statement late Friday.

"Despite repeated requests by Australian officials, Chinese authorities have not provided any explanation or evidence for the charges facing Dr Yang," Payne said. — AFP ■

Nigeria's top army commander killed in air crash

NIGERIA'S top-ranking army commander Lieutenant General Ibrahim Attahiru and other officers were killed on Friday when their plane crashed in bad weather in the country's north, officials said.

Chief of Army Staff Attahiru was only appointed by President Muhammadu Buhari in January as part of a shakeup of the top military command to better fight surging violence and a more than decade-long jihadist insurgency.

Attahiru died as news also emerged that Nigeria's Boko Haram jihadist leader Abubakar Shekau had himself been seriously wounded or possibly killed after clashes with a rival Islamic State-allied faction. President Buhari, a former general first elected in 2015, has been under increasing pressure from allies and critics alike over his government's handling of mounting security problems in Africa's most populous country. — AFP ■

ONE Championship's first all-women event postponed

ONE Championship officials stated that the first all-women fighting event of ONE Championship (named as Empower) to be held in Singapore on 28 May, has been postponed.

"Fans will have to wait a little bit longer to witness ONE Cham-

pionship's first all-women card.

The world's largest martial arts organization was originally scheduled to broadcast ONE: EMPOWER live from the Singapore Indoor Stadium on 28 May. But due to the current COVID-19 situation, the groundbreaking

event has been postponed, but another stand-fight event will be substituted", ONE officials said.

A new date for ONE: EMPOWER will be announced soon", officials added.

When the event comes back into action, ONE Women's

Strawweight World Champion Xiong Jing Nan "The Panda" will defend her belt against second-ranked contender and BJJ Hall of Famer Michelle Nicolini.

Also, in the co-main event, pound-for-pound kickboxing great Anissa Meksen will meet

Martine Michieletto "The Italian Queen" in a ONE Super Series showdown.

Finally, the stacked card will feature the entire quarterfinal round of the pivotal ONE Women's Atomweight World Grand Prix. — GNLM

Lewandowski poised to make Bundesliga history as Bayern welcome back fans

ROBERT Lewandowski can break Gerd Mueller's 49-year-old Bundesliga single-season goal record this weekend when champions Bayern Munich play in front of their home fans for the first time since March 2020.

The Poland striker's penalty in Bayern's 2-2 draw at Freiburg last time out saw him equal Mueller's record of 40 goals in a single Bundesliga campaign, set in 1971/72. With one game left Lewandowski, the Bundesliga's top scorer in six of the last eight years, can set a new record against Augsburg on Saturday.

"I guess he'll score two goals at the weekend and break the record," predicts former Bayer Leverkusen striker Ulf Kirsten, 55, a three-time Bundesliga top scorer in the 1990s.

"Nevertheless, I hope things stay as they are, because Gerd Mueller was my idol." With a ninth straight league title already confirmed, Bayern will lift the Bundesliga trophy after the final whistle.

There will also be a farewell for last season's treble-winning coach Hansi Flick, hotly tipped to take charge of Germany after

Euro 2020. Likewise, defenders Jerome Boateng and David Alaba, whose contracts have not been renewed, will play their last game after more than a decade with Bayern.

Alaba is expected to join Real Madrid and leaves with a joint-record of 10 Bundesliga titles under his belt, while Boateng, 32, needs a new club.

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic hit Germany 14 months ago, fans will return to the Allianz Arena with just 250 allowed into the 75,000-capacity stadium. — AFP ■



Robert Lewandowski can break Gerd Mueller's 49-year-old Bundesliga single-season goal record this weekend when champions Bayern Munich play in front of their home fans for the first time since March 2020. PHOTO: AFP

Pacquiao says he'll fight Errol Spence in August



Manny Pacquiao, here celebrating his victory over Keith Thurman in 2019, says he'll return to the ring against Errol Spence in August 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

PHILIPPINE boxing icon Manny Pacquiao said Friday he'll fight unbeaten unified welterweight world champion Errol Spence in Las Vegas in August.

The 42-year-old legend will be fighting for the first time since he beat Keith Thurman in July 2019 for the WBA welterweight title. He revealed his plans with a Twitter post of a

promotional poster for the bout captioned "Pacquiao v Spence, August 21, 2021, Las Vegas, Nevada".

The Athletic, citing an unnamed source, reported that Pacquiao had signed a deal for a bout to be available on Fox pay per view, and the venue was expected to be the MGM Grand.

But Pacquiao told The Ath-

letic in an interview from the Philippines that he hoped the fight would be at Allegiant Stadium, the 70,000-seat stadium of the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders.

Pacquiao, a serving senator in the Philippines, told the US sports outlet that the fight "might be" his last. If so, he appears to want to go out with a bang. — AFP ■

Mickelson, Oosthuizen share PGA lead at windy Kiawah

PHIL Mickelson, chasing a historic sixth major title at age 50, shared the lead with South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen after Friday's second round of the PGA Championship at windy Kiawah Island.

American left-hander Mickelson, who could become golf's oldest major champion, and Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open winner, were deadlocked atop the leaderboard on five-under 139 after 36 holes on the formidable Ocean Course.

"I'm heading into the weekend with an opportunity and I'm really excited about it," Mickelson said. "If you told me (I was leading) Sunday night, I'd really enjoy it. Right now, there's a lot to do."

Oosthuizen, who birdied five of the first 12 holes, nearly fired the first bogey-free round of the week but missed a nine-foot par putt at the 18th to shoot a four-under 68.

"It has got to be up there as one of my best," Oosthuizen

said of his round. "It was tough. I'm just glad I was striking it really good."

With a victory, Mickelson would erase the age mark set by American Julius Boros when he won the 1968 PGA Championship at 48. Mickelson birdied five of his last eight holes, closing with a 23-foot birdie putt at the ninth to shoot 69 as a Covid-19 limited crowd of about 10,000 roared in delight. "It's really fun to make a putt on the last hole and have a round like that," Mickelson. "The support here has been really special."

Four-time major winner Brooks Koepka, playing with pain after right knee surgery in March, eagled the par-5 seventh and 11th holes but made two bogeys in the last four holes to shoot 71 and stand third on 140.

"It was definitely a difficult day. It was tough to make putts," Koepka said. "(Knee) feels fine. I'm four-under. It's all there." — AFP ■