Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political Objectives
   (a) Building of a Federal Democratic Union by fully and lawfully exercising a
genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system;
   (b) Special consideration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to
implement eternal peace in the whole country;
   (c) Practising the active, independent and non-aligned foreign policy and up-
holding the mutual co-existence principle.

2. Economic Objectives
   (a) Development of agricultural and livestock production as the base employing
modernized methods and all-round development of other sectors of the economy
as well;
   (b) To shape a stable market-oriented economic system by inviting foreign direct
investments (FDIs) and developing the economy of the entire national peoples;
   (c) Creation of employment opportunities by encouraging domestic economic
enterprises to produce State products.

3. Social Objectives
   (a) Uplift of dynamism of Union spirit as genuine patriotic spirit;
   (b) Preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national characters
by respecting the traditions and customs of all ethnic national peoples;
   (c) Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation.

Promotion of production and export sector
stressed to reduce trade deficits: Senior General

Chairman of the State Administration Council Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the 1/2021 Economic Affairs Committee Meeting yesterday.

At the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discussed the importance of the national economy as a driving force for the development of the country, the works of the economic affairs committee for this sector, collaborative efforts in the works, and promotion of the production and export sector to reduce trade deficits shown the figures of Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.

He also held talks on sufficient human resources for the workforce, natural resources in the country with over 54 million population and conservation works for future generations, production of import-substituted items, more electricity generation to improve production sector, employment opportunities for the citizens who completed basic and higher educations, assistance for the employers and employees, guarantees and incentives for investors and collection of tax revenue from more taxpayers.

The Chairman of State Administration Council also instructed providing assistance to factories and industries, adopting policies by the relevant ministries for the better quality of products, the participation of nationals in the economic sector, the proper intention of the Economic Affairs Committee in making approvals for investments.

NATIONAL
Union Minister for Foreign Affairs meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand via videoconference

BUSINESS
Dollar gaining in domestic forex market

LOCAL BUSINESS
Local growers make good profit from watermelon cultivation in Gangaw

LOCAL BUSINESS
Wuntho cabbage growers suffer from falling prices despite successful cultivation
Findings on printing ballot papers used in General Election on 8 November 2020
(23 February 2021)

1. The Union Election Commission has inspected printing ballot papers used in the General Election that took place on 8 November 2020, in making contract with the Ministry of Information. A total of 138,460,270 ballot tickets were initially printed on 1-9-2020, and more ballot papers were printed for 9 times due to the needs of region/state election sub-commissions, including Yangon Region Election Commission for two times on 7 November 2020 (one day ahead of election day).

2. Numbers of ballot papers printed for the respective Hluttaw elections were as follow:
   (a) Pyithu Hluttaw 44,169,344
   (b) Amyotha Hluttaw 44,148,229
   (c) Region/State Hluttaw 43,295,374
   (d) Ethnic people Hluttaw 7,718,173
   Total 139,331,120

3. Initial printing and additional printing of ballot papers for respective areas were as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Region/State</th>
<th>Pyithu</th>
<th>Amyotha</th>
<th>Region/State</th>
<th>Ethnics</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-9-2020</td>
<td>All regions and states</td>
<td>44,011,544</td>
<td>44,001,629</td>
<td>43,042,474</td>
<td>7,404,623</td>
<td>138,460,270</td>
<td>Initial Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>13-10-2020</td>
<td>Kayah</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,750</td>
<td>Additional Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>26,250</td>
<td>26,050</td>
<td>26,850</td>
<td>5,950</td>
<td>85,100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rakhine</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>37,450</td>
<td>37,650</td>
<td>46,600</td>
<td>137,200</td>
<td>258,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>16-10-2020</td>
<td>Bago</td>
<td>18,800</td>
<td>17,700</td>
<td>34,400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>66,900</td>
<td>Additional Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,850</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>21-10-2020</td>
<td>Kayin</td>
<td>5,750</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>7,250</td>
<td>24,600</td>
<td>Additional Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>4,150</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>7,950</td>
<td>2,450</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>33,950</td>
<td>19,800</td>
<td>43,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>97,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>12,850</td>
<td>17,150</td>
<td>9,350</td>
<td>33,150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>4,650</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>10,150</td>
<td>9,750</td>
<td>29,150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Taninthayi</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>9,450</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24,450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>22-10-2020</td>
<td>Ayeawady</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>14,500</td>
<td>10,300</td>
<td>39,850</td>
<td>Additional Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>23-10-2020</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>Additional Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>26-10-2020</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>Additional Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>30-10-2020</td>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>Additional Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>7-11-2020</td>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>22,900</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>37,400</td>
<td>Additional Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7-11-2020</td>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>Additional Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Addition</td>
<td>157,800</td>
<td>146,600</td>
<td>252,900</td>
<td>313,550</td>
<td>870,850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>44,169,344</td>
<td>44,148,229</td>
<td>43,295,374</td>
<td>7,718,173</td>
<td>139,331,120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No (85/2021)
12th Waxing Tabodwe 1382 ME
23 February 2021

Substitution of Sagaing Region Administration Council member

U Tin Than Win is appointed as a member the Sagaing Region Administration Council to replace U Hla Han, as per Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By order
Sd/
Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Minister

The State Administration Council has appointed U Zaw Aye Maung as the Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs, as per Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By order
Sd/
Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council
Five future programmes of State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted to carry out tasks that should be done, including inspection of voting lists in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken for the prevention of current infectious COVID-19 with added momentum.
3. Efforts will be made to recover businesses that faced loss caused by COVID-19 in various ways as quickly as possible.
4. Emphasis will be placed on restoring eternal peace in the entire nation in line with agreements from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible.
5. When missions will be accomplished in accord with provisions of the state of emergency, a free and fair multiparty democracy election will be held in accordance with the Constitution (2008), and further tasks will be undertaken to hand over State duty to the winning party meeting the standards of democracy.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No (86/2021)
12th Waxing Tabodwe 1382 ME
23 February 2021
Substitution of Union Election Commission members

The State Administration Council has substituted the former members of the Union Election Commission with the following persons, as per Section 419 of the State Constitution:
1. U Aung Moe Myint (substituted for) U Thaung Tin
2. U Aung Lwin Oo (substituted for) U Kyauk

By order
Sd/
Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No (87/2021)
12th Waxing Tabodwe 1382 ME
23 February 2021
Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Ministers

The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as the Deputy Ministers for Education, as per Section 419 of the State Constitution.
(a) Dr Zaw Myint
(b) U Zaw Win

By order
Sd/
Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand via videoconference

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Don Pramudwina, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, held discussions via videoconference from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 February 2021.

During the discussion, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, apprised the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the recent developments in Myanmar. The two Ministers cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the promotion of the existing bilateral relations and expansion of cooperation, including trade and investment, the prevalence of peace and stability along the border, as well as the provision of necessary assistance to Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand to obtain legal status.

The two Ministers also discussed further intensifying collaboration in regional and multilateral arenas, particularly within the ASEAN frameworks on the basis of ASEAN solidarity and unity.—MNA

Promotion of production and export sector stressed to reduce trade deficits: Senior General

FROM PAGE 1

Union Minister U Win Shein, the secretary of the Economic Affairs Committee, reported on the formation of the committee and the discussions. Union Ministers for the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Construction, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement discussed matters related to the approvals of ministries, registrations, issuing orders, the appointment of members for Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar, providing cash awards, and signing MoUs and agreements.

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo also reported on the ongoing projects with foreign countries, MoUs and international assistance; Auditor-General of the Union Dr Kan Zaw about the work plans and reform processes; Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi about the compilation of copper and gems and organizing gems emporium. In his concluding remark, the Senior General discussed requirements for economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, proper time management, making appropriate reports without delay, collaboration among relevant departments and ministries through firm policies.—MNA
Never deviated from the multiparty democracy path

OFFICIALS who are responsible for the stability of the State, the rule of law, lives and property of the public are handling the ongoing problems with care; the State Administration Council have never deviated from the multiparty democracy path since it took the administrative power and measures are being taken in line with the 2008 State Constitution; the Council does not change politic, administrative, economic, social, peace and international relation policies of the country; the emerging situations have resulted from voter list fraud in the previous elections; the Council is working together with prominent persons from civil societies as it focused on the civilian administrative sector.

(Excerpt from the speech to the coordination meeting of the State Administration Council made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 16 February 2021)

Ministries meet commercial attachés over trade promotion, new export items

THE Ministry of Commerce held a virtual meeting with Myanmar commercial attachés in foreign countries yesterday over bilateral trade promotion and new export items to overseas markets.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San discussed the role of commercial attachés in expanding markets for export items, and their works would be viewed in accordance with the result-based methods. Union Minister for Foreign Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo talked about policies on the economic recovery of the country, inviting more foreign and local investments, and promotion of economic cooperation with partner countries.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo remarked development of the agricultural sector which contributes 25 per cent of the country’s GDP and creates employment opportunities in addition to food sufficiency of the country, development of agro-food system, more markets for beans, rice and marine products and working to sign sanitary and phytosanitary agreements with foreign countries.

The first-day meeting was participated by the Myanmar commercial attachés from the United States, South Africa, Brazil, Australia, Germany, Belgium, Thailand and India. The second-day meeting on 24 February will be joined by the Republic of China (Beijing, Nanjing, Hong Kong, Kunming), Singapore, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

MoC holds the virtual meeting with Myanmar Commercial attachés on trade promotion and new export items yesterday.

Myanmar nationals repatriated from Malaysia by navy vessels

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Senior General Min Aung Hlaing once said the Myanmar nationals stranded in foreign countries for many years should return to the country and arrangements will be made to bring back those nationals as quickly as possible during the meeting of the Union Government held on 2 February.

Therefore, the three Myanmar navy vessels Mottama, Thanlwin, Shin Phyu Shin- led by Brig- Gen Naing Min Kyaw left for Lumut Jetty of Malaysia on 15 February to repatriate Myanmar nationals stranded in Malaysia.

The three vessels arrived at Lumut Jetty of Malaysia on the morning of 21 February, and the Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia and Malaysian immigration authorities transferred a total of 1,086 Myanmar nationals. The ships left for the country on that evening.

The returnees got the certification of identification and completed COVID-19 tests. The officials also provided medical checks, clothes and other commodities.

The officials of the Myanmar Navy will provide the needed things for the returnees like a reunion with their family members, job opportunities, safety and healthcare services on the way. The navy ships carrying Myanmar nationals will arrive in Myanmar on 27 February.

Although it failed to bring back the Myanmar nationals stranded in Malaysia in former government term, the repatriation is successful now, it is learnt.—MNA
MoLIP discusses regular operation of factories in Yangon, wages for workers

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population conducted a virtual meeting on facilitating the regular operation of factories and industries in Yangon Region and wages for the labourers in accordance with the law yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Myint Kyaing highlighted the COVID-19 pandemic that has left over 100,000 unemployment, incitement to factory workers to join CDM during this period and low production rates and the closure of factories while the workers face hardships as well as the employers.

He also stressed the need to pay salaries to those working in the factories in line with the law despite the hardships.

He then discussed the impacts of CDM on factories and industries in Yangon, salary cuts against those who failed to work for some reasons, efforts to reduce threats to join CDM, and productivity in manufacturing sectors through good operations of factories.

Then, Yangon Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe presented the operation works of factories and industries in 29 industrial zones of Yangon, labour shortage due to the threats of CDM campaigns, the workload of factories without CDM participants, connection with banks for salary payment of workers and further work plans to run the factories as usual.

The Secretary of UMFCCI Dow Khine Khine Nwe, employers and heads of respective industrial zones, also briefed their needs and difficulties.

Then, the Union Minister instructed to communicate with labour offices to solve the labour issues if needed, and other necessary things. —MNA

Legal action taken against doctor in CDM while serving at private hospital

A woman living in Nyaunglebin village of Moe Nyo township of Bago Region got injuries in a motorcycle accident at about 10am on 12 February and did not receive any medical treatment at Pyay 500-bed General Hospital, which was closed.

Then, she went to Dr Kyaw Thura, who failed to work at General Hospital but worked at a private hospital at 11am on 13 February. It cost her K1.3 million to cut off her right two fingers (ring finger and little finger) off due to the injuries. Then, Dr Kyaw Thura told her to make an operation again. She then transferred to No (0) Military Hospital (100-bed) as she could not afford the costs.

The military medics had to cut off her right middle finger and index finger as she needed emergency operations.

Regarding this case, the woman reported to the Administration Council of Pyay that Dr Kyaw Thura asked her for money and for joining CDM and illegally inciting others to join CDM and asking for money by breaking Civil Service Personnel Law. Police Captain Kyaw Aye Hlaing of Pyay Township opened the case under Penal Code section 505(a).

The Myanmar Medical Council have also received the complaint about the doctor for his failure to perform his duties. —MNA

Arrival/departure report system to be resumed at international airports

The arrival and departure card system will be resumed at the international airports, according to the report of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Foreigners and Myanmar citizens who arrived in or left from Myanmar need to fill the arrival and departure cards at the airports under this system. —MNA

Myanmar, Bangladesh hold battalion commander-level meeting

THE flag meeting of battalion commander level between Myanmar and Bangladesh border guards was held in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by seven members of the Myanmar delegation led by Police Lt-Col Zaw Lin Aung and the 11 members of the Bangladeshi delegation led by Lt-Col Mohammad Faisal Hasan Khan.

The meeting focused on preventing illegal entry/exit across the border, educating the people in the border areas, exchange of information and cooperation in preventing border crossings and maintaining peace and stability in the border areas.

A total of 24 Bangladeshi nationals who have already been prosecuted in accordance with Myanmar’s domestic law were transferred systematical- ly to Bangladesh in accordance with Article 7, Section 2 of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border cooperation agreement. Among them, 22 people were illegal immigrants, 1 illegal money changer and 1 illegal shipper. —MNA

22 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 February, total figure rises to 141,783

Updated at 8 pm, 23 February 2021

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 141,783 after 22 new cases were reported on 23 February 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 3,197 died, 131,358 have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

Ministry of Health and Sports
Dollar gaining in domestic forex market

MYANMAR’S exports over the past four months of the current 2020-2021 financial year touched a low to US$335.53 billion, reflecting a drastic drop of over US$886 million compared with a year ago period of the previous FY, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce. During the corresponding period in the previous FY, exports stood at US$417 billion, according to the data released by the ministry.

The pandemic deals a severe blow to the manufacturing, mineral and other service sectors as it shut down the events. Additionally, people demanded only staple food. The current political instability will worsen the external trade, pointed out the exporters.

The drop in exports of natural gas, gems and jewellery, and CMP garments contributes to the slump in exports, the ministry stated.

Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts. The neighbouring countries tightened border security and limited the trading time to contain the spread of the virus. Pandemic-induced container shortage pushed up the freight rates to almost triple in Myanmar, causing delays for exporters.

Of the seven export groups, agricultural exports showed an increase of US$144.6 million against a year ago period. At the same time, exports of other goods were also seen a small rise, while, exports of livestock, forest products, minerals, fishery products and finished industrial goods declined.


The country’s export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. At present, CMP garment exports drastically dropping since the western countries cancelled order following the COVID-19 impacts. The country’s export sector is likely to extend its drop due to the current political climate, an exporter shared his opinion.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion and market diversification. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalise and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment.

The DICA has notified that any company which failed 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 suspend. Companies can restore their position only after shelving a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for the restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents. 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 number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, reached over 87,000 in the past two and half years, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. 40,960 new companies and 46,377 existing companies have registered and re-registered on MyCO, bringing the total number of registered companies to 87,337 by December-end 2020. Typically, over 1,000 new companies are registered every month.

DICA’s statistics showed that 1,370 companies registered on MyCO in January 2021. When the online registry was launched in August 2018, 1,816 new companies registered on MyCO. The figure stood at 2,218 in September 2018, 1,671 in October, 1,431 in November and 1,364 in December 2018.

In 2019, the figure stood at 1,733 in January 2019, 1,419 in February, 1,108 in March, and over 1,045 in April, 1,111 in May, 1,307 in June, 1,428 in July, 1,382 in August and 1,181 in September. The figures reached a fresh new peak of 2,059 in October 2019. Then, 1,615 new companies in November and 1,773 in December were recorded, data of the DICA showed.

Last year, the figures of registered companies stood at 1,415 in January, 1,298 in February, and 1,015 in March, only 348 companies in April, 798 in May, 1,314 in June, 1,650 in July, 1,551 in August, 1,378 in September, 1,693 in October, 1,999 in November and 1,521 in December, as per statistics of the DICA. At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to the DICA data.

Besides, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation. At least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

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

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 as of September end for failing to submit AR forms within the due date.

Newly established companies 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 failed 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 suspend. Companies can restore their position only after shelving a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for the restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents. 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.
With the enormously growing of watermelon in Gangaw Township in the Magway region, the watermelon started yielding. They are sold back within the region and in the border area.

The watermelons are sold mostly in the Myanmar-India border checkpoint market and Kalay, Mawlaik townships in the upper Chindwin region. The local growers are making a good profit from watermelon cultivation because of high demand.

The residents from Hsar, Yaw and Laung Chay regions in the Gangaw district commonly cultivate season fruits such as watermelon, muskmelon, potato, tomato and cabbage. The cultivation of seasonal fruits is successful and sent to Haka township in Chin State and Tamu township in Myanmar-India border, Kalay and Mawlaik townships in the upper Chindwin region. The watermelons are selling well these days in some places such as Kalay, Chin mountain and the upper Chindwin region. So, the locals are having watermelon as season fruit at pagoda and school ceremony. Also, the elders and children from those regions are eating the watermelon as snacks.

The watermelons are cultivated beside the Mandalay-Gangaw-Kalay highway in Shwebo, Taungkinyan, Mawautkhin Yan villages in Gangaw Township. Watermelons are priced at K700-K1,000 per piece depending upon the size. However, the watermelon fetched around K1,200 for a small size one and K2,500 for a big one in Kalay, Tamu, Mawlaik markets in the Myanmar-India border market. —Panthitsa (Kalay)/GNLM

## Local growers make good profit from watermelon cultivation in Gangaw

There were valued at US$229.834 million in December 2020. In contrast, the value rose to US$270.359 million in January 2021, showing an increase of $10.243 million in January. In a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus on the border, China banned border crossing. Shortly after that, about 50 drivers are allowed to pass the border under the driver substitution system. These drivers are, however, tested every three days. As a result of this, China included them in the vaccination programme, covering 41 Myanmar truck drivers so far, said the vice-chair of Muse rice wholesale centre.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, including rice, beans and corns, and fishery products such as crab and prawn. Furthermore, Myanmar’s natural gas export to China is also conducted through the Muse-Ruili border. The raw CMP materials, electrical appliance and consumer goods are imported into the country. —K/K/GNLM

## Exports through Muse-Man Wein border rises in January

The 24-hour service at Muse-Man Wein border checkpoint for ten days boosted the exports between Myanmar and China and cut the freight forwarding cost by half in January.

Exports through Muse-Man Wein port were valued at US$10.582 billion in May 2020. In contrast, the value rose to US$270.359 million in January 2021, showing an increase of $10.243 million.

Additionally, the authorities concerned from both sides negotiated the extending trading hours in Kyinsankyawt border. Shortly after that, about 50 Myanmar truck drivers so far, included them in the vaccination programme, covering 41 Myanmar truck drivers so far, said the vice-chair of Muse rice wholesale centre. Myanmar exports agricultural products, including rice, beans and corns, and fishery products such as crab and prawn. Furthermore, Myanmar’s natural gas export to China is also conducted through the Muse-Ruili border. The raw CMP materials, electrical appliance and consumer goods are imported into the country. —K/K/GNLM

## Wuntho cabbage growers suffer from falling prices despite successful cultivation

THE cabbage growers suffer from falling price even though the cultivation succeeds in Latpaungtaw, Maggygone and Kyaiikvin village-tracts in Wuntho township, Sagaing region, said U Khin Hlaing Win, a local cabbage grower from Thayet Aik village.

“I have grown the cabbage around 20,000 plants annually. The cultivation costs of 20,000 plants are more than K500,000, including nursery plants, fertilizers and soil. The retail price of cabbage ranges from K100 to K200 depending upon the size of the cabbage. Around 200 cabbages are sent daily to Kawlin by motorbike,” he added.

“Last year, the people came to buy the cabbage at the plantations. Those cabbages are sold for K200 for the small ones and K600 for the big ones. This year, the cabbage fetched only K200 per piece. Therefore, the growers are suffering from the falling prices, earning less income. Now, the growers are expecting to have higher price for their cabbage,” said Ko Tun Myint, a cabbage grower. —Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)/GNLM

The locals are growing the cabbage using the water from Daung My and Nam Hlaing creeks. —PHOTO: MYINT TUN MIN
WHO slams rich states for hogging vaccines

Money donated to Covax is not being used because there are no vaccines to buy.

Here is a look at the past 12 months and how the coronavirus came to exact such a devastating toll on America.

On January 22, 2020, then-president Donald Trump describes the presence of the coronavirus in the US as “just one more person coming from China” and says his administration has the new disease “totally under control.” Comments like these soon characterize Trump’s dismissive view of the growing crisis.

The first US death is announced on February 21 in Seattle. About two months later, it emerges that two other patients had died in California earlier that month.

The outbreak spreads rapidly across the country, forcing state governors and local authorities across the country to impose lockdowns. By mid-March, the US is at a standstill, with schools closed and businesses shuttered.

The economy soon collapses — and with it one of Trump’s main arguments for re-election.

Amid repeated promises of a vaccine, Trump pushes false remedies and resists to reopen the economy. He leaves it to the health authorities to manage the fightback to individual states,dooming any chance of a unified national response.

A mounting toll

On May 27, the US records 100,000 coronavirus deaths, barely a month after passing the 50,000-death milestones.

The disease’s early ravages center on New York state, but quickly spreads nationwide.

On September 22, the US passes 200,000 deaths. By December 14, more than 300,000 have succumbed. Barely one month later—on January 19—the number passes 400,000 victims in the United States.

The Trump administration struggles. Even amid the soaring toll, Trump continues clinging on to whether his political opponents.”

Tuladhar adds that the Trump administration has refused to release enough vaccines to cover the number of people in poorer nations who were jacked at the same time.

Governments are first and foremost — and understandably so — committed to their respective publics,” he said. However, if we refuse to grant the necessary solace, we must not be surprised if other countries come in to fill this vacuum by delivering earlier what is required, using whatever means that is required for their own purposes.”

Tuladhar said for intellectual property rights on COVID-19 medical goods to be waived – a move that could facilitate greater knowledge-sharing and the rapid scale-up of production of vaccines.

The idea, currently before the World Trade Organization, is staunchly opposed by pharmaceutical giants.

Tuladhar also urged pharma companies that were not making their own COVID-19 vaccines to turn over their facilities to produce other company’s doses, as Sanders has done for the Pfizer-BioNTech jab.

“If we increase the pie, then better opportunities to share it equally too,” Tuladhar however said he did not think a waiver for patents or licensing “would be the right approach.”

SOURCE: AP

Half a million dead: a timeline of US Covid catastrophe

Unfathomable just one year ago, the United States on Monday passed the horrific marker of 500,000 dead from Covid-19.

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FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 24 Feb-

rual 2021: Light rain or thunderstorms are likely to be isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (70%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar coastal waters. There will be about 4 to 7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 February 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 February 2021: Generally fair weather.

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We can only have vaccines delivered to the countries who are members of Covax if the high-income countries cooperate in respecting the deals that Covax did,” Tuladhar said.

The first wave of Covax vaccines wereitech shipped out between late February and the end of June. Some 145 participating econo-

mies have signed up to receive 272 million doses – enough to vaccinate 5 to 7 per cent of their combined populations.

Covax has also said it hopes to raise the figure to up to 27 per cent in lower-income countries by the end of December.

“Increase the pie”

The world’s biggest vaccine maker, India’s Serum Institute, on Monday urged other countries to be “patient” about it supplying anti-covide-19 shots, saying it has been instructed to prioritise its own vaccination.

Steinmeier said that although countries were focused on protecting their own citizens from coronavirus, it made sense for the wealthier nations suffering ahead in the vaccine race to ensure that people in poorer nations were jacked at the same time.

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SOURCE: AP
Austria bets on millions of tests to contain Covid-19

WHILE Austria has struggled to contain the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, it is fast emerging as a world leader in testing as a way to reopen schools and businesses.

The small nation with a population of just under nine million, tested three million people last week alone.

Austria, with a population of just under nine million, tested three million people last week alone. PHOTO: AFP

New York City movie theatres to reopen

MOVIE theaters in New York City will partially reopen next month, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced Monday, the latest easing of coronavirus restrictions in the Big Apple.

Cuomo said cinemas will be able to operate at 25 per cent capacity, or up to 50 people per screen, from March 5 -- almost exactly a year since they shut.

“Avoided seating, social distancing and other health precautions will be in place,” Cuomo wrote on Twitter. Officials closed movie theatres on March 17 last year as Covid-19 began ravaging America’s commercial capital, where the disease has now killed almost 29,000 people.

New York cinemas will be able to operate for the first time in almost a year when they reopen with limited capacity in March. PHOTO: AFP

70 per cent vaccination rate aim for summer

PORTUGAL is aiming to have 70 per cent of its population vaccinated by some point over summer. Health Minister Marta Temido said Monday:

Temido’s comments at a press conference came with the number of new cases in the country markedly declining after having suffered the world’s worst rate of infection in January.

So far, some 294,000 people have received a first vaccine dose and 106,000 have been administered two doses.

National vaccine programme coordinator Henrique Gouveia e Melo said herd immunity “should be achieved in August or early September” if the forecasts on the availability of vaccines are confirmed.

The vaccination programme should accelerate “from the second quarter to reach the rate of 100,000 vaccines per day” compared to the current average of 22,000, he said.

After weeks as the country with the greatest number of infections in relation to its population, Portugal recorded the strongest decline last week with a 51-per cent drop in new cases to 2,100 per day. —AFP

Afghanistan begins Covid vaccine campaign amid surge in violence

AFGHANISTAN on Tuesday launched a Covid-19 vaccination campaign aimed at inoculating hundreds of thousands, as the war-weary nation reels from near-daily attacks by insurgents. Doctors, security personnel, and journalists were among the first volunteers to receive doses of AstraZeneca’s Covid-19 vaccine, donated earlier this month by India.

“Today, I congratulate the people of Afghanistan for the launch of the first stage of Covid-19 vaccine [drive] with 500,000 doses of vaccines. This is a big opportunity for the people of Afghanistan,” said Afghan President Ashraf Ghani as the first jabs were administered. “We don’t expect any miracles, but let’s help this campaign to be implemented quickly; the country’s acting health minister Waheed Majroh added. Afghanistan is believed to have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic in the last year, but limited testing and a ramshackle health care sector have hampered its ability to track the virus. —AFP

EasyJet bookings soar as England readies lockdown exit

EASY Jet shares rallied Tuesday on rocketing flight bookings for the British airline over the past week, given a boost by Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s pledge to begin easing England’s virus lockdown shortly.

Bookings soared 337 per cent by late Monday compared with a week earlier, EasyJet said after Johnson’s announcement.

EasyJet shares rallied around five per cent on the London stock market -- and there were solid gains for European rivals.

Johnson’s four-month roadmap to ease lockdown curbs by the northern hemisphere summer has also sparked hopes of easing restrictions elsewhere in Europe. —AFP

70 per cent vaccination rate aim for summer
Six EU countries warned over border restrictions

Letters sent on Monday to Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary and Sweden, highlight a risk of "fragmentation and disruptions to free movement and to supply chains," commission spokesman Christian Wigand told journalists. PHOTO: AFP

THE European Commission said Tuesday it has formally warned six EU countries that their visa-related border curbs could undermine free movement within the bloc. Letters sent on Monday to Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary and Sweden, highlight a risk of "fragmentation and disruptions to free movement and to supply chains," commission spokesman Christian Wigand told journalists.

The EU executive is worried the measures go beyond recommendations adopted four months ago seeking "a proportional" balance between slowing the spread of the coronavirus and maintaining movement.

It has given the countries until late next week to respond, failing which it could, theoretically, start proceedings for breach of EU laws. Germany, however, strongly rejected the idea that its strict restrictions on traffic from Austria's Tyrol region and from the Czech Republic and Slovakia was no worse than in some other EU countries.

It also took exception to German authorities requiring Covid-19 test results to be issued in English, German, French or Italian, saying results in Czech or Slovak should also be accepted.

The EU's aim, the letter said, is "the preservation of the functioning of the Single Market during a volatile economic period, as well as the protection of family life during a time of significantly reduced social contacts outside the core family." —AFP

NASA releases first audio from Mars, video of Perseverance landing

The US space agency NASA on Monday released the first audio from Mars, a faint wind sound captured by the Perseverance rover.

NASA also released the first video of the landing of the rover on the Red Planet. A microphone did not work during the descent but the rover was able to capture audio once it landed on Mars. NASA engineers played a short audio clip of what they said was a wind gust on the surface.

The video clip, lasting three minutes and 25 seconds, showed the deployment of the parachute and the rover’s touchdown on the surface of Mars in a cloud of dust.

"These are really amazing videos," Michael Watkins, director of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said at a briefing for reporters. "This is the first time we’ve ever been able to capture an event like the landing on Mars." Jessica Samuels, Perseverance’s surface mission manager, said the rover was operating as expected so far: "I am happy to report that Perseverance is healthy," Samuels said. —AFP

Indian climate activist linked to Thunberg wins bail

AN Indian climate change activist was granted bail on Tuesday 10 days after being arrested for allegedly creating a "toolkit" to help the country’s farmer protests that was tweeted by Greta Thunberg.

The arrest of 22-year-old Disha Ravi on charges of sedition – which can carry a sentence of life imprisonment – sparked fierce criticism from activists and India’s opposition politicians. Police alleged that Ravi was a "key conspirator" in the formation of the toolkit, which was shared by Swedish climate activist Thunberg on social media. The toolkit offers basic advice on joining the protest on the ground and spells out how to show support on social media. Officers said the aim appeared to be to "create disharmony among various social, religious and cultural groups and encourage disaffection and ill-will" against the Indian government.

Police also said Ravi and two others had been in contact with a Canada-based organization that allegedly supported separatists from India’s Sikh minority.

According to the Indian Express newspaper, a Delhi court on Tuesday found no "palpable reason" to deny bail to Ravi, "considering the scanty and sketchy investigation". The protest by thousands of farmers, many of them Sikhs, on the outskirts of New Delhi since late November against new agricultural laws has emerged as a major challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The demonstrations have been mostly peaceful but turned violent on one day in late January when a tractor rally by farmers in Delhi became a rampage, leaving one person dead. The protest then took an international turn in early February when pop star Rihanna, Thunberg and the US vice president’s niece Meena Harris tweeted about the subject. —AFP

Wife of Mexican drug lord ‘El Chapo’ arrested at US airport

Emma Coronel Aispuro faces one charge of conspiracy to traffic drugs for importation into the US. PHOTO: AFP

US authorities arrested the wife of jailed Mexican drug lord Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzman at an airport outside of Washington DC on narcotics smuggling charges, the Justice Department said.

Emma Coronel Aispuro, 31, faces one charge of conspiracy to traffic cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana for importation into the United States, the department said.

She was arrested at Dulles International Airport. Guzman was the leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, one of Mexico’s most notorious drug trafficking groups. He ran an operation that delivered hundreds of tonnes of narcotics into the US and was behind multiple murders of those who crossed him, according to court filings. He was extradited to the US in 2017 to stand trial, and was convicted and sentenced to life in prison two years later.

Ms Coronel, according to the Justice Department, took part in cartel activities and also allegedly assisted in two plots to help Guzman escape from Mexican prison, including the successful first one in 2015. It was not previously known that US authorities intended to arrest her. A dual US-Mexico citizen and the mother of twins by Guzman, Ms Coronel appeared in court nearly every day of his three-month trial in New York. — AFP
Five dead in India vaccine plant fire

FIVE people died as a fire tore through a building in the world’s biggest vaccine manufacturing hub in India Thursday, but the company insisted the production of drugs to counter the coronavirus pandemic would continue.

Rescue workers discovered five bodies in the under-construction building after the blaze at the Serum Institute of India was brought under control, media reports said, with officials in the western city of Pune confirming the toll.

A second, smaller blaze broke out in the same building late Thursday, local media reports said.

“Five people have died,” city mayor Murlidhar Mohol told reporters. TV channels showed thick clouds of grey smoke billowing from the sprawling site, which is responsible for producing millions of doses of the Covishield coronavirus vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University.

“It is not going to affect production of the COVID-19 vaccine,” a Serum Institute source told AFP adding the blaze was at a new facility being built on the 100-acre (40-hectare) campus.

“We are deeply saddened and offer our deepest condolences to the family members of the departed,” the firm’s CEO Adar Poonawalla tweeted, without offering further details.

The founder of Cyrus Poonawalla, Adar’s father, said in a statement that the families of each of the five victims - who were reported to be contract labourers - would be given 2.5 million rupees ($28,400) in compensation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi added he was “anguished by the loss of lives”. —AFP

Thousands protest in Georgia after opposition leader arrested

THOUSANDS of anti-government protesters rallied in Georgia on Tuesday after the arrest of an opposition leader, deepening a political crisis that erupted after disputed elections last year.

Hundreds of riot police used tear gas against Nika Melia’s supporters who were camped out at his United National Movement party’s headquarters in the capital Tbilisi before he was arrested in an overnight police raid and placed in pre-trial detention.

The move sparked swift condemnation from Western diplomats, as fears mount over the ex-Soviet nation’s fragile democracy.

Scores of Melia’s supporters were also detained in the raid and the leader of the opposition Lelo party called for “a peaceful, unwavering struggle to defend Georgian democracy”.

“ Liberation of political prisoners and snap parliamentary elections are the only possible way out of the crisis,” Mamuka Khazaradze said, speaking to journalists on behalf of all opposition leaders. —AFP

S.Africa’s Zuma arms deal corruption case to be heard in May

Zuma is accused of taking a rakeoff from a 1999 arms deal with French giant Thales PHOTO: AFP

SOUTH Africa’s scandal-tainted former president Jacob Zuma and French arms dealer Thales, accused of graft in a case going back more than two decades, will go on trial in May, the High Court ruled Tuesday.

Zuma is facing 16 charges of fraud, graft and racketeering relating to the purchase of fighter jets, patrol boats and military equipment.

He allegedly took bribes of four million rand ($270,000 or 224,000 euros) over a $3.4-billion arms deal with French aerospace and defence giant Thales in 1999, when he was deputy president.

Judge Nkosinathi Chilli at the High Court in Pietermaritzburg said the matter was certified as trial-ready and would be heard between May 17 and June 20, 2021. Zuma was not present for the announcement.

The case was postponed last December, when Thales contested the racketeering charges linked to the arms deal.

But a court dismissed the challenge on January 22, a decision that Thales said it would not contest.

Both the state prosecution and defence attorneys had asked the pre-trial court for extra time.

They cited among other things Covid restrictions on international travel that could impede the availability of witnesses living abroad.

Zuma, 78, who was forced to step down in 2018 by the African National Congress (ANC) after nine years in power, is separately accused of enabling runaway looting of state assets during his tenure.

The judicial panel probing this alleged graft on Monday sought orders to jail Zuma for two years for defying a court order compelling him to testify. —AFP

Facebook to lift ban on Australia news after deal on media law

FACEBOOK moved to lift a contentious ban on Australian news Tuesday, after a last-gasp deal on landmark rules requiring tech giants to pay media companies.

Australia’s Treasurer Josh Frydenberg announced a framework that will see Google and Facebook plough tens of millions of dollars into the struggling local news sector.

The US digital firms will, for now, avoid being subjected to mandatory payments that could cost them vastly more and create what they see as an alarming global precedent.

“As a result of these changes, we can now work to further our investment in public interest journalism, and restore news on Facebook for Australians in the coming days,” said Will Easton, managing director of Facebook Australia.

The social media firm sparked global outrage last week by blacking out news for its Australian users and inadvertently blocking a series of non-news Facebook pages linked to everything from cancer charities to emergency response services.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison had angrily accused Facebook of making a decision to “unfriend” Australia.

Commentators described the eleventh-hour deal – which came as parliament looks set to pass the law this week – as “a reasonable compromise”.

“Everybody can walk away saying, well we got what we wanted,” University of New South Wales business professor Rob Nicholls told AFP.

Just hours after the compromise was unveiled, Facebook announced its first proposed deal with an Australian media company, Seven West. The company is expected to launch a dedicated news product in Australia later this year.

Google has already brokered several deals worth millions of dollars with local media companies, including the two largest: Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp. and Nine Entertainment. —AFP
UK unemployment edges up to 5.1% on pandemic fallout

BRITAIN’S unemployment rate edged up to 5.1% per cent in the final quarter of 2020, official data showed on Tuesday, as coronavirus lockdowns slashed economic activity. The rate compared with 5.0 per cent in the three months to the end of November, which was a 4.5-year high, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

Analysts expect unemployment to surge when the UK government’s furlough scheme comes to an end. —AFP

Asian markets mostly up but optimism tempered by inflation fear

 Jerome Powell’s congressional testimony will be closely followed for an ideal of the Federal Reserve’s view on rising Treasury yields. PHOTO: AFP

ASIAN markets mostly rose Tuesday, fuelled by growing hope that vaccine rollouts will allow the global economy to get back on track, but the optimism was tempered by nagging worries that the recovery will fan inflation and interest rate hikes.

With governments picking up the pace in their coronavirus inoculation drives, and infection and death rates slowing in most parts of the world, observers are predicting a surge in economic activity from the middle of the year as lockdowns are eased. Added to that is Joe US President Biden’s huge growth-boosting spending programme, which is likely to be passed by Congress next month, on top of the Federal Reserve’s pledge to keep monetary policy ultra-loose for as long as needed.

Monumental government and central bank support worth trillions of dollars has been a key driver of the surge in world equities from their nadir almost a year ago when the coronavirus was rampaging across the planet.

But while the mood is increasingly good, investors are turning their focus to the impact of the reflation – a rally in prices that could lead to additional penalties including sanctions, but I think it would be wrong to think of sanctions as the only tool in our tool box here.” —AFP

Vaccine hopes boost British pound

THE British pound continued a frantic two-month rise against the euro and the dollar, reaching new highs this week in a sign of traders’ enthusiasm for the country’s vaccination roll-out.

Just before Christmas, investors feared the country would leave the European single market without a post-Brexit trade agreement. At the same time, a deadly second wave and new, more transmissible coronavirus variants pushed infection rates up and saw the death toll soar. It currently stands at more than 120,000 – one of the worst in the world.

But since December, the pound has gained more than five per cent against the euro and US dollar, making it a top performer among major currencies. The jump is due to the number of people vaccinated, according to the government, one adult in three has already received a first dose, representing more than 17.5 million people. Another reason for optimism is Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s publication on Monday of a “cautious but irreversible” roadmap to ease lockdown restrictions by July.—AFP

US sees progress against Nord Stream 2 amid calls for more action

THE United States said Monday it had seen progress from European companies moving out of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline from Russia to Germany, but critics urged stronger action. In a report required by Congress, the State Department named 18 mostly Western companies that would not be subject to sanctions, the State Department and lawmakers said. The companies made “good-faith efforts to wind down activities related to Nord Stream 2,” State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters.

“This demonstrates that the legislative goals and our actions are having a good effect,” he said of bipartisan US opposition to the project dating back to former president Donald Trump’s time. He publicly named just one firm that would be subject to US sanctions – Russian tuna company KVT-Rus, which he said had been engaged in piping activities for Nord Stream 2. Biden has maintained criticism of Nord Stream 2, saying that it emboldens Russia and weakens leverage of vulnerable nations such as Ukraine. But the Biden administration has also pledged a more cooperative approach with European powers including Germany, which argues that the project is vital for its supply of energy despite concerns on Russia.

“When it comes to our allies and partners, it is fair to say that they would not be taken by surprise by any action we would take,” Price said. “We will continue to monitor activity that could lead to additional penalties including sanctions, but I think it would be wrong to think of sanctions as the only tool in our tool box here.” —AFP

Claims Day Notice

Consignees of cargo carried on M/V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (736W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-2-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MTT 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 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Phone No: 2301185
Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent For: M/S GOLD STAR LINES
Let's be honest in providing products and services to help develop State

By Naing Oo (DOCA)
Translated by Robert Tun Win

I had been present at a wedding reception of my late superior’s son in Yangon over one and a half years ago, and he is currently a successful young small-scale businessman. He has a large scale of friends and can afford to hold a wedding reception on a grand scale at renowned hotels, but to everyone’s surprise, he held a ceremony to offer meals to Buddhist monks marking his wedding while contributing funds to the construction of a concrete passageway measuring 120x20 feet in a monastery. He donated his money to the construction of the concrete passageway of the monastery instead of spending it on his grand wedding reception, and his wedding reception was held on a small scale. I paid respects to my late superior, who could teach his son to have good manners. During my visit to his working place, I saw a sentence inscribed in the teak traditional art style, writing “Honesty reputation ensures food sufficiency”. In response to my question about why it was, he explained to me how poor his father was in childhood.

Consumer and household goods that do not meet international criteria are entering Myanmar in great numbers because self-interested businessmen manufactured and distributed the products that are inappropriate for the commercial code of conducts. Myanmar serves as a good location between two big countries with high demand and plenty of opportunity for export according to its geographical features. But the current situations and opinions lead to a reverse direction.

The exporters from Myanmar have to send the products to foreign countries in line with their imposed rules. In fact, the entrepreneurs should import the consumer goods following the criteria imposed by the government. Only then the economy and trade must be balanced. Economic system designing sustainable development should be implemented regardless of current profit. Fair trade system is of importance in a bid to keep abreast of trading partners of economically strong countries. A country needs laying down modern economic policies to ensure sustainable development. The current government is undertaking the implementations laying down 12 economic policies on 29 July in 2016.

With regard to the economic philosophies and policies in European countries, the government followed the Laissez-faire philosophy described in the book An Inquiry into Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations written by Adam Smith, a Scottish economist and used it as economic policies of most European countries.

Laissez-faire is an economic system in which transactions between private groups of people are free from or almost free from any form of economic interventionism such as regulation and subsidies. According to this philosophy, economic affairs can be performed openly and transparently among private organizations that are totally exempt from the law, by-law, rules and regulations,
special privileges, tax and cash assistance. According to this system, the government is responsible for carrying out three tasks only.

It is required to implement the rule of law, electricity, road and bridge, buildings, education and health. On the other hand, the entrepreneurs are independently given permission according to the occupational market economy regarding the matters relating to economy and trade. This means the government is unauthorized to interfere. Only then manufacturers, distributors, consumers and the government will be able to enjoy best interests, and these are of the essence.

In fact, the entrepreneurs should import the consumer goods following the criteria imposed by the government.

In summary, it is understood that the consumers are those who are to decide to develop the State. Therefore, the entrepreneurs serve as barriers to making efforts to defeat the opponents. It is also required to notice price, quality and productivity while competing with the opponents. A cost-effective way should be sought and unnecessary waste should be avoided, and modern machines should be used in order to save time and work. Meanwhile, there has been an increase in production in a short time, thereby bringing savings in labour wages, a rise in sale forces, much profit and economic expansion.

At the same time, the consumers will be able to get access to consuming the products with perfect characteristics of safety, hygiene, quality and price. It can also help promote consumption standard, longevi-
Medvedev cracks top three as Karatsev soars 72 places

PARIS — Daniil Medvedev broke into the top three for the first time in Monday’s ATP rankings, while Russian compatriot Aslan Karatsev shot up 72 places after his shock run to the Australian Open semifinals.

Medvedev finished runner-up at a Grand Slam for the second time as he was swept aside by top-ranked Novak Djokovic in Sunday’s final in Melbourne, the Serb collecting his 18th major title.

Former US Open finalist Medvedev switched spots with Dominic Thiem, who slipped to fourth after he was demolished by Grigor Dimitrov in straight sets in the last 16.

Bulgarian Dimitrov returned to the top 20 but the biggest move was Karatsev, a qualifier who became the first man in the Open era to reach the semi-finals of a major on a main draw debut.

Karatsev, 27, rose from 114th to 42nd after knocking out three seeds before his dream run was ended by Djokovic in the last four.

The win reinforced Djokovic’s status as world number one, guaranteeing he will mark his 311th week there as of March 8, surpassing Roger Federer’s record of 309. — AFP

Spain looks to Real Madrid and Atletico to halt La Liga decline

MADRID — “Sign him up Florentino,” Real Madrid’s fans wrote on Twitter before Zinedine Zidane was asked if he sent a message to the club’s president Florentino Perez.

Kylian Mbappe had just destroyed Barcelona at Camp Nou and 24 hours later Erling Haaland did the same to Sevilla at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.

By the time Real Sociedad trailed 4-0 on Thursday evening to Manchester United, the feeling in Spain became clear: La Liga was in freefall.

Later that night, Granada beat Napoli and Villarreal saw off Salzburg in a competition it should be remembered that was only six months ago won by Sevilla, for the fourth time in seven years.

In fact, a Spanish team has won the Europa League seven times out of the last 11.

Three of those titles belong to Atletico Madrid, who take on Chelsea in the Champions League on Tuesday, after knocking out the English champions Liverpool last season.

Real Madrid face Atalanta, hoping to prevent a third year without winning the tournament, after winning all of the previous three.

“Spanish teams are still strong, it’s just a moment,” said Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman last week. “You can’t draw conclusions.” — AFP

Ronaldo’s Crotone double keeps Juve in title hunt

Juventus’ Cristiano Ronaldo (C) shoots between Crotone’s Luca Marrone (L) and Lisanord Magallan during the match at the Juventus stadium in Turin. — PHOTO: AFP

TURIN — Cristiano Ronaldo kept Juventus within sight of the Serie A summit on Monday with a headed brace which helped the champions to a 3-0 win over bottom club Crotone.

Portugal forward Ronaldo struck twice late in the first half to break the resistance of lowly Crotone and keep Juve eight points behind league leaders Inter Milan.

Weston McKennie made sure of the points midway through the second half, lashing home when the ball broke to him after a corner.

Andrea Pirlo’s side climb to third with the win thanks also to Roma, who are a point back in fourth, only managing a goalless draw at Benevento on Sunday night.

They are also four points behind second-placed AC Milan who have lost three of their last five league matches, including Sunday’s 3-0 derby thumping at the hands of Inter.

Juve, chasing their 10th straight league title, have a game in hand on both Milan clubs and play Inter in the penultimate round of league games in Turin.

Crotone meanwhile remain rooted to the bottom of the division thanks to their fifth defeat on the bounce. — AFP

UK virus roadmap offers hope for Premier League crowds

Wembley stadium is due to play host to the Euro 2020 semi-finals and final. — PHOTO: AFP

LONDON — Fans could be back in English stadiums for the final weekend of the Premier League season and there are hopes the Euro 2020 final will be played at a full Wembley under plans announced on Monday.

Under a four-step roadmap to ease the coronavirus lockdown announced by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, elite sport will continue behind closed doors until May 17 at the earliest.

But if there are no setbacks, crowds of up to 10,000 or 25 per cent of seated capacity, whichever is lower, will be allowed to return.

The Premier League season is due to finish on May 23. Other than a small number of matches played in front of 2,000 spectators late last year, the entire 2020/21 season has been played behind closed doors. — AFP