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Tatmadaw will strive for a genuine, disciplined and concrete democracy: Senior General



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officers, other ranks and families of Meiktila Station yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon separately met officers, other ranks and families of Meiktila Station.

Present at the meeting together with the Senior General were members of the Council General Maung Maung Kyaw, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Oo and officers, other ranks and families of Meiktila Station.

In his speech, the Senior General said officials at all levels failed to address the seriously flawed voter list of the 2020 election that may be followed by

election frauds, and instead, there were even attempts to convene the third Hluttaw and to take over the respective branches of State power by force. Hence, the Tatmadaw had to declare the state of emergency and temporarily shoulder the duties of the State transferred to it by the acting president. In every place he visited during the post-election period, the Senior General spoke of the need to choose the persons who can serve the interest of the country and people, who have goodwill, who have the legal knowledge and who are abiding by the law, and who will serve the regional interest to ensure a fair democratic election. There appeared the “No Vote” campaign, and if a person failed to vote, he would lose his right. So, all eligible voters were urged to cast votes and did the right thing.

The person one voted would elect the leaders of the State on his behalf, in the respective Hluttaws. So, the elected person must be a true representative of the people. During the election, Tatmadaw members ardently cast votes in accord with the rules and under the systematic programmes arranged by the Tatmadaw.

Election is the essence of democracy. In Myanmar, 77 per cent of eligible voters went to the polls in the 2010 election and nearly 70 per cent in the 2015 election. The government that took office in 2010 achieved success to a certain extent but faced various difficulties. A government came to power after the 2015 election, and lots of criticisms emerged during its five-year term. Criticisms were levelled against the needs in various sectors such as political, economic and social sec-

The country's democracy is just nascent. Therefore, some powerful countries and organizations attempted to import democracy they wanted under various titles and in various styles.

tors. There were also illegal acts. As the people got disheartened by the government's actions, they also became reluctant to go to the polls when the next election was due. At that time, ‘no vote’ campaigns could be seen. There was only about 14 per cent of voters when the voting took place for the members of the Yangon

City Development Committee in 2019.

When the 2020 election was held, 71 per cent of the eligible voters went to the polls, although they had to vote in accord with the social distancing rules due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Voter lists were announced many times with

SEE PAGE-3

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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

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.

MoTC Union Minister inspects affiliated departments



Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San is providing foodstuffs to the staff yesterday.

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspected Myanma Port Authority, Inland Water Transport, Department of Marine Administration, Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River System, Sule Jetty, Asia World Jetty and Myanmar Industrial Jetty on 2 April.

In his inspection, the Union Minister met and comforted the departmental officials and provided food aids for the staff.

Then, the Union Minister said about the release of five future programmes of the State Administration Council after the declaration of the state of emergency under the 2008 Constitution to create a genuine and disciplined democratic system while solving the voting frauds. The unscrupulous persons intentionally staged riots and conducted arson attacks, including murders, to affect the government’s governance system. Although some civil service personnel join the CDM, they should follow the six disciplines of government employees. They should be the ones free from party politics in serving the duties. Those who lead the CDM will face actions, and the officials will also take action against them as per the civil service personnel law.

Moreover, the Union Minister stressed the need to urge the government employees to return to their duties by cooperating with the departments concerned not to face delays in the ministry’s operations.

Then, the Union Minister and party visited Sule, Myanmar Industrial and Asia World Jetties, and the respective jetties’ officials presented their work plans.—MNA

18 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 April, total figure rises to 142,497

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,497** after **18 new cases** were reported on 3 April 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **131,813** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

The council temporarily takes responsibilities to ensure genuine democracy and disciplined and firm democracy

THE Tatmadaw is carrying out political, social and economic development by assuming State responsibilities in accord with Sections 417 and 418 of the Constitution (2008) as of 1 February 2021 and forming the State Administration Council in line with Section 419. The council temporarily takes responsibilities to ensure genuine democracy and disciplined and firm democracy. Tatmadaw members need to conscientiously try hard for their works in individuals and must strive for uplifting the prestige of the Tatmadaw, the State and the nationality while improving their individuals and military units.

(Excerpt from the speech to officers, other ranks and their families in Myeik, Kyunsu and Cocogyun stations made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 21 March 2021)

Tatmadaw will strive for a genuine, disciplined and concrete democracy: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1
inaccuracies. A lot of differences were found when those voter lists were scrutinized, and the findings were announced as well. There were irregularities in over 10 million votes nationwide including over 29,000 votes in Meiktila Township. Efforts were made to address the issue of incorrect voter lists in accord with democratic norms. But it didn't work out and they insistently tried to call the third parliament and form a government. Accordingly, a state of emergency was declared on 1 February 2021 as per the provision of the Constitution (2008). The Tatmadaw formed the State Administration Council. The Tatmadaw will strive to ensure genuine, firm and disciplined democracy.

Various countries are exercising democracy. There are different patterns of ruling and election. They usually practise democracy suitable to their own cultures, characters, faiths and existing conditions. The Tatmadaw shaped multiparty democracy in accord with the 2008 Constitution as the people wished. The country's democracy is just nascent. Therefore, some powerful countries and organizations attempted to import democracy they wanted under various titles and in various styles.

Peace and stability prevailed in one week after the Tatmadaw's takeover of the State duties. But since the start of the second week, protests emerged. They then turned into riots, violence and anarchy. After violating the laws, the protesters came to burn administrative buildings, police stations, judicial buildings, property of the people willing to live in peace, and factories and carried out lootings. Later, the rioters began to hold weapons and com-



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officers, other ranks and families of Meiktila Station yesterday.

mit violent means. By exercising utmost restraints, security forces are handling the protests in accord with step-step procedures. In comparison with the incidents in the international community, measures being taken here are far less severe. Currently, SAC is implementing the five future programmes and checking the voter list as the first priority. It is also announcing the results of the inspections and will issue the grand totals after finishing the entire job. Covid-19 pandemic prevention undertak-

ings and the remedial measures will be taken to recover the economy hit by the virus. The peace process will be seriously carried out in accord with the accords of the NCA to the possible degree. After the task has been implemented in accord with the provisions of the emergency period, a free and fair election will be held in accord with the 2008 Constitution, and State power will be handed over to the winning party in accord with the democratic norms. Moreover, nine objectives have been implemented for fur-

ther progress of the political, economic and social sectors.

The Tatmadaw is taking the multiparty democracy path firmly. The newly formed Union Election Commission is scrutinizing the details of voter's lists for respective townships and has discovered more suspicious voter's lists than the Tatmadaw had found. Emphasis will be placed on the correctness of the most fundamental household lists and national registration cards in the future free and fair elections.

The main task of the Tatmadaw is national defence, and the Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for defending the nation against foreign threats, but it has had to address the internal insurgency in the successive eras until now. Efforts must always be exerted to make the Tatmadaw into highly capable armed forces with high combat skills and for the success of unit-owned and manageable agriculture and livestock breeding farms to save unnecessary expenses for foodstuffs.

As educated human resource-

es that are well-versed in knowledge and science are essential for the development of a country, the fundamental requirement is the acquisition of knowledge in classrooms. As schools have been closed for about a year, which has hurt the interest of the State, parents and students themselves, efforts are being exerted to reopen schools. Under favourable circumstances, permissions to organize Thingyan Festival in accordance with appropriate restrictions will be granted.

As schools have been closed due to the outbreak of COVID-19, children should be encouraged to learn wisdom and knowledge from books and journals on knowledge and traditional culture while parents themselves are required to read books. As the Tatmadaw is a part of the people and the country which is born of the people, it will always serve the interest of the people and exert efforts to be armed forces that can be relied upon by the people and the country.

Will the capability of a team be high only when individual members of it are capable. It is necessary for all to fulfil ones' duties honestly and responsibly. As the main task of the Tatmadaw is national defence, it is important for all to improve the image of the Tatmadaw, the country and the people by exerting efforts to nurture better individuals and better units based on fine individual conscientiousness.

After the meetings, the Senior General presented foodstuffs and household products manufactured by factories owned by the Tatmadaw to responsible officers.

Then, the Senior General and party cordially greeted officers, other ranks and families from respective stations.—MNA

As educated human resources that are well-versed in knowledge and science are essential for the development of a country, the fundamental requirement is the acquisition of knowledge in classrooms.

Announcement of Union Election Commission

1 April 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Budalin Township of Sagaing Region and Myittha Township of Mandalay Region.
2. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	100 polling stations in Budalin Township of Sagaing Region	118,336	76,240	8,229	876	12,730
2	72 polling stations in Myittha Township of Mandalay Region.	158,493	155,058	15,618	1,246	17,610

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Budalin Township of Sagaing Region and Myittha Township of Mandalay Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrator according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.
4. According to the inspection, a total of 300 polling stations in these two townships took out 316,695 ballots and used 218,034 ballots. It left 90,249 ballots instead of 98,661 ballots. The difference was 9,274, and it found 862 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Budalin	100	135,372	84,589	50,783	45,519	5,984	720
2	Myittha	200	181,323	133,445	47,878	44,730	3,290	142
	Total	300	316,695	218,034	98,661	90,249	9,274	862

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Budalin Township

5. A total of 100 polling stations in 54 village-tracts in 3 Wards of Budalin Township of Sagaing Region took out 135,372 ballots and used 84,589 ballots. It left 45,519 ballots instead of 50,783 ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village-tract ballots	125,903	84,198	41,705	3,6441	5,984	720
2	Township advance ballots	391	391				
3	Township remaining ballots	9,078		9,078	9,078		
Township Total		135,372	84,589	50,783	45,519	5,984	720

6. 5,984 ballots were missing and it found 720 extra ballots at 100 polling stations in 54 village-tracts in 3 Wards of Budalin Township.

7. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/ Village-Tract	Withdrawal	used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Khone Min Gyi Ward	1,550	1,075	475	325	150	
2	Hlwe Te Village-Tract	2,100	1,550	550	544	6	
3	Si Pa Village-Tract	3,450	2,360	1,090	940	150	
4	Moung Htung Village- Tract	4,800	3,582	1,218	1,098	120	
5	Wat Lue Ahi Village- Tract	2,650	1,404	1,246	1,096	150	
6	Ywa Thit Shwe Lat Village-Tract	2,000	1,559	441	91	350	
7	Taung Gone Village-Tract	1,100	781	319	320		1
8	Se Wa Village-Tract	1,300	969	331	331		
9	Gwe Pin Kyin Village-Tract	2,300	1,817	483	532		49
10	Tha Khwat Ta Ne Village-Tract	2,500	1,560	940	340	600	
11	Ku Taw Village-Tract	2,800	1,925	875	825	50	
12	Kyaung Village-Tract	1,050	669	381	81	300	
13	Ngar Yay Win Village-Tract	950	585	365	365		
14	Gatoe Village-Tract	1,600	1,082	518	518		
15	Mauk Tet Village-Tract	4,450	2,950	1,500	1,350	150	
16	Chindwin Village-Tract	1,900	1,230	670	720		50
17	Wet Poke Village-Tract	1,750	990	760	760		
18	Sin Yan Village-Tract	650	389	261	261		
19	Ng Pu Yin Village-Tract	4,200	3,056	1,144	944	200	
20	Ye Htwet Village-Tract	1,750	1,376	374	624		250
21	Se Gyi Village-Tract	1,750	994	756	826		70
22	Oak Pho Village-Tract	4,450	2,787	1,663	1,563	100	

23	Kin San Village-Tract	1,850	1,194	656	956		300
24	Dan Taine Village-Tract	1,350	928	422	421	1	
25	Ywa Thit Village-Tract	3,650	2,113	1,537	1,237	300	
26	Hnaw Pin Village-Tract	3,500	1,991	1,509	1,509		
27	Myawadi Village-Tract	1,850	1,265	585	535	50	
28	Maha Bandola Village- Tract	1,650	1,188	462	462		
29	Kyee Pin Chaung Village-Tract	1,200	750	450	300	150	
30	Sone Kone Village-Tract	1,900	1,285	615	615		
31	Kan Thit Village-Tract	1,450	944	506	506		
32	Aung Chan Tha Village-Tract	2,650	1,870	780	780		
33	Htnaung Gone Village-Tract	1,750	1,243	507	506	1	
34	Myo Paw Village-Tract	1,550	425	1,125	425	700	
35	Taw Way Village-Tract	1,450	996	454	454		
36	Magyee Gone Village-Tract	1,100	696	404	404		
37	Magway Pyin Village-Tract	650	471	179	175	4	
38	Kone Tha Village-Tract	2,550	1,660	890	590	300	
39	Nay Pu Kone Village-Tract	1,900	1,220	680	680		
40	Myo Thit Chaung Village-Tract	2,100	1,297	803	723	80	
41	Thar Phan Village-Tract	4,200	2,862	1,338	886	452	
42	Thapyay Pin Village-Tract	2,400	1,726	674	647	27	
43	Nyaung Kan Village-Tract	5,250	3,690	1,560	1,560		
44	Khoe Chaung Village-Tract	1,950	1,432	518	518		
45	Kwan Ohn Village-Tract	2,300	1,579	721	71	650	
46	Gyo Gone Village-Tract	2,900	1,761	1,139	989	150	
47	Kan Swel Village-Tract	1,550	1,166	384	234	150	
48	Kwan Chan Village-Tract	2,000	1,355	645	451	194	

49	Ze Taw Village-Tract	1,300	911	389	389		
50	Htan Taw Village-Tract	1,800	1,404	396	396		
51	Yone Hlay Kone Village-Tract	3,100	2,187	913	913		
52	Yay Budalin Village-Tract	2,150	1,287	863	863		
53	Lay Myay Village-Tract	2,200	1,540	660	660		
54	Won Bo Village-Tract	2,050	1,396	654	254	400	
55	Thee Pin Aine Village-Tract	3,203	2,120	1,083	1,034	49	

56	Twin Village-Tract	950	635	315	315		
57	Myauk Taw Village-Tract	1,450	921	529	529		
Ward/village-tract ballots		125,903	84,198	41,705	36,441	5,984	720
Township Advance ballots		391	391				
Township Remaining ballots		9,078		9,078	9,078		
Township Total		135,372	84,589	50,783	45,519	5,984	720

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Myittha Township

8. A total of 200 polling stations in 81 village-tracts in 11 Wards of Myittha Township of Mandalay Region took out 181,323 ballots and used 133,445 ballots. It left 44,730 ballots instead of 47,878 ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	SUBJECT	WITHDRAWAL	USED	EXACT REMAINING	REMAINING ON THE GROUND	DIFFERENCE	
						MISSING	EXTRA
1	Ward/Village-tract ballots	170,900	133,056	37,844	34,696	3,290	142
2	Township advance ballots	423	389	34	34		
3	Township Remaining ballots	10,000		10,000	10,000		
Total		181,323	133,445	47,878	44,730	3,290	142

9. According to the inspection, 3,290 ballots were missing. It found 142 extra ballots at 200 polling stations in 81 village-tracts in 11 Wards of Myittha Township. They used 389 township advance ballots and saved 10,000 township remaining ballots.

10. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/village-tract	Total Polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact Re- maining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Butar Ward	4	4,650	3,390	1,260	1,165	95	
2	Min Kone Ward	1	1,300	1,000	300	250	50	
3	Shwe Thuhtay Ward	6	4,200	3,031	1,169	1,169		
4	Shan Pwe Ward	2	2,050	1,471	579	579		
5	Myoma North Ward	1	1,000	766	234	234		
6	Myoma East Ward	4	3,650	2,793	857	657	200	
7	Ku Me No (1) Ward	3	4,800	3,422	1,378	1,378		
8	Ku Me No (2) Ward	1	1,250	1,021	229	229		
9	Ku Me No (3) Ward	2	1,400	1,100	300	300		
10	Ku Me No (4) Ward	2	1,450	1,036	414	364	50	
11	Ku Me No (5) Ward	2	850	686	164	164		
12	Pyaw Village-Tract	3	2,650	2,270	380	380		
13	Min Wun Village-Tract	6	4,200	3,450	750	750		
14	Yoe Kan Village-Tract	3	3,000	2,489	511	511		
15	Yit Kan Village-Tract	2	2,400	2,118	282	282		
16	Hin Nyant Kan Vil- lage-Tract	1	450	382	68	68		
17	West Thapyay Tha Village-Tract	1	300	215	85	85		
18	Nwar Shar Yoe Village-Tract	1	1,500	1,301	199	249		50
19	Nyaung Git Village-Tract	2	1,350	1,140	210	210		
20	Tamar Pin Village-Tract	1	950	792	158	158		
21	Wet Htain Village-Tract	2	1,050	829	221	221		
22	Thit Tet Gone Village-Tract	3	3,800	2,420	1,380	780	600	
23	Pauk Myaing Village-Tract	1	1,650	1,359	291	291		
24	Dar Yel Kaung Village-Tract	4	3,150	2,455	695	695		
25	Yan Aye Village-Tract	1	600	516	84	84		
26	Hmaine Hin Village-Tract	1	450	358	92	92		
27	Ponar Village-Tract	1	750	555	195	195		
28	Kyauk Sauk Village-Tract	2	1,600	1,242	358	358		
29	Tho Tan Village-Tract	2	2,200	1,715	485	485		
30	Ywa Mone Gyi Village Tract	1	1,350	1,029	321	321		

31	Ma Shet Village-Tract	1	750	612	138	138		
32	Kywe Swel Village-Tract	2	1,700	1,410	290	290		
33	Kyun Hla Village-Tract	1	600	497	103	103		
34	Ka The Gone Village-Tract	3	3,700	2,898	802	802		
35	Yway Village-Tract	1	200	121	79	79		
36	Ywa Thit Village-Tract	2	1,850	1,337	513	263	250	
37	Chin Village-Tract	1	1,000	759	241	241		
38	Yay Won Village-Tract	2	1,500	1,218	282	332		50
39	Ywa Shae Village-Tract	1	1,450	1,093	357	357		
40	Khantee Gyi Village-Tract	1	1,250	1,091	159	159		
41	Thi Lin Village-Tract	2	1,500	637	863	361	502	
42	Aine Yin Village-Tract	1	950	821	129	129		
43	Kin Sein Zay Village-Tract	1	1,200	915	285	284	1	
44	Laung Taw Oo Village-Tract	1	350	333	17	17		
45	Hlwe Pauk Village-Tract	2	1,200	916	284	284		
46	Thi Khaung Village-Tract	3	1,700	1,398	302	292	10	
47	Montawlay Village-Tract	2	1,750	1,432	318	308	10	
48	Montawgyi Village-Tract	2	1,700	1,313	387	337	50	
49	Min Le Village-Tract	2	1,450	1,074	376	326	50	
50	Tay Soe Village-Tract	1	1,250	952	298	298		
51	Bon Kwin Village-Tract	2	1,800	1,415	385	385		
52	East Thapyay Tha Village-Tract	2	1,800	1347	453	403	50	
53	Ywa Khaing Gyi Village-Tract	3	3,550	2,916	634	634		
54	Lon Kyaw Village-Tract	3	3,100	2,335	765	765		
55	Ma The Village-Tract	3	2,950	2,429	521	521		
56	Shwe Lay Village-Tract	3	2,400	1,930	470	470		
57	Hne We Village-Tract	1	400	303	97	97		
58	Kokko Kone Village-Tract	1	200	138	62	62		
59	Let Pan Seik Village-Tract	2	1,300	1,098	202	200	2	

FROM PAGE-5

Announcement of Union Election Commission

1 April 2021

60	Shwe Paw Kyun Village-Tract	1	950	758	192	192		
61	Kyun Taw Village-Tract	1	650	497	153	153		
62	Nwar Kue Lay Village-Tract	3	2,100	1,531	569	369	200	
63	Kywe Tat Village-Tract	1	650	442	208	208		
64	Ngar Su Village-Tract	1	1,050	809	241	241		
65	Oak Shit Tan Village-Tract	2	700	557	143	143		
66	Talai Kone Village-Tract	1	700	503	197	127	70	
67	Kyaung Pan Gone Village-Tract	1	1,250	1,037	213	213		
68	Kone Village-Tract	2	1,450	1,189	261	261		
69	Koko Su Village-Tract	1	1,200	996	204	204		
70	Let Khoke Kone Village-Tract	1	500	374	126	126		
71	Mine Lan Village-Tract	1	250	197	53	53		
72	Kham Taw Village-Tract	4	3,750	2,511	1,239	739	500	
73	Tharlon Village-Tract	2	1,700	1,332	368	368		
74	Thapyay Taung Village-Tract	8	6,750	5,459	1,291	1,241	50	
75	Pwe Lone Kyaw Village-Tract	4	2,950	2,318	632	632		
76	Myaing Kone Village-Tract	3	2,150	1,643	507	457	50	
77	Hnam Khin Village-Tract	2	2,250	1,703	547	397	150	
78	Mine Lan Village-Tract	4	3,150	2,516	634	634		

79	Kan Swel Village-Tract	7	5,600	4,223	1,377	1,227	150	
80	Khayu Toke Village-Tract	2	2,350	1,798	552	402	150	
81	Ohn Kone Village-Tract	1	550	424	126	126		
82	Kason Village-Tract	3	2250	1828	422	422		
83	Aein Shae Taung Village-Tract	2	1,900	1,516	384	384		
84	Myit Son Gyi Village-Tract	2	1,600	1,230	370	370		
85	Lan Khwa Village-Tract	6	4,100	3,144	956	956		
86	Myin Ywa Gyi Village Tract	1	1,300	1,087	213	213		
87	Dar We Ain Village-Tract	2	1,800	1,375	425	425		
88	Daine Village-Tract	5	4,850	3,929	921	921		
89	Nwar Kue Gyi Village-Tract	1	1,000	860	140	182		42
90	Khin Le Village-Tract	2	1,000	834	166	166		
91	Kye Tine Village-Tract	4	3,100	2,676	424	374	50	
92	Pa Kham Village-Tract	1	800	671	129	129		
Ward/village-tract total		200	170,900	133,056	37,844	34,696	3,290	142
Township Advance ballots			423	389	34	34		
Township Remaining ballots			10,000		10,000	10,000		
Township Total		200	181,323	133,445	47,878	44,730	3,290	142

Union Election Commission

MoC Deputy Minister discusses current challenges with local business persons



The Working Committee's second-day meeting on ensuring the seamless flow of trade and goods and the businessmen in Yangon Region in progress.

THE Working Committee's second-day meeting on ensuring the seamless flow of trade and goods and the businessmen in Yangon Region held to discuss yesterday morning at the UMFCCI building in Yangon. The meeting aimed to address the information needs and challenges facing local businesses and trade associations in industrial zones. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Commerce U

Nyunt Aung, in his capacity as the Chair of the working committee, Member of the Yangon Region Administration Council Col Win Tint, the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and officials, Deputy Chair of the UMFCCI (Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry), officials from the private banks and industries in Yangon Region, representatives and business persons from the foreign ship-

ping lines. The meeting focused on current challenges, difficulties in maritime trade and banking, wage issues, problems related to inspection of export refrigerators and security issues.

Officials from the UMFCCI and its associates presented difficulties in trading, banking, shipping lines, and kerosene import. The Deputy Minister, Col Win Tint and the department officials coordinated the meeting. —MNA

Roadblocks removed in Yangon

THE township administrative members, security forces, and municipal staff collectively removed the roadblocks on Yangon's public roads.

They removed the burnt tires, sandbags, bamboo mattings, poles, bricks,

woodblocks, rubbish, broken bottles, used tires and stones in South Okkalapa, Ahlone, Dagon Myothit (South), Insein, North Okkalapa, Thakayta, Kyimyindine, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (East) townships. — MNA



Municipal staff, township administrative members and security forces seen cleaning roadblocks.

Rice prices remain low due to lack of money in circulation

THE rice and paddy price extends its drop at March-end due to the brokers' lack of money in circulation and lower pricing. The rice is regularly traded in Yangon as urban people keep supply to ensure food security in need.

The rice price was pegged at around K21,000-22,000 per bag in March-end, with a small decrease of K2,500 as against the previous months. Meanwhile, the paddy prices move in the range of K506,000 to 626,000 per 100 baskets, depending on the rice crops' quality. The paddy prices indicated a decrease of K6,000-46,000 per 100-baskets upon different qualities and varieties, as per the domestic rice market.

Only a small number of rice export companies are buying the rice at present owing to the disruption in banking, said U Than Oo, secretary of Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

Since early February, the local private banks have been closed down, causing transaction



Myanmar shipped more than 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign countries between 1 October and 15 January of the current financial year 2020-2021, earning over US\$275 million.

problems. Consequently, the export companies are buying less in the domestic market. The rice exports are currently conducted for the previous contract only.

Additionally, the US dollar is appreciating against the Kyat. However, the farmers are paid lower than the actual market price and suffering losses, he

added.

Next, the informal money transfer system Hundi is available in border trade only. In contrast, it cannot be done in maritime trade.

"In Sino-Myanmar border, exchanging Yuan is quite easy through hundi agent. Similarly, the traders use hundi for ex-

changing Baht on the Myawady border with Thailand. Nevertheless, overseas trade with European and African countries is carried out with a letter of credit through banks. The disruption in banking poses difficulties to the maritime trade", U Than Oo continued.

Bayintnaung rice wholesale

centre, a primary market for rice exports via maritime trade, has been closed down since 11 February.

Additionally, Myanmar traders are shipping rice to China under new permits for 2021.

Myanmar shipped more than 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign countries between 1 October and 15 January of the current financial year 2020-2021, earning over US\$275 million, Myanmar Rice Federation stated.

Weather changes affected irrigation water resource availability in agriculture.

As a result of this, Myanmar set the rice export target at only 2 million tonnes in the current FY as summer paddy growing acreage drops, said U Ye Min Aung, chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar generated over \$800 million from rice exports in the previous FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, with an estimated volume of over 2.5 million tonnes. — HH/GNLM

Low-quality domestic rice price plunges

THE price of the low-quality domestic rice plunged in the market.

Besides, the low-quality rice trading is cool these days, said U Than Oo, the secretary of Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Depot.

Although the low-quality rice price was set at K30,000 per bag previously, it has dropped to K26,000 per bag presently, with a decrease of K4,000 per bag according to the domestic rice market.

Further, other rice prices have also fallen in the domestic market, and the trading is quite cool nowadays. All rice prices are on the downside, he added.

Likewise, the summer paddy price was set at K600,000 per 100 baskets (one basket is equivalent to 46 pounds) early.

It has declined to K500,000 per basket currently.

The domestic rice price and the paddy price are on the decline. Likewise, the export prices are also fall-

ing.

"The rice which is traded as the raw-product export is called 5-mark rice.

The 5-mark rice was being traded for K24,000 per bag earlier.

Now, it is priced at only K21,500 per bag. The price has declined by K2,500 per bag," said U Than Oo.

Although the US dollar exchange rate is rising in the local market, the rice traders in the local rice market are buying the rice from the local farmers at a lower price. Therefore, the farmers are being faced with the loss of profit, he explained.

Besides, the volume of rice and broken rice in the export market has also dropped.

The trading of export rice is being made only for the previous contracts.

The Bayintnaung rice commodity depot, one of the main export markets through the sea route, was closed, starting from 11 February 2021. — NN/GNLM

Pigeon pea price shows uptick following dollar gains

THE pigeon peas market saw a slight upward trend in price along with the appreciation of the US dollar against Kyat, according to the domestic market.

The pigeon pea price was on the rise in March-end 2021 amid the low yield and the dollar gain. It stood at K76,000 per three-basket bag in the Mandalay market, showing an increase of K4,000 against January's rate. As there is no demand by India, the traders are keeping them, said U Myo Swe from Mandalay wholesale market. Myanmar's pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India and exported to Singapore, the US, Canada, Pakistan, the UK, and Malaysia. But, the export volume to other countries rather than to India is minimal. More than 249,245 tonnes of various pulses and beans were exported to foreign markets between 1 October and 4 December of the current financial year 2020-2021, with an estimated value of US\$217 million. Of them, the pigeon pea export accounted for 83,758 tonnes, generating an income of \$57.94 million, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy. It contributes to over 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Products. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn,



Myanmar shipped over 1.6 million tonnes of different varieties of pulses, especially black grams, with an estimated worth of US\$1 billion, to other countries in the FY2018-2019.

cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is the pulses and beans, counting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black gram, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans, including peanut, chickpea, soybean, black-eyed beans, butter bean and rice bean, are also grown in the country.

The domestic bean market is positively related to the law of supply and demand, said U Min Ko Oo, the secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. Since 2017, India has been setting import quota on beans, including black grams and pigeon peas. Therefore, the growers face dif-

iculties to export their beans to the Indian market. India's move to restrict the importation of pulses in August 2017 affected Myanmar growers severely. The price of pulses also drastically plummeted. In the 2017-2018 FY, over a million tons of black grams, pigeon peas, and green grams were shipped to foreign countries. Nevertheless, the earnings had registered at just \$713 million owing to the price drop. Myanmar shipped over 1.6 million tonnes of different varieties of pulses, especially black grams, with an estimated worth of US\$1 billion, to other counties in the FY2018-2019. During last FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, the country delivered 1.6 million tonnes with an estimated value of \$1.195 billion. — KK/GNLM

Emphasize physical and mental well-being of people

BOTH physical and mental well-being is of great importance in people's social lives on a daily basis. Setting aside anxieties for people's basic needs plays a key role in enjoying physical and mental well-being.

At the Management Committee meeting (4/2021) of the State Administration Council, the Chairman of the State Administration

Council stressed the need to take measures on the rule of law to better basic needs for individual people and ensure the rule of law for enabling the people to enjoy fruits of physical and mental well-being.

A government is responsible for ensuring a smooth process of the people's basic needs and improvement of the State economy. The State Administration Council is implementing five future programmes and nine objectives in detail to have the country's development in a short time.

Food supply is of importance among three basic needs. For ensuring food sufficiency, quality and marketable strains of rice, beans, edible oil crops, and other crops suitable for the regions must be grown on the country's abundant land resources. Although Myanmar is sufficient in yield of edible oil crops, palm oil used in industries is imported abroad.

Suppose oil palm cultivation in the lower Taninthayi Region secures success to reduce palm oil import volume. In that case, the country can cut spending on foreign exchange. In refining oil, foreign investment should be invited for improvement of the State economy.

Myanmar has 133 per cent of rice sufficiency for the entire nation. Quality surplus rice can be exported to earn an increased income of foreign exchange. If respective regions produce quality foodstuffs to reduce import volume, it can contribute to minimizing budget deficiency while enhancing consumption and demand.

Sufficient electrification is the main drive for the development of the country. Efforts are being made to generate electricity through the solar system. In serving the interests of the people, the government prioritizes seeking short-term ways to generate electricity.

The State Administration Council places emphasis on fulfilling the main requirements of the people for ensuring physical and mental well-being quickly whatever happens in the country and no matter how global countries show their attitudes.

Myanmar has 133 per cent of rice sufficiency for the entire nation. Quality surplus rice can be exported to earn an increased income of foreign exchange. If respective regions produce quality foodstuffs to reduce import volume, it can contribute to minimizing budget deficiency while enhancing consumption and demand.

A Brief Glimpse of Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin's 'Path of Purity' and 'History of Myanmar Literature'

By Dr Myint Zan

SAYAGYI ('revered teacher') U Pe Maung Tin (24 April 1888-22 March 1973) passed away on 22 March 1973.

This tribute article will not repeat or rehash the fairly well-known achievements of this great scholar but would only make a brief contextual juxtaposition of two of his books, one translated from the Pali language (which is the lingua franca of Southeast Asian Buddhism) with the title in English The Path of Purity and another book written in Burmese Myanmar Sarpay Thamaing ('History of Myanmar literature: The first few editions of the book contained an English translation in its cover page exactly with that title).

PART I THE PATH OF PURITY

Shin Mahar ('Reverend Great Monk') Buddhaghosa and his translated Treatise in the Pali language Vissudhimagga

According to the Online version of Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Buddhist monk Buddhaghosa 'flourished' between the years 401 Current Era to 449 Current Era (roughly around 1,600 years ago). Buddhaghosa was apparently born in or near Bodhi Gaya in northern India and later migrated to Sri Lanka.

Buddhaghosa retranslated the Sinhala language commentaries into the Pali language. Since the 12th century Current Era Buddhaghosa is considered to be one of the foremost commentators on Theravada Buddhist treatises. Apparently, Buddhaghosa was proficient in at least two languages Pali and also 5th century Sinhala language. Lengthy as the work (the English translation by U Pe Maung Tin is about 900 pages around at least 320,000 words) Vissudhimagga သိသ္ဓုဓိမဂ္ဂ was a summary (albeit a comprehensive summary) of translation of the commentaries in Sinhala language into Pali by Buddhaghosa.

A Brief Juxtaposition of Buddhist Commentator Buddhaghosa and Christian Theologian Augustine's Major Works

Buddhaghosa flourished in the early to mid-5th century Current Era. The Buddhist commentator lived parts of his life in North (or some sources say South) India

and later in Anuradhapura in the Northern part of Sri Lanka.

'Saint' Augustine (also known as Augustine of Hippo) (13 November 354 – 28 August 430) was a major Christian theologian who lived parts of his life in Rome and Hippo, what is now part of Algeria. Just as Buddhaghosa wrote or translated his major work Vissudhimagga apparently in his age 30s and/or 40s in the city of Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka, in the Pali language, Augustine wrote in the Latin language his major work, The City of God apparently in (age) late fifties to early seventies (between the years 413 to 426 Current Era) in the city of Hippo (in the city of Annaba in modern-day Algeria).

Both Buddhaghosa and Augustine were alive at the same time and in different places on the planet between the years 401, the apparent date Buddhaghosa was born (when Augustine was about 46 years old) and 430 when Augustine fell asleep in Jesus or passed away (when Buddhaghosa was about 29 years old).

It is trite albeit a tad 'mischievous' to state that one of the greatest Christian theologians (Augustine) and one of the greatest Buddhist commentators (Buddhaghosa) were not aware of the existence of each other in separate continents though the 'moderns' and informed public would have at least heard of both of these personages.

One also wonders whether Buddhaghosa had begun to translate and write the Vissudhimagga at the age of 29 when Augustine died in the year 430. Augustine apparently did finish writing his monumental City of God in the year 426, about four years before he died.

If mirabile dictu (by a miracle) Buddhaghosa were to read even a smidgen or an excerpt of a few pages of Augustine's tract (a 1984 Penguin classics translation in English of City of God runs to 1152 pages) in either Pali or Sinhala translation, what would the great Buddhist monk-commentator have thought about it? Conversely, if the great Christian theologian and later Christian Saint were to read even a smidgen or a few excerpts of Buddhaghosa treatise, what would he have thought about it? Just



briefly stating the 'counter-factual hypothetical', cross-cultural, cross-religious perspective and 'mischievous whimsy' or thought of the writer.

'Standing in awe at the two translators' dedication, skills and efforts

But back to Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin's translation of the Vissudhimagga from the Pali into English, he completed at 34. (In the Pali Text Society, London republication, in 1971, of The Path of Purity Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin's Preface was dated '10 December 1922' and it was written at Exeter College, Oxford).

As stated above, Buddhaghosa work was a 'comprehensive summary' of the Sinhala language commentaries on aspects of Theravada Buddhism. This writer marvels and gives his humble tribute to the great monk Buddhaghosa for his dedication, efforts and skills in undertaking translations and commentary on apparently what was not his mother tongues from Sinhala to Pali.

Likewise, he also stands in awe at the dedication, skills, and efforts to translate from Pali (not U Pe Maung Tin's mother tongue) at a relatively young age The Path of Purity into English (also not his mother tongue). U Pe Maung Tin's translation of Vissudhimagga into The Path of Purity was completed in the year 1922 about 1470 years after Buddhaghosa passed away. U Pe Maung Tin was perhaps younger when he completed his translation (at the age of 34) than Buddhaghosa was when he started his own translation (as well as commentaries) from the Sinhala to Pali. In the

words of Professor C.WF Rhys Davids (27 September 1857-26 June 1942) in the afterword to Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin's landmark translation:

'The Pali Text Society ... has profited by a great deal of this scholar- generosity. And in the words of the Pitakan saintly pass-list, we may say, "So the man Pe Maung Tin became also of the Worthy Ones". Great verily is his merit.' (The Path of Purity Being a Translation of Buddhaghosa Vissudhimagga', Pali Text Society, London, 1971, page 880)

In his own tribute to his own Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin after U Pe Maung Tin's death, one of his dear students, the poet and scholar Minthuwan (10 February 1909-15 August 2004) translated the above statement into Burmese and stated to the effect that such abundant praise by Mrs Rhys Davids who is known

late 1922 to late 1972 and early 1973. Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin did another translation, this time both from the Pali and in reference to the Burmese translation (from the Pali) by Ledi Sayadaw (1 December 1846-27 June 1923) of the Buddha's twin sermons, namely (in English translation) 'The Turning of the Dhamma Wheel' (Dhammaskaya) 'The Discourse on Non-self' (Anatta Lekkhana Sutta). Apparently, Sayagyi completed his translation a few weeks or perhaps several days before he passed away on 22 March 1973. The Pali versions of the twin Sermons, the Burmese translation by Ledi Sayadaw and the English translation by U Pe Maung Tin was published in a pictorial (type of booklet) after his demise.

This writer wonders why Sayagyi deferred the translation into English of these foundational doctrines of Buddhism past his age eighties and not when he was

Theikpan Maung Wa was one of the pupils of Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin who, together with others (but not limited to) Zawgyi (U Thein Han) (12 April 1907-26 September 1990) and Minthuwan (U Wun) under the tutelage, encouragement and guidance of their own Saya (U Pe Maung Tin) pioneered a new Myanmar literary movement known as the Khitsan ('testing the Age') literary movement.

as the 'Queen of Pali literature (Pali Devi) might be considered by some as the 'conceit' of great exaggeration' (Ati Wutta Daw Tha) အတိဝတ္ထုဒေါသ, but Sayagyi Minthuwan averred that the treatise writers may consider Rhys Davids statement as a prosody of great and abundant praise (Astate thaya wuthti alinga) အတိသယဝုတ္တိအလင်္ကာ rather than a 'conceit' or 'flawed' analogy. Sayagyi Minthuwan's and Mrs Rhys Davids praises are such that 'verily great would be their merits' for such deep appreciation of the sterling achievements of Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin.

Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin's translation of The Buddha's Twin Sermons

Fast forward 50 years from

to the English translation. In the republication in the year 1971 of The Path of Purity in a 901-page tract, there were only 15 typos, all of which are listed in detail in the 'Corrigenda'.

Part II HISTORY OF Myanmar LITERATURE

In 1938 U Pe Maung Tin published the first edition of his book Myanmar Sar Pay Thamaing ('History of Myanmar Literature'). Previous to that U Pe Maung Tin played a pivotal role in establishing the Myanmar Department at Rangoon University (as they were then formally designated).

According to the web site of the Myanmar Department at University of Yangon U Pe Maung Tin became Professor and Head of the Burmese Department in 1924. One of the early graduates specializing in Myanmar was Theikpan Maung Wa (U Sein Tin) (5 June 1899-6 June 1942), who graduated from the University of Rangoon in 1927. Theikpan Maung Wa was one of the pupils of Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin who, together with others (but not limited to) Zawgyi (U Thein Han) (12 April 1907-26 September 1990) and Minthuwan (U Wun) under the tutelage, encouragement and guidance of their own Saya (U Pe Maung Tin) pioneered a new Myanmar literary movement known as the Khitsan ('testing the Age') literary movement.

The Khitsan literary movement made a sharp or significant departure from both the theme(s) and the writing style of the then prevailing literary milieu, which at times can be stiff or florid in style and limited in themes. Khitsan provides a fresh, challenging outlook both in terms of substance and created a new literary genre. The Khitsan literary movement in the earlier years met with some critiques both from literary conservatives for 'abandoning' the traditional themes and at least from one leftist political (arguably) radical U Thein Pe Myint (10 July 1914-15 January 1978), for not being politically left 'enough'.

But back to Myanmar Sarpay Thamaing. In his oration at the funeral of his own Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin on 24 March 1973, Sayagyi Minthuwan, among others, stated that while studying at

SEE PAGE-10



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 3 April, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:00) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the North Andaman Sea still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 4 April, 2021: Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing Region and Chin State. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan(South and East), Kayah, Kayin States and isolated in the Remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely attimes in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon -Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon -Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-7)feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States and scatteredrain or thundershowers in Shan, Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 April, 2021: Likelihood of Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 April, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 April, 2021: Partly cloudy.

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A Brief Glimpse of Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin's.....

FROM PAGE-9
the Oxford University in the UK in the 1920s, U Pe Maung Tin researched the printed Burmese books as well as Parabaiks ("thick sheets of paper that are blackened, glued and folded together) in various libraries to collate the facts and developments in Burmese literature throughout the ages. Minthuwn also stated that with the assistance of some of his students, which he gladly accepted U Pe Maung Tin wrote and published the Myanmar Sarpay Thamaing, which as of 2013 has at least eleven editions or reprints.
Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin encapsulated the developments in Burmese literature from the

Pagan era, starting with the Myazedi (now also known as Raza Kumara) Kyauk Sar Stone Inscription of the Pagan era up to (roughly) about three decades after the annexation of Upper Burma by the British on 1 January 1886 with the literary works of Ledi Sayadaw (1 December 1846-27 June 1923). In the Preface or Introduction to the first edition of his book, U Pe Maung Tin wrote to the effect that given the nature of the work selection of literati and their writings throughout the centuries and the 'literary epochs' have to be sort of eclectic. He asked the readers to eschew from commenting that his book should also have included the names and writings of literati

'missing' in his book.
It is pleasing to note that at least one other scholar (and there may be and there are others as well) who was not even born when U Pe Maung Tin published the first edition of Myanmar Sarpay Thamaing in 1938 Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) (Dr Khin Aye) (born 1942) has produced at least two books which continue the research tradition regarding the history of Burmese literature. Saya Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) published Colony Khit Myanmar Sar Pay Thamaing ('A History of Myanmar Literature during the Colonial Era') around 2007 and his Myanmar Sarpay Khayee ('The Journey of Myanmar Literature')

which was published around 2013. These two books narrate and present some of the themes and writers from the Pagan era to the end of colonial times in a fresh perspective and narrative. Maung Khin Min's books do not replicate what is covered in the 1938 treatise of U Pe Maung Tin.
Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin's The Path of Purity and Myanmar Sarpay Thamaing are only two works in the significant body of contributions that the late Sayagyi has made. They not only indicate the great scholar's language and literary skills covering the Burmese, English and Pali languages but also his dedication, research skills and erudition.

In 2017 the bust of Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin was unveiled at the Myanmar Department of Yangon University in a ceremony attended by retired President U Htin Kyaw (born 20 July 1946). Sayagyi's contributions to Myanmar Sar, both in its language and literary dimensions, is very significant. His contributions to translation (English language) and the Pali language (now Department of Oriental Studies) are also very significant, which deserves recognition.
On the occasion of the anniversary of Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin's passing, it is an honour to give this tribute through a commentary on two of his exemplary books.

317 pearl lots sold out in Pearl and Gems Emporium



A total of 317 pearl lots displayed at Pearl and Gems Emporium were sold out at K1,427,262,123.
Of 317 pearl lots, 212 lots of pearls were sold on the second day and 105 lots in the third-day emporium session.
The third-day emporium session was held at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.
Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental

Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, in his capacity as Patron of Myanmar Gems Emporium Committee, Deputy Minister U Min Min Oo and committee members inspected tenders' submission, closure of tenders and opening of tenders for scrutiny and sales of pearl lots. Sales of pearl and gems lots in Myanmar kyat for April 2021 will last ten days from 1 to 10 April. — MNA

Sales of pearl and gems lots in Myanmar kyat for April 2021 will last ten days from 1 to 10 April.

MoHS deputy minister inspects training of sports teams in Nay Pyi Taw

DEPUTY Minister for Health and Sports U Myo Hlaing inspected Myanmar sports teams' training at the Sports Training Camp, construction of stadiums and buildings in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.
The Myanmar sports teams have been training in the training camps in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw for the 31st Southeast Asian Games that Viet Nam will host in November 2021.
The Deputy Minister and party inspected Myanmar national athletes' physical training in Wushu, Archery, Taekwondo at the gym in Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Centre. They also reviewed the training activity of Myanmar national volleyball players and gave necessary instructions.
During the inspection tour to the individual qualifying competition of Myanmar national Kick Volleyball play-

ers, the Deputy Minister and officials presented the prizes to the winning players.
Afterwards, the Deputy Minister and party visited the Summer Myanmar Basic Martial Arts Training Course jointly organized by the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education of Zabuthiri Township and Buddha Yadanar Charity at Buddha Yadanar Charity Monastic School in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. The course will be opened from 31 March to 9 April with 110 students. The Deputy Minister also donated foods and necessary sports aids to the school.
The Deputy Minister and party also inspected stadiums' construction in Zabuthiri Township and the status of building the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education in Union Territory and instructed as necessary.
During the visit to Yellow

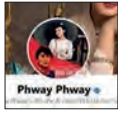
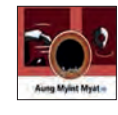
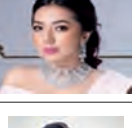
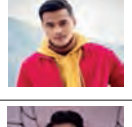
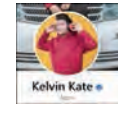
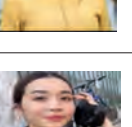


The Deputy Minister and party visited the Summer Myanmar Basic Martial Arts Training Course jointly organized by the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education of Zabuthiri Township and Buddha Yadanar Charity at Buddha Yadanar Charity Monastic School in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.
Generation Youth Charity Association's Orphanage School in Pobbathiri Township, the Deputy Minister and party encouraged the Summer Myanmar Basic Martial Arts Training Course hosted at the school and donated foods and sports aids.—MNA

Those spreading news to affect State stability charged under Section 505-A

The following celebrities and people have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for intentionally committing incitements to the government employees to join CDM to affect government mechanism and for spreading information showing their support for unlawful CRPH including fake news and other information to unrest riots and threaten the public on the social media.

The list of people charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code

Sr	Account name	Profile	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Phway Phway https://www.facebook.com/phwayphway.fans		Kamayut Township, Yangon	505-a	
2	Thet Mon Myint https://www.facebook.com/Mathetmonmyint17		Thingangun Township	505-a	
3	Nyi Nanda (Si Thu Min) https://www.facebook.com/nyi.nanda.5		Ko Nanda Butter Rice shop, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon	505-a	
4	Aung Myint Myat https://www.facebook.com/aresmyintmyat		No 4 Ward, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, Yangon	505-a	
5	Tun Connie https://www.facebook.com/connieusafans		No 115-D, Ayoegon street, Tamway Township, Yangon	505-a	
6	Zin Aung Aung https://www.facebook.com/zinaung.aung.9210		Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon	505-a	
7	Novem Htoo https://www.facebook.com/novemscreamer		Hmawby Township, Yangon	505-a	
8	Han Htoo Lwin https://www.facebook.com/hanhtuelwin.bigbag		North Okkalapa Township, Yangon	505-a	
9	Nyi Htut Khaung https://www.facebook.com/nyihtutk		Thingangyun Township, Yangon	505-a	
10	Warso Moe Oo https://www.facebook.com/warsomoeoo		Latha Township, Yangon	505-a	
11	Htet Aung Shine https://www.facebook.com/gipsy.shine.m4l		Kungyangon Township, Yangon	505-a	
12	G Fatt https://www.facebook.com/ec.homyatthu		Thingangyun Township, Yangon	505-a	
13	Kelvin Kate https://www.facebook.com/AungThuLwinKelvinKate		Thanlyin Township, Yangon	505-a	
14	Si Thu Win https://www.facebook.com/Cthuwin.stw		Mingaladon Township, Yangon	505-a	
15	Nanmyatsaw Saw https://www.facebook.com/nanmyatsaw.saw		Kamayut Township, Yangon	505-a	
16	May Oo Maung https://www.facebook.com/may.oomaung.9		Dagon Township, Yangon	505-a	
17	Kyaw Ye Tun (Ye Ye) https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100006198573767		Yangon	505-a	
18	Hnin Thway Yu Aung https://www.facebook.com/hninthway.yuaung		Tachilek Township, Shan State.	505-a	
19	Mary https://www.facebook.com/yrameos		Yangon	505-a	
20	Angel Lamung https://www.facebook.com/angel.lamungofficial		Mandalay	505-a	

Security forces have been detecting and seizing weapons, equipment used by rioters across country

ON 2 April, Zin Moe Tun (a) Moe Moe, son of U Thet Tun, and Kyaw Soe Han, son of U Kyaw Htin, were arrested with 7 WY stimulant tablets and one handmade gun and related items in Heho town, Shan State. Similarly, a handmade gun and related equipment were found at the house off Myo Aung (a) Kalar, son of U Nyunt Win, who lived in Hpa-an Town, Kayin State and equipment used in riots were seized in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

Similarly, a total of 13 people were arrested with 450 slingshots, 4 swords, 9 handmade mines, 4 smoke grenades and other related items in Dago Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region.

The weapons used by rioters were confiscated at the house of Kyaw Swar Win (a) Ali (a) U Salayman in Ayokone ward in Tamwe Township, and 8 handmade guns, 7 handmade mines, 3 slingshots and other related equipment were found in Myittakan monastery compound in KhinU Town.

Zaw Lay, son of U Go Aye, and Aung Ko, son of U Tun Khaing, were arrested together with a handmade gun and related equipment in their Nissan Lattio car in Bago Region.

Yesterday, 5 people were arrested together with 19 handmade mines, one handmade gun and other related items in Mohnyin Township; a total of 10 rioters

were arrested with weapons used in the riot in Loikaw Township; 28 handmade bombs and other associated items were confiscated during the riot in Kyauktada Township; a Probox car was inspected during the vehicle inspection, and handmade weapons were seized in Hlegu Township.

Similarly, a total of 8 men and 4 women were detained, and weapons used in the riot were confiscated during the crackdown on the riot in Thuwana, Thingangyun Township; a total of 26 men were arrested together with 3 slingshots and other related items during the riot control in Myingyan Town as well as one man was arrested with one handmade grenade

and other related equipment during the crackdown on the riot of about 50 people in Chanmyathazi Township.

Security Forces also deactivated the handmade mines set at bridges, public places and state-owned buildings in Yangon Region and Myittha Township, including the Bridge No (62) between Bago station and Phayarthonesu station in Bago Township.

It is reported that cases have been filed against the detainees with weapons and related equipment to take effective legal action, and investigations will be continued. —MNA

Japan commercial whaling season begins in coastal waters



Whaling boat leaves Ishinomaki Port in Miyagi Prefecture on April 3, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

FOUR whaling boats left Japanese ports on Saturday for coastal waters as the country began its third season of com-

mercial whaling since ending an over-three-decade hiatus on the practice in 1919.

With another boat to join

the operation in June, a total of five boats are expected to catch 120 minke whales in waters off the Sanriku Coast and Hokkaido by late October, according to the Fisheries Agency.

Two boats left Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, early in the morning, before being joined by two other vessels that departed from Hachinohe in Aomori Prefecture. The fifth boat will leave from Abashiri, Hokkaido.

"We would like to provide fresh and delicious whales for everyone who is waiting," said Nobuyuki Ito, president of a whaling company in Ishinomaki.

Ito's company is planning to catch whales in the coastal waters of Aomori, Iwate and Miyagi prefectures until early June before heading north to the coastal waters of Hokkaido.

The two vessels which left Hachinohe are operated by companies in Minamiboso, Chiba Prefecture, and the town of Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture.

Commercial whaling in off-shore waters is also scheduled to start around June, according to the agency.

Japan resumed hunting whales for commercial purposes on July 1, 2019, a day after formally leaving the International Whaling Commission. — Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian 'anti-Apple' law requiring local apps takes effect

SMARTPHONES, tablets and computers sold in Russia must now come with pre-installed domestic software and apps from Thursday in a new law seen by critics as another attempt to curb online freedom.

The initiative was introduced in an effort to promote the country's tech companies but critics say it is another bid to tighten state control of Russia's digital space. The law requires all devices with internet access sold in the country—whether they are produced locally or abroad—to be equipped with the necessary software or face potential fines from July onwards. —AFP ■

Tesla reports higher 1Q auto deliveries

TESLA reported a jump in first-quarter auto deliveries on Friday, topping leading estimates, as it cited strong demand in China where the electric car maker has been ramping up production.

Tesla's deliveries for the period came in at 184,000, a two per cent increase from the amount in the fourth quarter, but more than double the level from the year-ago period.

"We are encouraged by the strong reception of the Model Y in China and are quickly progressing to full production capacity," Tesla said in a securities filing.

When Tesla last reported earnings, the company did not project 2021 deliveries, but indicated it expected "faster"

growth this year compared with the "multi-year horizon."

Wedbush analyst Dan Ives said in a note Friday that the first-quarter figures were a "jaw dropper," given that many analysts had expected a negative impact from the worldwide semiconductor shortage that has prompted many automakers to curtail production.

"Let's be clear, with chip shortages and related production issues the Street was thinking a 160k-165k numbers was in the cards," Ives said.

Tesla said its production in the fourth quarter was 180,338, up 76 per cent from the year-ago period and a slight increase from the fourth quarter. —AFP ■

Makers of Lil Nas X 'Satan Shoe' ordered to stop sales after Nike sues



The judge said Nike had demonstrated MSCHF's actions were "likely to confuse, and likely are confusing, consumers about the origin, sponsorship, or approval" of the shoes. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE makers of the 'Satan Shoe', a collaboration with rapper Lil Nas X, have been ordered to stop selling them after Nike filed a lawsuit, according to court documents seen by AFP.

The sportswear giant sued MSCHF Product Studio after they released 666 pairs of black Nike Air Max 97s customized to feature a bronze pentagram, a Bible verse referring to Satan's fall, and a drop of human blood mixed with red ink in the midsole.

On Thursday, a US federal judge granted Nike's motion for a temporary restraining order, banning the Brooklyn-based art collective from fulfilling orders for the shoes and from further using Nike's trademarks.

The judge said Nike had

demonstrated MSCHF's actions were "likely to confuse, and likely are confusing, consumers about the origin, sponsorship, or approval" of the shoes, and that they would "dilute and tarnish" Nike's brand, causing "irreparable harm" without the restraining order.

MSCHF has insisted the shoes are art and that their production falls under freedom of expression. "There is no better way to start a conversation about consumer culture than by participating in consumer culture," it said in a statement on Thursday.

MSCHF added that it was "honestly surprised" by Nike's action, and that it "look(ed) forward to working with Nike and the court to resolve this case." —AFP ■

TSMC to invest \$100 bil. to boost chip-making capacity

MAJOR chipmaker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. has said it will invest \$100 billion over the next three years in boosting production capacity to meet increased demand for semiconductors worldwide. To cope with the large investment, the world's leading semiconductor manufacturer also plans to suspend price cuts on chips from 2022.

"TSMC expects to invest USD\$100 billion over the next three years to increase capacity to support the manufacturing and R&D of advanced semiconductor technologies," the company said in a regulatory filing on Thursday. — Kyodo News ■

Japanese sushi chain Sushiro opens 1st outlet in Thailand

THE Sushiro sushi chain has made its full-scale debut in Thailand by opening a restaurant in Bangkok — one of its largest in the world.

Sushiro GH (Thailand) Ltd., the Thai unit of Osaka-based Sushiro Global Holdings Ltd., launched the new store on the seventh floor of the CentralWorld shopping plaza on Wednesday with cutting-edge technology that helps it to continually serve fresh sushi on a conveyor belt. —AFP ■



Tesla reported a jump in first-quarter auto deliveries on Friday, topping leading estimates, as it cited strong demand in China where the electric car maker has been ramping up production. **PHOTO: AFP**

US lawmakers press online ad auctioneers over user data

A bipartisan group of US senators on Friday sent letters to major digital ad exchanges, including Google and Twitter, asking whether user data was sold to foreign entities who could use it for blackmail or other malicious ends.

In the real-time bidding process to decide which personalized ads a user sees when a web page loads, hundreds of businesses receive a user's personal information, including search history, IP address, age and gen-

der. Questions about the sale of data gathered during the auction process were also sent to AT&T, Index Exchange, Magnite, OpenX, PubMatic and Verizon, according to the office of Senator Ron Wyden, a Democrat representing Oregon.

"Few Americans realize that some auction participants are siphoning off and storing 'bidstream' data to compile exhaustive dossiers about them," Wyden and other senators wrote in letters



A real-time bidding process decides which personalized ads a user sees when a web page loads . PHOTO: AFP

to the companies. "This information would be a

goldmine for foreign intelligence services that

could exploit it to inform and supercharge hacking,

blackmail, and influence campaigns."

While online ad exchanges use automated bidding systems to determine which ads to show people using internet services, data such as user locations, devices, and web activity can be gathered, according to the senators.

"These dossiers are being openly sold to anyone with a credit card, including to hedge funds, political campaigns, and even to governments," the senators wrote.—AFP ■

France's Total shuts gas plant after Mozambique attacks: sources

FRENCH energy giant Total has shut its operations and withdrawn all staff from a site in northern Mozambique following last week's

deadly jihadist attack in the area, security sources said Friday.

"Total has gone," a security source in Maputo told AFP, adding



A Mozambican woman walks in Palma, a small, palm-fringed fishing town meant to become a symbol of Mozambique's glittering future, transformed by one of the world's largest liquefied natural gas projects that is under threat. PHOTO: AFP

that "it will be hard to persuade them to return" this year.

And a military source added, "all the facilities are abandoned.

"Total made a decision to evacuate all of its staff", after drone surveillance showed insurgents were in areas "very close" to the gas plant in Afungi.

Another source confirmed the were reports that insurgents were not far from the site.

Afungi peninsula is only 10 kilometres (six miles) from the town of Palma, which came under attack more than a week ago, resulting in the death of dozens of people, including at least two expatriate workers.

The brazen assault on March 24 was the latest in a string of more than 830 organized raids by the Islamist militants over the past three years during which more than 2,600 people have died.

Total had already evacuated some staff and suspended construction work in late December following a series of violent attacks near its compound.

But last week's raid is seen as the biggest escalation of the Islamist insurgency ravaging Cabo Delgado province since 2017.

Many civilian survivors fled their homes flocking towards the heavily secured gas plant.—AFP ■

US says vaccinated people can travel, with precautions

Fully vaccinated people can start travelling again if they take precautions such as wearing a mask and observing social distancing, US health authorities said Friday.

Within the United States, vaccinated people will not have to quarantine or take a Covid-19 test after travelling, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said.

But international travelers headed to the United States should have a negative Covid-19 test before they get on the plane, be tested after arrival, and must quarantine if local authorities in the United States require it, the CDC said in

a statement.

Vaccinated travelers can go abroad without getting a Covid-19 test before travel unless it is required by the international destination, the new guidelines say.

They were released as travel is picking up again in the US, especially due to spring break and Easter trips, after all but shutting down completely in the early months of the pandemic.

A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine, the CDC said. That means the second shot for vaccines that require two jabs.—AFP ■

Air Canada, Transat call off merger deal

Air Canada has called off its planned takeover of tour operator Transat over EU regulatory hurdles, they announced Friday -- scuppering a deal that would have created a domestic giant with a 60 per cent share of the Canadian travel market.

The deal was concluded in June 2019 and approved by Transat shareholders in December

2020, as the tour operator found itself in dire financial straits due to the precipitous drop in air travel during the coronavirus pandemic.

Transat operates Canada's third-largest carrier, offering through its Air Transat brand vacation packages, hotel stays and air travel to about 60 destinations in the Americas and Europe. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1135S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1135S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-4-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU0171N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU0171N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-4-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

US, Japan, S.Korea show united front on N.Korea



The United States held three-way talks with South Korea and Japan on how to handle North Korea, whose leader Kim Jong-Un is seen on a television screen in Seoul in March 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE United States, Japan and South Korea showed a united front Friday on concerns about North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs as President Joe Biden completes a review on the way forward.

Jake Sullivan, Biden’s na-

tional security advisor, held a rare in-person meeting jointly with his counterparts from South Korea and Japan, Suh Hoon and Shigeru Kitamura, at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The three officials said in a joint statement that they “shared their concerns about North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs” and promised “concerted trilateral cooperation towards denuclearization.”

“They agreed on the imperative for full implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions by the international community, includ-

ing North Korea, preventing proliferation and cooperating to strengthen deterrence and maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula,” the statement said.

Addressing other key priorities for Biden, the security officials also discussed the fights against Covid-19 and climate change, and ways to restore democracy in Myanmar.

The meeting came as a review by the Biden administration on how to deal with North Korea is in its final stages, following Donald Trump’s unusually personal diplomacy with strongman Kim Jong Un.

—AFP ■

Embattled Slovenia PM Jansa faces impeachment attempt

FOUR Slovenian opposition parties filed an impeachment motion on Friday against embattled conservative Prime Minister Janez Jansa, partially prompted by his alleged failings in handling the coronavirus crisis.

Previous opposition attempts to bring a no-confidence motion against Jansa’s government failed earlier this year, but his administration has continued to be dogged by various controversies and international criticism.

In addition, the country has been hit with a vicious third wave of the pandemic which has sent infections and death rates spiralling.

In the impeachment motion targeting Jansa personally, the four opposition parties accuse him of failing in his legal duties for not taking up an opportunity to acquire extra vaccine doses

and thereby denying citizens their rightful health services.

The allegation relates to a period in December when Jansa temporarily took on the post of health minister after the previous incumbent resigned.

The impeachment motion also says Jansa has violated the constitution by attacking press freedom — including preventing funding to the national news agency STA — and by putting pressure on the country’s prosecutors.

Jansa’s centre-right coalition currently controls 45 seats in the 90-seat parliament, with several MPs having left the government camp in recent months.

Jansa called the impeachment attempt a “pathetic move by the privileged aimed at destabilising the country.” —AFP ■



Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansa attends a European Union summit in Brussels on Oct. 15. **PHOTO: AFP**

Saudi FM says ties with Israel would bring region ‘tremendous benefit’



Any deal would depend on progress in Israeli-Palestinian peace process, says Prince Faisal. **PHOTO: AFP**

NORMALISATION with Israel would bring “tremendous benefit” to the region, the Saudi foreign minister has said, but such an accord with the kingdom would depend on progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Under the “Abraham Accords” brokered by former US president Donald Trump last year, four Arab countries -- the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan -- agreed to normalize ties with the Jewish state.

But Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said Thursday that any deal with Saudi Arabia was “very much dependent on progress with the peace process”.

“I think normalising Israel’s status within the region would bring tremendous benefit to the

region as a whole,” he said during an interview with CNN.

“It would be extremely helpful both economically but also socially and from a security perspective.”

Gulf powerhouse Saudi Arabia has repeatedly affirmed its decades-old policy of not establishing formal ties with Israel until a deal is reached to resolve the conflict with the Palestinians.

But mutual concern over Iran has gradually brought Israel and Gulf countries closer, and Riyadh has quietly been building relations with the Jewish state for several years.

Reports in November that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held secret talks in Saudi Arabia fuelled speculation that a normalization accord with the Gulf’s top power could be in the making. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blinken seeks Israel’s ‘equal’ treatment of Palestinians

SECRETARY of State Antony Blinken called Friday on Israel to ensure “equal” treatment of the Palestinians as the new US administration cautiously steps up efforts for a two-state solution.

In a telephone call with Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi, Blinken “emphasized the administration’s belief that Israelis and Palestinians should enjoy equal measures of freedom, security, prosperity and democracy,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

Blinken also committed to “strengthening all aspects of the US-Israel partnership” and voiced support for the Jewish state’s agreements over the past year to normalize relations with four more Arab nations. —AFP ■

US ‘open’ to direct talks with Iran at nuclear meet

THE United States on Friday confirmed it would take part in a meeting in Vienna next week on the Iran nuclear deal and offered to sit down directly with Tehran.

“These remain early days, and we don’t anticipate an immediate breakthrough as there will be difficult discussions ahead. But we believe this is a healthy step forward,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said. “We do not anticipate presently that there will be direct talks between the United States and Iran through this process, though the United States remains open to them,” he said.

The European Union announced Friday an in-person meeting in Vienna of all parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, from which former president Donald Trump withdrew.

The Europeans said it would have “separate” contacts in Vienna with the United States and Iran quickly rejected a direct meeting with its arch-enemy as it presses President Joe Biden first to lift sanctions. —AFP ■

Officer killed in US Capitol car-ramming attack

A US Capitol police officer was killed and a second injured Friday after a vehicle rammed through security and crashed into a barrier at the Washington complex, forcing it into lockdown less than three months after a mob assault on Congress.

Capitol Police shot dead the driver after he jumped out of the car and lunged at them with a knife, Acting Chief Yogananda Pittman told reporters.

President Joe Biden, who was with first lady Jill Biden at Camp David for the Easter holiday, offered his “heartfelt condolences” to the family of William Evans, the veteran policeman killed in the attack.

“Jill and I were heartbroken to learn of the violent attack at a security checkpoint on the US Capitol grounds,” Biden said in a statement.



Two Capitol Police officers were injured, and one later died, after being rammed by the vehicle. PHOTO:AFP

US media said officials had identified the attacker as Noah Green, a 25-year-old Black man from Indiana and an adherent of the Black nationalist Nation

of Islam movement. Pittman said there was no immediate indication of his motivation or police file on him. “It does not appear to be

terrorism-related, but obviously we will continue to investigate,” Washington Metropolitan Police Chief Robert Contee added. Green had graduated from

Christopher Newport University in Virginia, where he played football, with a degree in finance in 2019, the school confirmed.

Some of his online postings in March suggested a level of despair and paranoia. He said he was unemployed and had health problems, and made references to biblical concepts of the end of times.

He wrote that he had faced “unimaginable tests” and was “in search of a spiritual journey.”

In one post he spoke of being tormented by the FBI and CIA, hospitalized and subjected to “mind control,” and called the government “the #1 enemy of Black people!” He also said he was a follower of Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, who promotes Black nationalist, anti-white and anti-Semitic thinking.—AFP ■

French festivals face another summer of cancellations



Eurocks music festival in Belfort is one of the casualties. PHOTO:AFP

FRENCH festivals are feeling a terrible sense of *deja vu* as they are forced to cancel this year's events by spiking COVID-19 infections and a sluggish vaccine rollout.

The latest cancellation came on Friday from the organisers

of Angouleme's world-renowned comic books festival, due at the end of June.

It joins a raft of casualties that already includes some of Europe's biggest summer music festivals: Solidays, Hellfest, Garorock, Eurocks, and Lollapalooza

in Paris, among others – together accounting for more than one million ticket sales.

The French government has put a limit of 5,000 people on this summer's events, and they must be seated and socially distanced – not exactly conducive to going wild in a moshpit.

Solidays had 228,000 attendees in 2019. And that was before President Emmanuel Macron announced a third lockdown starting this Saturday as hospitals are inundated with COVID-19 cases and the country struggles to procure and deliver vaccines.

The organisers of Eurocks, which hosted 128,000 people in 2019, said the rules were a “strait-jacket” and “completely incompatible with the spirit of a lively event”. —AFP ■

Qatar royal attempts Everest record in quest for ‘Explorers Grand Slam’

A Qatari royal is set to scale Everest, as she chases her dream of becoming the first woman from the Middle East to complete the Explorers Grand Slam of summiting each continent's highest peaks and reaching the poles.

Sheikha Asma Al Thani, a mountaineer and member of the Qatar Olympic Committee, arrived in Nepal's capital Kathmandu on Thursday and is prepared to head to Everest base camp.

She is expected to attempt to ascend the 8,848-metre mountain in mid-May, depending on local conditions. If she succeeds, she will become the first woman from Qatar to summit the world's tallest mountain.

Sheikha Asma first dreamt

of reaching the skies in 2003 when she was just 14, writing “climbing mountains” on her wish list.

At that time, no woman from the Gulf region had reached Everest's summit.

Years later as she set out on conquering each peak to achieve the Slam, Sheikha Asma was questioned about her abilities – from being able to climb to carrying mountaineering gear – because she was a woman.

“These are the stereotypes people have with women and for me, it's the idea that no matter what, we can achieve our dreams,” she told AFP. The 31-year-old began her journey as a mountaineer in 2014 by summiting Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak.—AFP ■



Qatari climber Sheikha Asma Al Thani aims to become first Qatari woman to climb Mount Everest, poses for a picture after an interview with AFP, in Kathmandu on April 1, 2021. PHOTO:AFP

Russia fines Twitter for not removing calls to protests

A Russian court on Friday fined Twitter nearly €99,000 for failing to remove calls to opposition protests, as Moscow ramps up pressure against the US tech giant.

Authorities in January accused foreign social media platforms of interfering in Russia's domestic affairs by not deleting calls to rallies in support of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny late

that month and early February.

Last month, Russia's media watchdog Roskomnadzor said it would draw up protocols demanding foreign social media platforms such as Twitter be fined for failing to delete the calls after it had warned them to do so.

In a statement, Roskomnadzor described the calls to protests as “inciting teenagers” to take

part in “illegal activities”, or “unauthorized mass events”.

On Friday, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency cited a Moscow court as saying it had hit Twitter with three fines totaling 8.9 million rubles (€99,000) for failing to remove information that violates Russian law.

Twitter declined to comment when reached by AFP. —AFP ■

Futsal Thai League 2021 to be launched in June

THE Futsal Thai League 2021 is scheduled to start on 19 June 2021 and will run until 29 January 2022, according to the statement with the ASEAN Football Federation and Thailand Football Association.

The Thailand Football authorities will be organizing the lower Division 1 of Futsal Thai with six zones participating.

"It was also announced that the first international tournament – the SAT Futsal International Championship – will be held on 22 - 27 May 2021.

"The Futsal Women Thai League 2021 will be held from 28 July to 29 Sep-

tember 2021.

"The Beach Soccer League will also be held from 16 June to 1 September 2021," the football authorities said.

The Futsal Thai League, founded in 2006, is a top league for futsal clubs in Thailand. The most championship-winning club and defending champion is Chonburi Bluewave Futsal Club, and the team has garnered 10 championship titles.

A total of 14 teams participated in the Futsal Thai League in previous years. —GNLM ■



Futsal tournaments are popular not only in Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar but across the globe. **PHOTO: AFF**

Juve look to reboot Serie A title defence in Turin derby

CRISTIANO Ronaldo returns to Serie A on Saturday with Juventus looking to reboot their title defence against struggling city rivals Torino.

Hopes of a 10th consecutive league title were rocked when Juventus fell 1-0 at home to lowly Benevento before the international break.

Juventus are third, 10 points adrift of leaders Inter Milan, with both teams having 11 games left to play this season.

Ronaldo returns from international duty where his fury at a winner ruled out against Serbia was followed by joy at scoring against Luxembourg.

The Portuguese striker will play his sixth Turin derby, which could be his last, amid speculation of an exit from Turin at the end of the season.



Juventus are third, 10 points adrift of leaders Inter Milan, with both teams having 11 games left to play this season. **PHOTO: AFP**

The 36-year-old, Serie A's top scorer this season, has scored three goals in his previous five derbies, but just once at Torino in his first season back in 2018. Just six points separate Juventus in third from seventh-placed Lazio in

the race for elite European football.

The pressure is on coach Andrea Pirlo with defensive duo Leonardo Bonucci and Merih Demiral both testing positive for Covid-19 after international duty. —AFP ■

Injured Woods will miss Masters 20 years after Tiger Slam

SEVERE leg injuries in a February car crash ensured Tiger Woods won't be playing in this year's Masters on the 20th anniversary of his "Tiger Slam" victory at Augusta National.

But the 45-year-old superstar, whose 15 major titles include five Masters green jackets, will have his legacy felt across the famed layout.

Woods is recovering at home in Florida after suffering serious injuries when his car flew off the road and flipped several times during the Southern California accident.

Hours of surgery were required to repair his shattered lower right leg and ankle, including a rod inserted into his tibia and the use of screws and pins to stabilize the joint.

Woods, who won his most recent major at the 2019 Masters, became the first black golfer to win a major title when he captured the 1997 Masters in record fashion.

On Thursday, the Masters will pay tribute to the first black golfer to play in the event when Lee Elder hits a ceremonial tee shot alongside usual honorary starters Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player.

"Lee was a pioneer. He was the one that broke the color barrier here and paved the way for players of colour like myself to be able to play this event," Woods said about Elder.

"It's ironic that he did it in '75, I was born in '75, and when I won in '97, he was on the back of the green." —AFP ■

Covid fall-out may prevent City replacing Aguero says Guardiola

PEP Guardiola said Manchester City may well not replace record goalscorer Sergio Aguero due to the financial fall-out from the coronavirus pandemic.

Guardiola added the runaway Premier League leaders possessed enough talent to cope without Aguero when his contract expires at the end of the season.

The Argentine joined City from Atletico Madrid in 2011, three years after the club was taken over by Abu Dhabi owners, and will leave after 10 trophy-laden years, with 257 goals in 384 games so far.

City have been linked with Norwegian star Erling Haaland, England captain Harry Kane and France's World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe but Guardiola is

not sure such targets are realistic.

Although City are one of the richest clubs in the Premier League they like others have had no fans coming through the turnstiles for a year.

"There is a lot of big chances that maybe we are not going to sign a striker for next season," said Guardiola at Friday's press conference.

"We have enough players in the first team right now and we have interesting players in the academy.

"There is a big chance, with the situation in the world, the economic problems in world football, we are not going to sign any striker for next season." —AFP ■



Manchester City may well not be able to replace departing record goalscorer Sergio Aguero due to the financial fall-out from coronavirus said Pep Guardiola. **PHOTO: AFP**