National Unity and Peace Restoration Central Committee holds meeting 1/2021

To observe democratic culture of solving issues through dialogue is so important: Senior General
Announcement of Union Election Commission  
(3 March 2021)

Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Pyawbwe Township in Mandalay Region, together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police, Immigration and Population and administrators according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.

According to the ground inspection, a total of 296 poll stations of Pyawbwe Township in Mandalay Region took out 250,538 ballot papers. It used 177,523 ballot receipts, and the remaining ballots were 70,117 instead of 73,015.

The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective poll stations, and the missing ballots were 2,898, which is lesser than the actual numbers of remaining ballots. The findings are as follows:

### Inspection findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Pyawbwe Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/ Village-tracts</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Extra ballot papers</th>
<th>Remaining on the ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wards and Village-tracts</td>
<td>239,100</td>
<td>176,501</td>
<td>62,599</td>
<td>59,701</td>
<td>7,023</td>
<td>4,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Townships</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Remaining numbers</td>
<td>10,416</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,416</td>
<td>10,416</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>250,538</td>
<td>177,523</td>
<td>73,015</td>
<td>70,117</td>
<td>7,023</td>
<td>4,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The wards/village-tracts of Pyawbwe township took out 239,100 ballot papers and used 176,501. It should remain 62,599, but it left only 59,701, and so 2,898 ballot papers were missing.

During the inspection of Pyawbwe, U Kyaw Swe, secretary of Sate Cho village, took out election sub-committee, returned unused ballot books for each Pyithu Hluttaw, Anyotha Hluttaw and State/Region Hluttaw on 26 February 2021 while U Thura, Chairman of Phayagyi village-tract election sub-committee and U Than Oo, secretary returned four unused ballot books for each Pyithu Hluttaw, Anyotha Hluttaw and State/Region on 27 February 2021 to Pyawbwe Township election sub-committee office.

Zajantaung village-tract returned one ballot book for Pyithu Hluttaw while Chaungmagnyi village-tract four books with nine ballot papers, Sal Ywar Lat Pan village-tract two ballot books and 15 ballot papers and unknown village-tract five ballot papers to Pyawbwe Township election commission office. According to the respective Hluttaw Election Rules and Rules also instructed the poll head, deputy poll head, and members to carry out according to the stipulations mentioned above.

It was found that the number of ballots used was higher than the number of ballot papers issued in 32 village-tract polling stations. The use of extra ballots in these polling stations are as follows, and it is suspected that more ballots were printed.

### List of extra-used ballot papers for poll station-wise of Ward/Village-tract in Pyawbwe Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/ Village-tract</th>
<th>Poll station</th>
<th>Ballot papers issued</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Missing ballot papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Moguang</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Twinywar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Twinywar</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shwenyaungphu</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Zajantaung</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gwaypinpyoe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Gwaypinpyoe</td>
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<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Saliwar Kyeti</td>
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<td>1,300</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Gwaypinpyoe</td>
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<td>700</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Ohpin</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<tr>
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<td>500</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kantha</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Moenangone</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Minlan</td>
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<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Htantawygi</td>
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<td>1,154</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Htantawygi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Missing ballot papers at 106 Village-tract poll stations are as follows:

List of missing ballot papers for poll station-wise of Ward/Village-tract in Pyawbwe Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/ Village-tract</th>
<th>Poll station</th>
<th>Missing ballot papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Moguang</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Phaungtaw</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sr Ward/Village-tract    874
Total 50,050 53,301 4,125

SEE PAGE-7

4 MARCH 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
To observe democratic culture of solving issues through dialogue is so important: Senior General

As one of five future programmes of the State Administration Council mentions that 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,
Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
U Aung Naing Oo attends second day of 27th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Retreat Meeting

Solar Powers

The use of irrigation water for the agricultural sector, generation of electricity from hydro and solar powers.

(Excerpt from the speech to the management committee 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 26 February 2021)

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
U Aung Naing Oo attends second day of 27th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Retreat Meeting

No payment for detainee’s release; it’s just rumour

GROUPS working in various ways to oppose the government are taking the youths to the streets and confronting the security forces and creating unrest in the country, according to a statement from the Myanmar Police Force.

Security forces in respective areas are focusing on minimizing civilian casualties and dispersing the crowds. Some protesters and vehicles that blocked the roads during the riots were detained and the detainees were subjected to background check and interrogation, to identify whether he or she is the leader of the protests without being tortured in accordance with the procedures.

Based on the findings of the interrogation, only those leaders who were working against the government and undermining the rule of law are being prosecuted. Most young people who are still studying and outsourcing employees are being released after signing the necessary confessions in order to protect their future and lives.

Although the government is doing so with compassion from all sides, some media are spreading rumours about how much each released person has to pay or how much to pay for a motorcycle or car.

In all cases of releasing the detainees, the news that money was paid was a rumour spread by the anti-government group, and that the media should stand up for the code of ethics and refrain from publishing one-sided misinformation.—MNA
Announcement for people not to join violent riots

The anti-government rallies broke the law in some places of the country and also blocked the public roads with tires, concrete block, trees and made arson. They also attacked the security forces with elements like catapults and iron barbed wires, percussion lock firearm and air gun, and they arrested security forces and destroyed CCTVs and vehicles, according to the statement of the Myanmar Police Force.

According to the statement, the riots occurred in Sanchaung, Hlaing, Yan Kin, Tamway, Insein, Thakayta and Dagon Myothit (South) townships of Yangon Region, Chanayethazan, Pyigyidagan, Myintyan, Meiktila and PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region, Sagaing, Shwebo and Monwya of Sagaing Region, Magway, Salin and Taungthwingyi of Magway Region, Pathein, Myanmar and Wakema of Ayeyawady Region, Myeik and Dawei of Taninthayi Region, Hpakant of Kachin State, Hpa-an of Kayin State, Hakha of Chin State yesterday and the security forces dispersed the protest crowds.

Although the government patiently waited and maintained peaceful protests to a certain extent, the current protests lead to riots in various ways.

The security forces used only crowd control weapons to keep the injuries to a minimum. Therefore, for security and safety, the public should not participate in the violence and keep awareness.—MNA

Peaceful protests turn to violent riots; Riotous protesters block public roads with tires, concrete blocks and iron barbed wires; Security forces use only crowd control weapons to keep the injuries to a minimum.
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs
   (a) Building of a Union based on democracy and federalism in practising genuine disciplined multiparty democracy in a full fairness manner
   (b) Emphasizing of restoration of eternal peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)
   (c) Continuous practising of the “principle” of peaceful co-existence among countries by holding up the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy

2. Economic affairs
   (a) Further development of production based on agriculture and livestock breeding through modern techniques and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
   (b) Stability of market economy and inviting international investments to develop the economy of entire ethnic people
   (c) Encouragement of local businesses to create employment opportunities to be able to produce many products of the State

3. Social affairs
   (a) For ensuring of dynamism of Union spirit which is genuine patriotic spirit
   (b) Following customs and traditions of all ethnic nationalities and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national characters
   (c) Enhancement of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Union Minister Dr Thet Khine Win meets department heads

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khine Win held meeting with the relevant department heads yesterday. During the meeting, the Union Minister re-explained the excerpts from the speech of State Administration Council Chairman and five future programmes of the SAC.
He discussed cooperation works among the officials of relevant departments, efforts of the ministry for healthcare workers and awards for postgraduate degree holders. He also emphasized the civil services rules and regulations including ethics of medics and nurses, budget allocation for construction materials and medical equipment, effective use of budget and surplus budget for other sections.
He stressed the need to conduct without leaking the news that affect the State peace and tranquility to foreign countries. He also highlighted the prioritized health sectors of the SAC.
He then instructed to operate vaccination programmes in March and April as planned while the civil servants get injected this month and the healthcare workers of private sectors and others from religious sectors will be vaccinated next months and then people aged over 65 years from Stay at Home Townships and other townships.
He also discussed the medical and medical equipment for hospitals, budget status, upgrade of hospital, X-Ray and ICU, plans to conduct postgraduate/undergraduate courses by the Department of Human Resources for Health although they are currently suspend, the inspection of FDA for vaccines and real-time manners for the test of foodstuffs and medicines.
He also urged the Medical Research Department to keep doing research programmes, and emphasized the cooperation with National Health Laboratory for COVID-19 tests, registration and licence extension of traditional medicines by Department of Traditional Medicine, plans to hold outdoor sports events by the Department of Sports and Physical Education, the promotion of Myanmar’s martial arts and training for soccer in line with the COVID-19 health rules.
He also added the free healthcare services for the civil services and plans to solve the difficulties of government employees to be able to serve their duties peacefully.—MNA

MoSWRR discusses cooperative activities with ASEAN

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the coordination meeting for the cooperation with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.
Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine, Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khaing, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General and officials attended the meeting.
The respective departments discussed the participation of the Ministry as a focal point for ASEAN ministerial-level organizations under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) and Myanmar’s hosting the 13th ASEAN Youth Ministers’ Meeting (13th AMMY) and the 12th ASEAN Youth Senior Officials Meeting (12th SOMY).
The Disaster Management Department presented that the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and related meetings and, ASEAN Disaster Management Committee meetings are hosted by the rotating chair and are usually attended by Union Ministers and officials. Myanmar has set up working groups to implement the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergencies Response (2021-2025) and Myanmar is also co-chairing the Prevention, Response and Rehabilitation Working Group with other countries.
The meeting discussed the cooperation with ASEAN for the readmission of displaced persons in Rakhine State and the support to Myanmar in accordance with the agreements reached at the ASEAN Summits; implementing the recommendations of the 2019 Preliminary Needs Assessment Report by the members of the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team; collaboration with AHA Centre for the Human Resource Development Project to provide humanitarian assistance to Myanmar; Negotiations to conduct a comprehensive study for the readmission process.
The Rehabilitation Department presented the voluntarily contribution to the Cambodia-based ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre, landmine awareness campaigns and humanitarian assistance to landmine victims.
The Union Minister said to continue the activities in accordance with the directives of the State Administration Council, to present if it is necessary to reform the committees, to submit the necessary project proposal by departments, to give priority to research activities and to identify the activities of the ministry that should be involved in the development of Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA
## 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 multi-party 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.

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### FROM PAGE-2

### Table: Ballot Papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/Village-tract</th>
<th>Poll station</th>
<th>Ballot papers Issued</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Missing ballot papers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,154</td>
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<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,154</td>
<td>-46</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,000</td>
<td>-50</td>
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<td>650</td>
<td>-50</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>950</td>
<td>915</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>900</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Chaungmaygi</td>
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<td>900</td>
<td>857</td>
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<td>400</td>
<td>390</td>
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<td>Shampwe</td>
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<td>1,000</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>-50</td>
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Total: 80,000

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Union Election Commission
Save our wetlands

Scientists have shown how droughts are threatening the health of wetlands globally, for almost all of the world’s wetlands, and chemical changes occurring during droughts that lead to severe, and sometimes irreversible, drying of wetland soils. With the remarkable ecological and fisheries-rich, our country’s coastal wetlands provide multiple ecosystem services such as fish breeding grounds, protection against water-related disaster risk, carbon absorption, etc.

Moreover, our inland wetlands such as floodplains, rivers, lakes and swamps, form like sponges, also help reduce excess rainfall and reducing flood surges. During dry seasons in these regions, wetlands provide refuge to many species for communities and stock.

Wetlands maintain food for people by creating wetlands to provide aquatic products as livelihood benefits for millions of Myanmar people.

In addition, the coastal wetlands also have cultural, as well as coastal and marine areas like estuaries, lagoons, mangroves and coral reefs, are essential for 

Wetlands such as peatlands and marshes, as well as coastal and marine areas like estuaries, lagoons, mangroves and coral reefs, are essential for regulating the global climate along with forests and oceans.

Nowadays, the existence of coastal wetlands is being threatened by many issues ranging from over-exploitation of biological resources to negative impacts of climate change.

Now is the time to understand conservation, effective management and sustainable use as they are primary objectives of preserving the biological resources in our country.

It is crucial to clearly understand the status and threats of the areas for sustainable management of the coastal wetlands.

Coastal and marine wetlands, including salt marshes, mangroves and sea grass beds are similarly critical carbon storage grounds.

Wetlands also turn a natural carbon sink into a source of emissions that add to global warming.

Coastal wetlands, including mangroves and coral reefs, absorb the shock and reduce the impact of storm surges and tsunamis on coastal communities.

The world has already understood the wetlands’ relationship to climate change. We must start by ending the destruction and degradation of wetlands and restoring lost ones.

Communities, businesses and governmental departments concerned need to work together to protect these amazing ecosystems, which, in turn, will help us adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Objectives of 76th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

FORU the Tatmadaw to join hands with the entire nation to safeguard democracy, which is the aspiration of the majority of the people of the country, from deviating from its path, in accordance with the basic principles of the Constitution, while observing our Three Main National Causes, which is the national policy.

To protect the people from all dangers including natural disasters at any time and in any situation and to provide all-round assistance for ensuring social security of the people;

To restore eternal peace based on NCA, without deviating from Our Three Main National Causes, as the occasion of armed conflicts is the principal requirement in realizing democracy.

To build a strong and compact Standard Army, which has the combat prowess and combat power to effectively safeguard the State peace and stability and sovereignty.

Infodemic of COVID-19 disinfection bad for Ukrainians health, study for UN finds

Infodemic of COVID-19 disinfection bad for Ukrainians health, study for UN finds

An elderly woman wearing a face mask to protect against the coronavirus disease walks on the centre of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev on a hot summer day on July 31, 2020.

Infodemic’ of COVID-19 disinformation bad for Ukraine’s health, study for UN finds

The study identified over 250,000 messages with disinformation narratives related to COVID-19 in Ukrainian online media, forums, blogs, messengers and social networks.

It found that false narratives decreased people’s willingness to comply with public health guidelines regarding masks, maintaining social distancing, etc. and make them less likely to recommend vaccination to vulnerable people in their social circle.

Moreover, an uncontrolled infodemic had the potential to significantly increase the morbidity and mortality of the COVID-19 disease, the study concluded.

The research targeted to find how the infodemic accumulated on social media, especially when there is a low level of public trust in state institutions.

It found that by combining the efforts of govern- ment, the media, influencers, and non-state actors, the spread of reliable information can be promoted, and the danger of disinformation about COVID-19 countered.

In combination with the social media monitoring, the study also examined how Ukrainians in a survey of the public’s views of the pandemic. Among the survey’s participants, 59 per cent of Ukrainians believe their chances of contracting the need for climate change.

Global emissions have returned to pre-pandemic levels and the lockdowns and the relaxing of the restrictions have contributed to a recovery in economic activity.

However, the return to pre-pandemic levels does not mean a return to business as usual, as the world is still facing a global economic recession and the threat of another wave of the pandemic.

Global emissions in 2020 were 1 per cent higher than in 2019, with the exception of coal emissions, which were 6 per cent lower.

In the same period, the growth in emissions of other greenhouse gases, such as methane and nitrous oxide, was negligible.

The International Energy Agency said Tuesday that energy-related emissions were 2 per cent higher in December 2020 than in the same month of the previous year, as economic recovery and a lack of clean-energy policies, the IEA said in a report.

Energy-related emissions of other countries are now seeing emissions climbing above pre-Covid crisis levels, the report found. In India, they rose above 2010 levels from September as economic activity increased and Covid restrictions relaxed.

The released road transport from Britain to Malaysia drove a recovery in oil demand, while increases in gas demand meant the end of 2019 pushed emissions above 2010 levels in the final quarter.

US emissions fell by 16 per cent in 2020, but by December were approaching 2019 levels.

As China’s economic recovery begins, the world is looking to China to lead the way.

China accounts for more than a quarter of global CO2 output – it was the only major economy to grow in 2020.

China’s achievements in reducing emissions have been significant, and the country has set ambitious targets for reducing its emissions by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2060.

However, the country has also been facing challenges in meeting these targets, and the government has been under pressure to do more.

The IEA report suggests that China could do more to reduce its emissions by focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The report also highlights the need for international cooperation to address climate change, and the importance of countries setting ambitious emissions targets.

The report calls for a reduction in emissions of 45 per cent by 2030, compared to 2010 levels, and a reduction of 70 per cent by 2050.

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Most government employees have spent their time in employment until they reach the retirement age of 60. They also have different expressions like pride, happiness, and joy while serving the country and people’s responsibilities and promoting their respective fields. They might face their ups and downs as well.

**Social status of government staff**

The government staff have unforgettable happenings throughout their lives, like their efforts in their working fields and other challenges to change their lives step by step. They are such a force for achievements. They are also their social status. If I say from my political point of view, the staff remain normal no matter how the governance system changes. That is due to the fact that the civil servants are not associated with the political parties.

Suppose they are a member associated with party politics. In that case, they might face some actions like they have to sacrifice their duties or are retired or suspended from their duties. I also heard such cases in the 1988 uprising. Now, Myanmar has a change in political culture. Those who do not accept the changes stage a strike. Now, the protest has been occurring for more than four weeks. Some demonstrators protest in line with the disciplines, but some without them.

All you have noticed today’s protest is different from the old ones. Some of the political activists from local and foreign instruct the strategies to destroy the government’s mechanism and community peace and tranquillity online. They use the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), which urges the staff not to go to their work. And another is the “Than Bone Tee” (hanging tin materials for noise barrage) campaign. Therefore, those who want democracy can think about whether such activities conform to democratic norms.

Democracy also means freedom of expression. Some government servants join the protests with their own desires or feelings, and we can understand their activities. However, it can be supposed that they are involved in politics. We do not want to blame the freedom of a person. But there are only a few numbers of government staff who have taken to the street to protest. Some government staff do not participate in the protests, and some keep doing their work as usual.

But the slang “Don’t go office” is such a threat or force for the government staff who serve public services, and they should not do such things.

Urging healthcare workers not to do their duties is such a sorrowful manner. All walks of life, especially families with ordinary incomes and the grassroots, only rely on public hospitals.

**Healthcare services**

Committing incitement intentionally to the healthcare workers makes more hardships for the poor people. Some of the staff protesting on the streets are doing so due to their emotions. Most of them are young. Some of them do so as they could not help denying and, they just follow others. It affects the old, young and well-experienced government staff. The young government employees commit incitement or use force or threaten the senior staff are sorrowful manners.

Civil services are the organizations to serve and fulfill the needs of the people. Some organizations serve people’s needs daily no matter what the country faces different situations, for examples, hospitals, fire brigade, security and news agencies. If these operations fail, the people are the first ones to suffer. Therefore, although the government staff take part in the protest, it is needed not to affect people’s interests.

Currently, some unscrupulous persons are committing negative manners making the government servants dare not enter their worksites, not to open the industries. It can be said these cases occur due to the destructive political elements rather than the wishes of government staff. These doings become crimes, according to the Civil Service Personnel Law and Rules.

According to the democratic system, everybody has rights -- the freedom of expression and freedom of speech. But, they should not affect others. One must allow others for argument freely and must not prevent or break the rights of others. That is the principle of “Agree to disagreement.” However, some people violate the law by committing incitement online or riots to the government staff and those who want to stay peacefully. They can protest in line with the disciplines according to the democratic system. But if they violate the disciplines, democracy can abolish.

We should appreciate the efforts of government servants serving their duties for the people despite the incitements, riots, pressures and difficulties during this period. Those far away from their workplace are also requested to return to their duties in the interests of the country and people, without prioritizing their personal feelings.
Respect and abide by the rules and professional ethics

By Ko Tun Khin

The civil service personnel have to be respectful and loyal to the State and follow the State Constitution and existing laws. They have to work in the interest of the State and its citizens. They have to maintain the State-owned assets and funds and not to misuse or abuse them. They have to perform the duty and responsibilities assigned completely. They have to abide by the rules and regulations of the staff as well as the workplace regulations, orders and instructions of the respective departments. They have to be free from party politics. They have to attend the training courses conducted by the Civil Service Board. They have to avoid manners lack of decency and to avoid abusing

Civil service personnel assigned to a civil service organization of the State are the people connecting the government to the public.

Civil service personnel assigned to a civil service organization of the State are the people connecting the government to the public. In implementing the government’s duties and responsibilities, it is needed to cooperate with loyalty dutifully and appropriately with the system.

For a civil servant, there are codes of ethics and rules to follow, and to improve existing services for the public, to be the people-centred and ethical civil service personnel who serve the people, to support the development of the State are the points each and every civil servant should be aware of.

The civil service personnel have to be respectful and loyal to the State and follow the State Constitution and existing laws. They have to work in the interest of the State and its citizens. They have to maintain the State-owned assets and funds and not to misuse or abuse them. They have to perform the duty and responsibilities assigned completely. They have to abide by the rules and regulations of the staff as well as the workplace regulations, orders and instructions of the respective departments. They have to be free from party politics. They have to attend the training courses conducted by the Civil Service Board. They have to avoid manners lack of decency and to avoid abusing

Therefore, the civil service personnel, the crucial parts of the State, must perform the duty to function the State’s machinery by following the civil service laws, rules, and regulations to develop the country.

The civil service personnel have to be respectful and loyal to the State and follow the State Constitution and existing laws. They have to work in the interest of the State and its citizens. They have to maintain the State-owned assets and funds and not to misuse or abuse them.

Let me conclude this article with the urge to participate, as the power of civil service personnel, to the union of our nation from our workplaces and environment since the development of the State is directly proportional to the ethical and efficient public servants as well as there is no difference between the State and the civil service personnel.

Translated.
On 2 March, the express vessels operated the Sittway-Rathedaung-Buthidaung route beginning from 7 am with 13 passengers. PHOTO: HLA KYAW (IPRD)

Malika express vessels resume Sittway-Rathedaung-Buthidaung route

MALIKA Express vessels suspended beginning from 22 August 2020 due to the pandemic resumed Sittway-Rathedaung-Buthidaung route regularly starting from March.

On 2 March, the express vessels operated the Sittway-Rathedaung-Buthidaung route beginning from 7 am with 13 passengers. The ships reached the jetties in Buthaung Township at noon. On 3 March, the vessels run the same course on the same schedules with 45 passengers. The Township Health Department conducted medical examinations on the passengers as per the COVID-19 guidelines.

The express vessels operating on Buthidaung-Rathedaung-Sittway routes were suspended on account of COVID-19. Now, the ships are running, as usual, effective 2 March.

—Hla Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM

Fewer passengers cause hardship to fruit growers in Chin State

DURING the pandemic period, suspension of passenger buses causes hardship to the growers of oranges and other fruits in Chin State. The profitability in selling their products depends much upon the number of passengers.

“The people from Sozan village in Tiddim township are growing oranges and other fruits on a manageable scale. The fruits sold well to the tourists last year. However, the local growers are now facing difficulty this year. Despite abundant yield in this season, there were fewer tourists during the pandemic period,” said Chin Mountain oranges and other crops’ growers.

“Last year, the roads were closed in Kale and Tiddim town because of COVID-19 starting from the end of March. Till now, the passenger buses are suspended. So, only one or two trucks loaded with cargo are running daily. The oranges are not selling well like in previous months. The regular customers are also demanding less number of oranges,” said U Paung Chan Mon, a local farmer from Sozan village on Kale-Tiddim Road.

He added that last year growers sold a 10-piece bag of oranges for K3,000 and earned around K70,000 daily. Now, one bag of oranges is sold for K1,500 in the COVID-19 period, and it is hard to make K10,000 per day. The seasonal fruits from Sozan and other villages are sold mainly to the tourists and sent to Kale and Tamu towns.

Last year, the oranges were sold to the tourists visiting the heart-shaped Reed Lake on the India-Myanmar border and the Chin ethnic visitors. — Chindwin/ARNLM

Fresh, ripe tamarind sells at regular price in harvest season

ACCORDING to the tamarind growers, the local people are selling the fresh, ripe tamarind at regular price in the harvest season in Mese township in Kayah State.

The tamarind trees grow mostly in tropical regions. They can be harvested only once a year in summer. Myanmar people use tamarind in their daily cuisines besides using them in producing traditional medicines. The tamarind is fully grown in March, and it earns the family an extra income.

“Last year, the tamarind with seeds was sold for K700 per kilo to Thailand. Currently, the bilateral trade routes are closed temporarily, and the tamarinds are sent only to Loikaw town. The tamarinds with seeds are sold for K500 per viss, while the tamarinds without seeds are sold for K1,000 per viss. But in this harvest season, the tamarinds are sold only at the regular price,” said a tamarind seller.

Some tamarinds produced in the regions are thick in the skin with small seeds, while some are thin in the skin with larger grains. Myanmar tamarinds are exported regularly to Bangladesh and India every year. Tamarind trees are mostly found in the central regions of Myanmar — Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway. Tamarind is also a lucrative export item. — Wit Yee (IPRD)/GNLM

Last year growers sold a 10-piece bag of oranges for K3,000 and earned around K70,000 daily. Now, one bag of oranges is sold for K1,500 in the COVID-19 period, and it is hard to make K10,000 per day.

— U Paung Chan Mon

PHOTO: HLA KYAW (IPRD)
Central Bank of Myanmar holds coordination meeting

The Central Bank of Myanmar held the coordination meeting with Yangon Branch and Mandalay Branch yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyen, Vice-Governors U Win Thaw and Daw Than Than Swe, Directors-General and Deputy Director-General.

At the meeting, the Governor said the instructions of the Chairman of the State Administration Council are distributed to the relevant departments. He said it is important to act in good faith within the rules to ensure that the work of all departments is not interrupted while the State is being normalized and to successfully implement the State policies.

He added it is important for the staff to be free from party politics and to cooperate with the relevant departments.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has been making efforts to stabilize the financial system and strengthen efficient and effective payment and clearing systems as the development of a secure and efficient national payment system plays an important role in Myanmar’s financial and economic system.

The National Payment System Strategy (2020-2025) has been enacted to support the development of payment systems and the payment system law has been drafted. The Inter-Bank Settlement System (CBM-NET) System Second Phase and Automated Clearing System (ACH) have been implemented to facilitate payments and clearing systems for large-scale payments, allowing digital payment enhancement services.

The Governor said Myanmar is cooperating with the ASEAN member countries for the development of payment systems and at present, the Central Bank of Myanmar has instructed banks to take temporary action to improve the cash management of banks and non-bank financial institutions.

The Vice-Governors and officials also discussed matters related to their responsibilities.—MNA
MOSCOW hit back at Western countries Wednesday for sanctioning senior Russian officials over the poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, warning its foes “not to play with fire”.

The Kremlin accused Washington and Brussels of interference after the US and the EU introduced fresh penalties Tuesday over Navalny, who was jailed last month when he returned from Germany where he was recovering from exposure to a nerve agent.

The sanctions further erode ties between Moscow and the West since Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014.

“We believe such measures are absolutely unacceptable because they significantly damage already bad relations” with Washington and Brussel, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Wednesday.

Migrants protest at US-Mexico crossing, pleading for asylum

PHOTO: AFP

At least 10 rockets slammed into a military base in western Iraq hosting US-led coalition troops on Wednesday, security sources said, leaving one civilian contractor dead.

The attack on the sprawling Ain al-Assad base in Iraq’s western desert comes after several weeks of escalating US-Iran tensions on Iraqi soil.

Two rockets were fired at the Ain al-Assad base about 100 kilometers west of Baghdad and no American or coalition casualties were reported.

PHOTO: AFP

Australia’s attorney general denies rape allegation

AUSTRALIA’S attorney general ousted himself as the unnamed cabinet minister accused of raping a 16-year-old girl, denying the decades-old allegation Wednesday and seeking to draw a line under a crisis consuming the country’s conservative government.

The government, led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, has been reeling from the allegations brought by Marika Aubrey, a 16-year-old student at a prestigious private school.

PHOTO: Australian Broadcasting Corporation

One dead in rocket attack on Iraq base

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Syria camp for IS relatives records 31 murders this year

AT least 31 killings have rocked a camp holding Islamic State group relatives in Syria since early January, a Kurdish official said Wednesday, with aid groups warning of a “nightmare”.

It was the latest evidence of deteriorating security at Al-Hol camp in the Kurdish-run north-east, where Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) had to temporarily suspend operations this week after the killing of one of its team members.

“Since the start of 2021, 31 people have been killed – six of whom were murdered with a sharp object, while the rest were shot dead,” said camp official Jaber Sheikh Mustafa.

The toll has more than doubled since February 8 when it stood at 14, according to Kurdish authorities.

“We believe that IS sleeper cells are behind these murders” that especially target Iraqi residents of the camp, Mustafa told AFP. But a humanitarian source said recently that tribal score-settling between residents could also be to blame for some murders.

Al-Hol holds almost 62,000 people, mostly women and children, including Syrians, Iraqis and thousands from Europe and Asia accused of family ties with IS fighters.

PHOTO: AFP

Children and their mothers make up the great majority of the nearly 62,000 suspected relatives of Islamic State group fighters interned at Syria’s Al-Hol camp, where authorities say at least 31 people have been murdered since early January.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia warns West after ‘unacceptable’ sanctions

The sanctions further erode ties between Moscow and the West since Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014.

“We believe the new sanctions amounted to ‘interference’ in Russia’s domestic affairs and vowed to take action in response, without specifying measures.

His comments echoed foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova who warned the West earlier “not to play with fire” and said Russia would respond according to “the principle of reciprocity”.

“We will continue to systematically and resolutely defend our national interests and rebuff aggression,” she said in a statement published late Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

The sanctions further erode ties between Moscow and the West since Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014.
New law allows first UK minister to take maternity leave

THE British government’s most senior legal adviser on Tuesday became the first Cabinet minister to go on maternity leave, following a change in the law.

The Attorney General for England and Wales, Suella Braverman, said she was “excited about making a little bit of history” to become the first “minister on leave”, calling it “a landmark moment for the UK government”.

Braverman will be replaced during her absence by one of her deputies, solicitor general Michael Ellis. Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s office announced:

“The Prime Minister gives the Attorney General his very best wishes for her maternity leave and looks forward to welcoming her back in the autumn.”

Downing Street said in a statement.

Macron admits France murdered Algerian independence figure

President Emmanuel Macron has admitted for the first time that French soldiers murdered a top Algerian independence figure then covered up his death in the latest acknowledgement by Paris of its colonial-era crimes.

Macron met four of the grandchildren of Ali Boumedjlal and admitted “in the name of France” that the lawyer had been detained, tortured and killed in Algiers on March 23, 1987, his office said Tuesday.

French authorities had previously claimed that he had committed suicide while in detention, a lie that his widow and other family members had campaigned for years to see overturned.

“Looking our history in the face, acknowledging the truth, will not enable us to heal all of the still open wounds, but it will help to create a path for the future,” the statement from Macron’s office said. As the first French president to be born in the post-colonial era, Macron has made several unprecedented steps to face up to France’s brutal fight to retain control of its North African colony, which won independence in 1962.

In 2018, he admitted that France had created a “system” that facilitated torture during the war and acknowledged that French mathematician Maurice Audin, a Communist pro-independence activist, was also murdered in Algiers. In July last year, he tasked French historian Benjamin Stora with assessing how France has dealt with its colonial legacy. —AFP

Explosive goes off near COVID-19 test centre in Netherlands

An explosion occurred Wednesday near a COVID-19 test centre in the Netherlands, shattering windows but causing no apparent injuries, police said.

Near the local health service’s testing centre in Bovenkarspel, an explosive went off at 6:35 am. Police are investigating. The perimeter has been sealed off, the police said in a statement.

A bomb squad was sent to determine whether any explosive material remained at the scene, public television network NOS reported.

In January a COVID test centre in the Netherlands introduced as part of measures intended to rein in the virus.

The Netherlands suffered several nights of rioting, the most violent the country has seen in decades. —AFP

Italy eyes more school closures as UK variant runs riot

New data from the national ISS health institute revealed that 54% of coronavirus cases in Italy were now of the so-called British variant, which is considered more contagious.

“The British variant has a particular ability to penetrate the younger generation,” Health Minister Roberto Speranza told a press conference.

“This has led us to make a choice, which is that school of all levels in red zones will be distance learning.”

Under the latest classification that came into force Monday, only two of Italy’s 20 regions were red: Basilicata and Molise in the south. Lombardy, which comprises the city of Milan, Marche and Piedmont are orange.

When he took over last month, new Prime Minister Mario Draghi promised to use “all means” to deal with the pandemic which has claimed almost 100,000 lives in Italy and devastated the economy. —AFP

Italy’s new government ordered more school closures Tuesday after data showed the majority of coronavirus cases to be of the more contagious British variant.

All schools in the highest risk regions will switch to distance learning under new rules to come into effect from Saturday, whereas previously only secondary schools in so-called red zones were shuttered. PHOTO: AFP
**SPORT**

**SUFC face strong teams in ACL group stages**

SHAN United FC, back-to-back Champions of the Myanmar National League 2020 season, is facing tough teams in the Preliminary Stage of the 2021 Asian Champions League (ACL 2021), which is being organized by Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

In the Preliminary Stage, Shan United will play an away match against Australian Melbourne City FC on 7 April. Next, in the Play-Off Stage, Shan United will face Japanese club Cerezo Osaka FC on 14 April.

Only those who win both matches will advance to the ACL 2021 Group Stage.

Reaching the group stage, Shan United will face Chinese club Shandong Luneng FC, Thai club Port FC, and Hong Kong club KITCHEE SC in Group J of the tournament. The ACL 2021 group stage matches will be held from 21 April to 7 May, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic condition, all Asian Champions League (ACL) and AFC Cup group matches will be played in a single country (centralized venues) designated by the country or the representing club or Asian Football Confederation.

Due to the lack of a home-away system, the ACL group stage is limited to the Double Round-robin system and AFC authorities are arranging the tournament in a single round-robin system. Fans will be notified when the venue and country are announced by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), according to the football officials. —GNLM

**Colombia to allow 30% attendance of Copa America**

The Copa America due to kick off in June 2020 in Argentina and Colombia was postponed by a year to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, 149,000 people have been closed to the public because of the coronavirus pandemic.

BOGOTA — Colombia said Wednesday it would open its stadiums to the public for the 2021 Copa America it will co-host with Argentina, with a 30-per-cent maximum attendance due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“A Copa America without an audience would make no sense,” Sports Minister Ernesto Lucena told Caracol Radio.

“We are already working on the sanitary protocol to have a capacity of about 30 per cent,” he added. That number may be upped if Colombia’s vaccination campaign goes according to plan, and the number of coronavirus cases drops, said the minister.

To date, 149,000 people have received a shot out of 35 million the country wants to vaccinate in 2021. The 47th edition of the Americas Cup, which was postponed last year due to the pandemic, will be played from June 11 to July 10, the first time it will be hosted by two countries.

Colombia’s sports stadiums have been closed to the public since March last year. —AFP

**Pele gets COVID-19 vaccine, hails ‘unforgettable’ day**

SAO Paulo -- Brazilian football great Pele, 80, received a Covid-19 vaccine Tuesday, a moment he described as “unforgettable” while urging people not to let down their guard against the deadly virus.

“Today was an unforgettable day. I received the vaccine!” the man considered one of the greatest footballers of all time wrote on his Instagram account.

The message included a photo of Pele wearing a mask and giving a thumbs-up while he received his shot.

“The pandemic is not over. We must remain disciplined to save lives because many people have not yet been vaccinated,” he wrote, and advocated mask-wearing, social distancing and hand-washing as virus protection.

“This (the pandemic) will pass if we think of each other and help each other,” he said.

Pele’s press team did not respond to questions about which vaccine he received, and whether it was the first or second dose.

The only player to win three World Cups — in Sweden in 1958, Chile in 1962 and Mexico in 1970 — Pele has self-isolated at his house in Sao Paulo state since the start of the health crisis which has left more than 255,000 people dead in Brazil, where vaccination has been slow to start. —AFP

**Arsenal boss Arteta dismisses Barcelona speculation**

LONDON -- Mikel Arteta says he is fully focused on doing “much better” at Arsenal after he was linked with the Barcelona manager’s job.

Reports surfaced in Spain this week claiming presidential candidate Joan Laporta was eyeing a move for Gunners boss Arteta if he won the race to return to Barca.

It was during his previous spell in the role that Laporta appointed Pep Guardiola as the head coach and ushered in an era of sustained success.

Arteta went on to work under Guardiola at Manchester City and took over as Arsenal manager in December 2019.

Having come through the famed La Masia academy at Barca, Arteta is now said to be on a managerial shortlist for Laporta, should he be elected on March 7, although sources close to the campaign have reportedly distanced themselves from a move for the 38-year-old. —AFP

**PHOTO: AFC**

PHOTO: AFC

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP