Myanmar must continuously implement democracy and federalism: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Union-level personnel, Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, chairpersons of Region and State Administration Councils and chairpersons of Self-Administered Zones and Division Administration Bodies at Thabin Hall of the State Administration Council Chairman’s Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Than Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, General Maung Maung Kyaw, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Mahn Nyen Maung, U Thein Nyunt, U Khin Maung Swe, Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moung Har, U Sai Lone Saing, Saw Daniel, Dr Banyar Aung Moe and U Shwe Kyoein, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe and Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Than Kyaw, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Thein Soe, Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, the chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, the chairman of Myanmar Human Rights Commission, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chairpersons of region and state administration councils, advisory members to the Chairman of the State Administration Council, chairpersons of self-administered zones and division administration bodies, deputy ministers and officials.

At the meeting, the Senior General said he would like to explain matters related to the State Administration Council in declaring the State of Emergency for the country and taking over the State duty, current undertakings and future plans. Regarding the assumption of the State duty, the Senior General said the Council took the State responsibilities due to the event of voting frauds in the 2020 general election.

The Senior General continued to say that the general elections were held in 2010, 2015 and 2020 in Myanmar. The Union opposition parties. At that time, NLD stood as an opposition party but did not participate in the election by staging the boycott. The winning party in 2010 formed the government. It amended Section 6 (c) of the Political Parties Registration Law and revoked Section 10(e) for enabling all parties to participate in the election result. After the election, the Senior General met with NLD leaders, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to transfer power. At the meeting, the Senior General urged them to perform the tasks in accord with the Constitution.

Although the people inspired the NLD, Buddhist people, more than 80 per cent in the country, did not satisfy with Buddhism affairs based on religious and management misconducts. However, the Tatmadaw cooperate with the government formed by the election result. After the election, the Senior General urged them to perform the tasks in accord with the Constitution.

NATIONAL
People pray at religious buildings; market and public services resume operations

LOCAL BUSINESS
Rubber growers rejoice as price rises despite lower production

LOCAL BUSINESS
Muse border trade nearly comes to suspension due to COVID-19

CREATE SMOOTH TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS AND COMMODITIES
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 fairmness 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

Announcement

THE Ministry of Information does not officially approve an FM radio line with spreading news to be broadcast on test in Yangon Region. If anyone joins the operation of such broadcasting and gives assistance without permission, action will be taken against them under the existing law.

Ministry of Information
Myanmar Police Forces is being improved

STATE defence duty is the primary duty of the State, especially defending external danger. So, the capacity of members of the Myanmar Police Forces is being improved as they are mainly responsible for the security of the country.

From Page-1

However, the Hluttaw was convened, the State Counsellor Law was enacted based on the provision of Section 217 of the Constitution. The State’s protocol mentioned State Counsellor between the president and vice-president beyond the designation of qualification for the president and vice-president mentioned in the Constitution. Two to three years later, the people did not satisfy with the NLD. Peace is essential in a democracy: President U Thein Sein, in his tenure, signed NCA with ethnic armed organizations within four years.

NLD government tried to restore peace. Each ethnic armed organization has different endeavours, history and concept. It is necessary to perform restoration of peace in a patient manner. In its time, the NLD government signed with some part of the Union Accord. However, it did not achieve the success it expected because ethnic armed organizations were disappointed in the peacemaking process.

The Senior General said he urged all to emphasize the economy as if the economy develops, the peacemaking process will be quick. People staged the ‘No Vote’ campaign in 2018. For example, 14 per cent of eligible voters cast votes for the Yangon City Development Committee election in 2019. The election is important in a democracy: So, the Senior General urged military families to cast ballots and the people not to stage the ‘No Vote’ campaign.

The Senior General said he urged all to perform genuine and honest politics and fair politics at the third special annual meeting of NCA in 2018. At more meetings and conferences, the Senior General emphasized holding a free and fair election, performing honest politics, and avoiding political revenge. Covid-19 broke out in 2020. Rules and regulations for canvassing were issued for the outbreak of Covid-19. But, the ruling party broke its rules and regulations, but other political parties were restricted. At that time, the UDP party, which would compete in the election with 1,129 candidates, was revoked as it was not in conformity with the law. It was found that NLD committed voting frauds for winning the election. More than 10 million votes, believed to be fraudulent, were found in 315 townships. Adding a voting list was very bad, similar to the way of taking the examination with simple acts. Adding a voting list was very bad, similar to the way of taking the examination with simple acts.

The Union Election Commission did not address such problems. After forming the new Union Election Commission, voter lists were scrutinized in 98 townships of 10 regions and states. Such scrutiny showed about four million voter lists between the list of township election sub-commissions and the immigration department. More than one million persons without citizenship scrutiny cards cast votes. More than 9 million of over 14 million ballot papers were used, and more than 5 million ballot papers were lost. Although the Tatmadaw sent a letter to solve the problems by holding the State Defence and Security Council, the reason was showed not to do so under the law. They did not accept the postponement of the Hluttaw and the assignment of a third party to inspect the voting frauds. Hence, the Tatmadaw took over the State duty due to the assignment of the Pro Tem President. It was not Coup D’etat. The State Administration Council’s government was formed with the majority of civilians, and the councils of regions and states were also formed as well. A government has responsibility for improving and giving guarantee to the State.

Protests were staged as of 3 February. The Council solved it in a democratic way. In the events of the riots, 16 police members fell, and more than 260 were injured. Moreover, files of dead cases were opened for the death of 248 rioters in the events. CDM is an activity to destroy the country. The Senior General said he would like to identify CDM activity as a country-destroying movement. Although protests are staged in neighbouring countries and the international community, they do not destroy businesses. However, CDM in Myanmar attempted to halt the running of hospitals, schools, roads, offices and factories. Tatmadaw hospitals provide healthcare services to more than 110,000 outpatients and over 35,000 inpatients. At present, more than 4,000 patients are being provided treatments, and over 6,900 pregnant women were given birth.

The Ministry of Education is striving for reopening schools as quickly as possible. NGOs and INGOs shaped service personnel in undisciplined democracy. Rioters hang pictures of Buddhist monks assaulting Buddhism. People are in troubles for the closure of hospitals. The Tatmadaw gives a helping hand to them. The Tatmadaw sent 44 medical doctors to the Naga area in 2015. It is necessary to create an entitlement for teachers in line with their qualification so as to enhance the role of staff from education, health and State service personnel. A similar plan must be implemented for medical doctors. And appropriate entitlement must be created for service personnel.

The Senior General said the current government needs to take lessons from the past events of Coup D’etat. The Senior General stressed the need for cabinet members and officials to avoid indulgence and urged them to do all tasks according to the law. They need to carry out the tasks with satisfaction.

The Senior General stressed the need to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor in developing the socio-economy of the entire nation, undertaking equal development of regions and states and reducing the gap between urban and rural areas. As 70 per cent of people reside in rural areas, engaging in agriculture and livestock breeding, it is necessary to encourage their businesses.

It is necessary to arrange improvement of the agriculture and livestock breeding sector. As there is one Agricultural University and the University of Veterinary Science, colleges and institutes must be established. Only when the Council serve the interests of the people will the people have trust over the government. So, efforts will be made for serving the interests of the people and giving guarantees to them.

Myanmar must continuously implement democracy and federalism: Senior General

Myanmar must continuously implement democracy and federalism: Senior General

The need to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor in developing the socio-economy of the entire nation, undertaking equal development of regions and states and reducing the gap between urban and rural areas.
Only when the State economy develops will the country have firm currency: Senior General

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met the chairpersons of region and state administration councils and chairpersons of self-administered zones and division administration bodies at the meeting hall of the State Administration Council Chairman’s Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

He discussed regional development of regions and states.

Present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council member Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Secretary LT-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretariat LT-Gen Ye Win Oo, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing, Chairman of Kayah State Administration Council U Khin Maung So, Chairman of Kayah State Administration Council U Khin Maung So, Chairman of Kayin State Administration Council U Saw Myint Oo, Chairman of Chin State Administration Council U Npun Hsun Aung, Chairman of Sagaging Region Administration Council U Maung Maung Lin, Chairman of Tanintharyi Region Administration Council U Tin Aung, Chairman of Bago Region Administration Council U Myo Swe Win, Chairman of Magway Region Administration Council U Tin Lwin, Chairman of Mandalay Region Administration Council U Maung Ko, Chairman of Mon State Administration Council U Zaw Lin Tun, Chairman of Rakhine State Administration Council Dr Aung Kyaw Min, Chairman of Yangon Region Administration Council MY Aung Hla Soe, Chairman of Shan State Administration Council Dr Kyaw Tun, Chairman of Ayeyawady Region Administration Council U Ye Myint, Chairman of Naga Self-Administration Zone Administration Body U Tun Lin Win, Chairman of Danu Self-Administered Zone Administration Body U Aung Lin Dwe, Chairman of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Administration Body U Khun Ye Hte, Chairman of Palaung Self-Administered Zone Administration Body Taik Myin Zaw, Chairman of Kolang Self-Administered Zone Administration Body U Myint Swe, Chairman of Wa Self-Administered Division Administration Body U Nyi Nap and officials.

In his speech, the Senior General stressed the need to vaccinate the COVID-19 vaccine arriving at regions, states and self-administered zones to people as quickly as possible. Medical officers and nurses from local military units need to inject the COVID-19 vaccine to the people in the area where health staff are required due to CDM activity. The death rate of COVID-19 does not decline across the world. Despite the declining infection and death rate, Myanmar should do necessary things not to be careless for the pandemic. As those injected with the COVID-19 vaccine can be infected, all need to abide by COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Last five year, members of the Sangha faced dissatisfaction with religious affairs. As such, all need to perform fulfillment for the Sangha members to have the satisfaction to serve the religious affairs. The number of people with faith in Buddhism is 87 per cent in Myanmar. As such, Myanmar is a Theravada Buddhist country. It is necessary to assist those with faith in other religions to do their respective religious affairs satisfactorily. At present, the majority of youths in Myanmar are lack of culture, abandoning parents and rudely assaulting members of the Sangha and teachers. So, it is necessary to straighten the morale and culture of the youths. The Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) conducts cultural courses and vocational courses for the youths. Officials need to improve the cultural knowledge of the people in accord with the religion.

Only when the State economy develops will the country have firm currency. Trade deficit causes currency value in Myanmar. Efforts must be made for increasing production to be exported. Regions and States produce suitable products for the development of trade. It is necessary to boost the economy by exporting agricultural and live-stock breeding products rather than natural resources extraction. Likewise, cooperative tasks must be done. Other countries are carrying out cooperative businesses successfully. Myanmar needs to utilize good soil, water and human resources. Jobs must be created for people from basic strata so as to develop the economy. The government will adopt the policies, and officials from regions and states need to continue the implementation of projects.

Then, those attendees reported on the occurrence of riots and decline of riots in their areas, healthcare services of medical officers and nurses from local military hospitals for solving difficulties of the people who face CDM activities of some health staff, the reopening of closed hospitals, health, administrative and religious measures for the people, reopening of banks, prevention of COVID-19, improvement of the economy; border trade, good transport, issuance of ID to people, running of factories except some factories, assistance for displaced persons and arrangements for their return to home. The Senior General attended to the needs.

Then, the Senior General said as now is the period of COVID-19, Thingyan pavilions will not be allowed. But, all will be allowed to enjoy the water throwing festival in accord with the disciplines. Regions and States must hold outdoor sports competitions to enhance health, fitness and morale. Concerning the economy, regions and states need to produce quality value-added products in line with the motto of one village - one product. If so, the tourism industry and exportation will develop. Economic development zones and industrial zones must be established in respective regions, and these zones must be supervised for effective process.

— MNA
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 Chipwe and Tanai townships of Kachin State.

Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Township and numbers of polling stations</th>
<th>Township sub-committee</th>
<th>List from Immigration department</th>
<th>Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards</th>
<th>Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC</th>
<th>Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CSC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>47 polling stations in Chipwe Township of Kachin State</td>
<td>12,963</td>
<td>9,291</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>96</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>23 polling stations in Tanai Township of Kachin State</td>
<td>34,349</td>
<td>15,792</td>
<td>4,387</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>2,104</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Chipwe Township

According to the inspection, a total of 47 polling stations in 33 village-tracts in 7 Wards of Chipwe Township in Kachin State took out 14,250 ballots and used 9,964 ballots. It left 1,305 ballots instead of 4,286 ballots with 19 extra ballots. Findings were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/village-tract</th>
<th>Total polling station</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the Ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>Extra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yitlawkhaung Ward</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,100</td>
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<td>62</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Barlaedam Ward</td>
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<td>250</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>41</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Narmawzut Village-tract</td>
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<td>150</td>
<td>113</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Bantli Village-tract</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Manus Village-tract</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
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</tr>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Youthe Village-tract</td>
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<td>55</td>
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</table>

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Chipwe Township

According to the inspection, a total of 1,089 ballots and used 236 ballots and they left only 853 ballots instead of 853 ballots. The numbers are lesser than 25 ballots and it did not have full 50 ballot papers, the required numbers of ballot book.

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Chipwe Township in Myitkyina District of Kachin State were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/Village-Tract</th>
<th>Total polling station</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the Ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>Extra</th>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Kyinthon Village-tract</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Nunggyaw Village-tract</td>
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<td>Lapi Village-tract</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>106</td>
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<td>12</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Veelat Village-tract</td>
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<td>64</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Announcement of Union Election Commission

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Tanai Township

9. According to the inspection, a total of 23 polling stations in 8 village-tracts in 11 Wards of Tanai Township in Kachin State took out 34,900 ballots and used 21,915 ballots. It left 13,003 ballots instead of 12,985 ballots. The shortage/extra ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the Ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Missing Extra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/village-tract</td>
<td>34,900</td>
<td>21,915</td>
<td>12,985</td>
<td>13,003</td>
<td>13 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Township Remaining</td>
<td>1,683</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ballots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Township Total</td>
<td>38,783</td>
<td>22,823</td>
<td>15,960</td>
<td>15,978</td>
<td>13 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. It found 13 missing ballots and 31 extra ballots at 23 polling stations in 8 village-tracts in 11 wards of Tanai Township. The township remaining ballot was 2,975 and it found just 2,975 ballots in inspection, and so the remaining and findings are in conformity.

Request to Public

1. Democracy practices have granted the public freedom of speech, practices and living. Such freedoms should not harm others. Diverse views of others should be understood, but should not be disturbed or harassed. However, with the reason for human rights, some persons are now under pressured, harassed and threatened in breaching the laws. Undisciplined acts could lead to tarnish the image of democracy.
2. For preventing destructive actions against stability of the state, safety of the public and the rule of law, it is also required to proper actions in line with the law.
3. All the people who favour justice, freedom, equality and safety are requested to oppose breaching the laws and prevent such actions for the benefit of the country and people.
People pray at religious buildings; market and public services resume operations

PILGRIMS are paying homage at the pagodas and temples across the countries, including at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Maha Muni Pagoda in Mandalay and Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

It is also reported that people come and pray at their respective religious buildings peacefully.

Religious temples, buildings, and monuments belonging to the respective religions, including Buddhist temples and pagodas, were reopened according to the COVID-19 health guidelines since 8 February.

Moreover, markets in cities including Yangon and Mandalay are filled with shoppers and sellers. Banks, hospitals, flights, trains, cruise and buses have resumed operation, and buses in Yangon Region, are running every day for the convenience of the public. — MNA

Tatmadaw provides COVID-19 vaccine to venerable monks

COVID-19 vaccination was carried out to the venerable monks, civil service personnel and local residents in Taunggyi, Kalaw, Hopong, Hsihseng townships in Shan State; Loikaw Township in Kayah State; Nyaungdon, Kyangin, Pantaanaw, Kyakliat, Myanmya townships in Ayeyawady Region; Aungmyaythazan Township in Mandalay Region; and Toungoo Township in Bago Region yesterday.

Tatmadaw medical specialists, doctors and nurses, along with civilian doctors and medical staff, have been providing the COVID-19 vaccination to people over 65, civil service personnel and ethnic nationalities including venerable monks in respective military commands. — MNA

28th Myanmar military medical conference held for second day

The second day of the 28th Myanmar Military Medical Conference was held at the No (2) Military Orthopedic Hospital (500 bedded) in Mingalardon and No (2) Military Hospital (1,000 bedded) in Nay Pyi Taw through video conferencing yesterday.

Chairman of the Tatmadaw Medical Research and Development Committee, Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen Ko Ko Lwin, Senior Military Officials, medical specialists, international medical experts, invitees and interested persons attended the conference. A total of 453 military workers from other Tatmadaw hospitals and medical corps also joined the conference via the internet from 140 places.


Also, a total of 46 research papers on Pathology, Child Health Education, Nursing, Physical Medicine, Orthopaedics, Pharmacology, Legal Medicine, Microbiology, Medicine, Dentistry, Anatomy, Biology and Surgery were discussed.

The conference will be continued on 7 April. — MNA

Pearl and gems emporium continues sixth day in Nay Pyi Taw

THE sixth day of sales of pearl and gems in Myanmar Kyats continued yesterday morning at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw following the COVID-19 health guidelines.

In the morning, it was announced that 326 lots of jade from 1 to 450 lots were sold for K392,269,731. At the emporium yesterday, from Jade lots number (451) to the number (900) were auctioned by an open tender system. The gem merchants placed their proposed prices in the tender boxes by 11 am after inspecting the jade lots displayed in the Jade Hall.

The responsible persons will check the bidding prices, and the jade lots that are sold will be announced at 8 am on 7 April. It is reported that the jade lots number (900) to (2140) will be sold by an open tender system which will be closed at 11 am, and the sold jade lots numbers will be announced at 8 am on the next day. The auction will continue till 10 April. — MNA

A senior monk is receiving COVID-19 vaccine jab at the military command.
Create smooth transport of passengers and commodities

EL ECTRIFICATION and smooth transport are crucial for the improvement of social life for the people. Being a developing country, Myanmar enjoys smooth transportation through governments in successive eras despite trying to slotlight the whole country.

As every government emphasized fulfillment of transport facilities to the people, they required disruption of transport caused by natural disasters and wars, without delay. Myanmar faced disconnection of transportation for a long time due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and disturbances of human rights.

Transport is not mainly beneficial to the government but to the people. Those people experience transport difficulties for one year because of Covid-19 and another to similar problems for one more month. Whatever it may be, the government has been trying to seize opportunities to focus on public interests.

Except for road transport, aviation transport was affected negatively because of Covid-19 while some waterway transport services were suspended due to disastrous effects. Rail transport came into suspension for a long time because of Covid-19 activities.

Currently, all of the transport sectors have resumed their transportation services. Especially rail transport which basically gives transport services to the people.

Only when secure and smooth transport can be operated will the people conveniently do daily socio-economic activities, according to the development of the State. Despite gaining lesser benefit, rail transport services are crucial for the people.

Rise of the ‘robo-plants’, as scientists fuse nature with tech

A team of scientists led by Professor Tan Boon Liat from the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU) Singapore has developed a new technology that can detect abnormal signals from plants, opening the door to new technologies that make use of plants. Scientists have known for decades that plants emit electrical signals to sense and respond to their environment. The NTU researchers believe that developing the ability to measure the electrical signals of plants could create opportunities for a range of useful applications, such as plant-based robots that can help pick up fragile objects, or to help humans detect diseases in crops early.

Professor Tan said, “Agriculture is a high-tech industry that uses robo-plants and crops that tell farmers when they are hit by disease could become reality after scientists developed a high-tech system for communicating with vegetation. Researchers in Singapore linked up plants to electronics capable of monitoring the weak electrical pulses naturally emitted by the growing plant. The scientists used the technology to trigger a Venus flytrap to snap its jaws shut at the push of a button on a smartphone app. They then attached one of its jaws to a mini arm and got it to pick up a piece of wire half a millimetre thick, and catch a small falling object. This kind of “brain” technology could be particularly useful as crops face increasing threats from climate change. Scientists have long known that plants emit very weak electrical signals when plant roots detect nitroaromatic explosives. The signal is then transmitted through the plant tissues, and intercepted by a device that can send an email alert to scientists. Researchers believe such technology could be particularly useful as crops face increasing threats from climate change. Scientists have long known that plants emit very weak electrical signals when plant roots detect nitroaromatic explosives. The signal is then transmitted through the plant tissues, and intercepted by a device that can send an email alert to scientists.

The system can also pick up signals emitted by plants, raising the possibility that farmers will be able to detect problems with their crops at an early stage. By monitoring the plants’ electrical signals, they may be able to detect possible disease signals and abnormalities,” said Chen. Farmers may find out when a disease is in progress, even before full-blown symptoms appear on the crops. Researchers believe such technology could be particularly useful as crops face increasing threats from climate change. Scientists have long known that plants emit very weak electrical signals when plant roots detect nitroaromatic explosives. The signal is then transmitted through the plant tissues, and intercepted by a device that can send an email alert to scientists.

Crop defence

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In 2016, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology team turned spinach leaves into sensors that could send an alert to a scientist when they detect explosive materials in groundwater. The team embedded carbon nanotubes that emit a signal when plant roots detect nitroaromatic explosives. The signal then travels through the plant’s tissues and sends out a message to the scientist.

SOURCE: AFP

COVID-19 lays bare social inequality

COVAX, a World Health Organization-led initiative aimed at ensuring equal access to COVID-19 vaccines by various countries, has so far shipped more than 36 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 86 countries: UN

VAX, Mr Dujarije told reporters. The UN team, led by the Resident Coordinator Sara Solheim, is supporting the country’s vaccination campaign, which began on February 1. More than 130 million doses

As of April, the World Health Organization (WHO) is report-

ing that there have been nearly 132,021,989 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including more than 2,816,129 deaths. Up to the end of March, there had been 547,277,346 vac-
cine doses administered world-

wide. Vaccines for all

As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must implement policies and allocate resources so all can enjoy the same health outcomes,” said Mr. Guterres. That will involve reaching the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, he added, “and it means delivering universal health coverage to everyone, everywhere, can thrive.”

SOURCE: UN News

OPINION

7 APRIL 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
7 APRIL 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
NATIONAL/ ARTICLE

Create smooth transport of passengers and commodities

Only when secure and smooth transport can be operated will the people conveniently do daily socio-economic activities, according to the development of the State. Despite gaining lesser benefit, rail transport services are crucial for the people.

According to the central leader of Yangon railway station on 18 April to join the CMB movement. So, all functions of waterway sections were suspended and running of trains halted.

As of 15 February releases, CDM staff, staff families, outsiders and organizations distanced the running of trains. But, trains can be operated as usual thanks to security measures taken by the Yangon railway officials and staff to ensure secure and smooth transport for the people and swift flow of commodity.

Hence, it is necessary to deeply recognize the efforts of Myanmar Railways officials and staff to ensure secure and smooth transport for the people and swift flow of commodity.
**Myanmar export value exceeds $1,600 mln in Jan this FY**

MYANMAR average export value for January in the 2020-2021 financial year reached US$824.38 million, and border export value reached $811.15 million, with total export value coming at $1,635.53 million as a result.

Meanwhile, standard import value for the same period reached $1,581.94 million, and border import reached $399.68 million, reaching a total of $1,981.62 million. As a result, Myanmar total trade value for January 2020-2021 FY reached $3,617.15 million, creating a trade deficit of $1,560.23 million. From October to January of the current 2020-2021 FY, Myanmar normal export value generated $2,978.58 million, and border export reached $2,681.65 million, totalling $5,660.23 million.

The average import value for the same period reached $4,721.97 million, and border import reached $1,167.60 million, totally bringing $5,889.57 million. Consequently, the total trade value of Myanmar for October to January of 2020-2021 FY reached $11,540.80 million, generating a trade deficit of $229.34 million, according to the monthly trade report by the Central Statistical Organization. — MNA/GNLM

**Military tribunal takes legal action against arsonists at Winco Bag factory, Hlinethaya**

A military tribunal was set up to investigate the arson attack at the Winco Bag factory at around 2 pm on 16 March. Two suspects were sentenced to 20 years in prison with labour under Section 436 of the Penal Code on 5 April. The suspects named Zaw Lwin and Zaw Lin were detained during the riot that happened in Hlinethaya (East) Township, Yangon Region.

Winco Bag factory under arson fire.

Zaw Lwin was arrested for arson.

As Zaw Lwin was on the run, an arrest warrant was issued for him under Section 87 and 88 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Martial Law was declared on 14 and 15 March in Hlinethaya Township, Shweepytha Township, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and North Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region due to several arson attacks to the factories, schools and ward administration offices as well as terrorist acts.

It is reported that 23 types of crimes to be tried by the military tribunals in the townships where the Martial Law was declared, and legal actions will be taken effectively and rapidly if one commits these crimes. — MNA

**State-owned buildings burnt down in Pinlebu, Sagaing region**

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force statement, rioters attacked and burnt four state-owned buildings in Pinlebu town, Sagaing Region.

A group of 70 rioters attacked the township police station with guns, slingshots and fire bottles at about 1 pm on April 5. The crowd was dispersed at around 4 pm by the security forces.

Similarly, 290 rioters attacked the township court in the evening at around 5:30 with handmade guns and fire bottles.

While the security forces were dispersing the crowd, the township administration office was attacked by fire which was also spread to the township court and former township commission office at around 7 pm. Security forces and members of the fire brigade extinguished the fire at about 8:45 pm. The township development office inside the township administration office was also destroyed by fire through the remains of the buildings ravaged by fire yesterday morning at around 4 am.

It is reported that security forces are investigating to take effective actions under the law against those who committed the arson attack to the state-owned buildings, and more security forces will be deployed to prevent similar incidents. — MNA

Kyaukme toll gate mined, 3 men injured

A toll gate in Kyaukme was ravaged after a mine attack by two terrorists.

THE Asia World toll gate in Kyaukme township, Shan State was mined by two terrorists, which reportedly left three men injured and one motorbike destroyed.

According to the statement of the Myanmar Police Force, two men riding a motorbike arrived at the toll gate near Panpaung village on Mandalay-Lashio road and threw a mine. Due to the mine explosion, three men who were on duty at the toll gate were injured and one motorbike and the toll gate building were affected.

It is reported that security forces are investigating the case to take legal action effectively against those who threatened the lives of the people. — 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.—MNA

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<tr>
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<th>Address</th>
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Action will be taken against those who will admit the offenders, and list of remaining offenders will be released.

11 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 April, total figure rises to 142,541

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 142,541 after 11 new cases were reported on 6 April 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 131,829 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA
Rubber growers rejoicing as price rises despite lower production

THE rubber farm owners and tappers from Kawkareik township in Kayin State are delighted with rubber's hiking price despite lower production caused by poor weather condition this year.

Last year, the sun-dried raw rubber market price was K550 per pound, while the sun-dried rubber was sold for K400 per pound. However, the prevailing price of sun-dried natural rubber hit K350 per pound while the sun-dried rubber fetched K500 per pound. The rest of the rubber caps are priced at K550 per pound as last year, said a rubber farm owner from Ta Dan Ku village, Kawkareik.

Three weeks ago, at least 10 acres of rubber farmland produced about 40 pounds of rubber latex. At present, the workers are tapping the rubber for three days and get one day off because of heavy rain these days. Therefore, it can produce only 25 pounds of rubber latex. The raw rubber latex sheets are dried for nearly one month. But, there is some difficulty in drying the rubber sheet under the sun because of the heavy rains these days, said a rubber tapper from Ta Dan Ku village of Kawkareik.

Last year, the rubber growers from the villages near Kawkareik town came and sold about 20,000 pounds of rubber daily. But, they could sell only 10,000 pounds of rubber because of rubber latex's lower production in those villages this year. Those rubbers are sent to the Mandalay region through Kawkareik town, said an official from Kawkareik Rubber Depot explained.

"Rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. According to the 2018-2019 rubber season's data, Myanmar planted over 1,628 million acres of rubber, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthay Region 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber made in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and other countries, according to the MRPPA.

Myanmar has exported about 200,000 tonnes of rubber worth around US$240 million in the last FY2019-2020. — Sew Aung Myo Lwin (IPRD)/GNLM

Muse border trade nearly comes to suspension due to COVID-19

MUSE border trade comes to the verge of standstill following the detection of the coronavirus case in the border market, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

On 29 March, one Myanmar citizen tested positive for COVID-19 was found in Kyalgaung precious stone market, prompting China to restrict border access at the Man Wein checkpoint, which is a major border-crossing between Muse and Kyalgaung areas.

"Man Wein post has been closed down since 12:30 pm of 30 March. Man Wein is the important cross-border point between Myanmar and Ruili, China. Following the detection of coronavirus case in Kyalgaung border, the Ruili-Kyalgaung river crossing is also closed. The coronavirus tests and vaccination are now offered in Kyalgaung", U Min Thein elaborated.

Furthermore, China imposed the lockdowns on Kyalgaung and Ruili cities between 1 and 7 April, Muse Rice Wholesale Centre stated.

Consequently, there is no trade flowing in and out of the country via the Muse border, and the Muse border nearly comes to a halt. However, Kyinsankyaw and Wan Ding posts give the green light to over 400 watermelon trucks.

"Around 400 trucks of watermelon and muskmelon daily enter China via Kyinsankyaw and Wan Ding posts. They do not need to pass the Man Wein checkpoint for Ruili. The watermelon trucks are the exception. To summarize, rice, broken rice, sugar, corn, fishery products, and other consumer goods cannot be traded for now," U Min Thein stressed. Since early March, Muse border trade has returned to normal, with a thousand trucks daily plying to and from Muse border.

Myanmar is daily shipping rice, broken rice, green grams, peanuts, various pulses and beans, onion, chilli, fishery products, consumer goods, watermelon and muskmelon to China with over 700 trucks through the land border. Meanwhile, building materials, electric appliances, medical devices, consumer goods, and fertilizer are imported daily with 200 trucks. — NN/GNLM

Lima bean price drops due to immense supply into Pakokku market

THE lima bean price is declining as about 40,000 visses from Yesagyo township in the Irrawaddy River and Chindwin River and the villages beside the riverbank in Yesagyo township. The lima beans need to be cultivated in time. The soil near the river could be successful for the cultivation of any kind of bean species," said U Pho Kyaw, a bean grower from Balaba village in Yesagyo township.

The lima beans are grown chiefly in many villages such as Balaba, Kwat Daung, Zayama, Kyaw Htin Gone and Kyu villages. The harvested lima beans are sold at Pakokku brokerage for K14,000 per basket. But, the price of the lima bean has dropped this year compared to that of last year. The lima bean is less consumed in the country and is mainly exported to India, China and European countries.

Last year, the lima bean was priced at K15,000 per basket. One basket of lima beans contains 19 visses. According to the lima bean growers, the lima bean price dropped by K1,000 per basket this year compared to that of last year.

THE lima bean price is declining as about 40,000 visses from Yesagyo Township are entering the Pakokku market in the Magway region daily, said U Bo Gyi Naing, the Nilar brokerage owner.

"The lima bean plants are grown in the villages at the confluence of Ayeyawady River and Chindwin River and the villages beside the riverbank in Yesagyo township. The lima beans need to be cultivated in time. The soil near the river could be successful for the cultivation of any kind of bean species," said U Pho Kyaw, a bean grower from Balaba village in Yesagyo township.

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— Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM

Myanmar is daily shipping rice, broken rice, green grams, peanuts, various pulses and beans, onion, chilli, fishery products, consumer goods, watermelon and muskmelon to China with over 700 trucks through the land border.

Lima bean price drops due to immense supply into Pakokku market

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US services activity surges in March as prices rise: survey

The report comes on the heels of last week’s blowout US jobs report for March, as well as an ISM survey in the manufacturing industry that also showed higher prices as activity rebounded.

“Optimism in higher education that Fall 2021 will be near normal with vaccinated students, employees and staff returning to their roles on campus,” an official in educational services told ISM.

“Business is picking up as mandated restrictions seem to be easing and spring is right around the corner,” said an official in the real estate, rental & leasing industry.

But the report was not without some warning signs. Some companies told the ISM they were experiencing increased logistical problems and labor shortages that could crimp the recovery.

Air France gets EU green light for €4 billion aid

THE EU approved a plan Tuesday by the French government to inject up to four billion euros into Air France, hit by a collapse in passenger traffic during the pandemic.

The agreement, worth $4.7 billion, follows weeks of negotiations with the EU commission, which must ensure that state aid does not give companies an unfair advantage.

In return for the green light, the commission, which is the EU’s anti-trust regulator, said Air France would relinquish about 18 slots per day at Orly, Paris’ second-largest airport after Charles de Gaulle.

“This gives competing carriers the chance to expand their activities at this airport, ensuring fair prices and increased choice for European consumers,” EU competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager said.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said the EU had also allowed the French state to raise its stake in the national carrier to 30%, up from the current 14.9%.

THE United States is pushing in the G20 to adopt a global minimum corporate tax to stem the erosion of government revenues, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Monday.

Just days after President Joe Biden announced plans to raise corporate taxes to finance a massive $2 trillion infrastructure and jobs programme, Yellen said a collective international effort would end the “race to the bottom” on taxation.

Biden expressed outrage at multinationals – like Amazon – that have moved to tax havens or used loopholes and pay little to no tax, far less than some individuals, and said he would put a stop to the practice.

His plan would raise the US corporate tax rate to 28 per cent and the minimum for multinationals to 21 per cent.

He dismissed concerns the higher rate would drive companies overseas, telling reporters on Monday that “there’s no evidence of that”.

“We’re talking about a $28 per cent tax that everybody thought was fair enough for everybody,” he said.

“I’m going to push as hard as I can (to) change the circumstances so we can compete with the rest of the world.”

Yellen said the practice of seeking tax havens erodes government revenues and undermines an economy’s competitiveness.

“Together we can use a global minimum tax to make sure the global economy thrives based on a more level playing field in the taxation of multinational corporations,” she said in a speech to The Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Asian markets mixed after recent rally but outlook rosy

Asian investors struggled to extend the rally in global markets Tuesday, with a second straight day of gains on Wall Street unable to inspire further gains, though analysts remained confident of further advances this year as the world economy reopens.

The S&P500 and Dow scaled new heights, while the Nasdaq also saw big gains, after data Friday showed far more US jobs than expected were created last month, reinforcing the view of a strong recovery.

And the good news kept coming on Monday with figures showing activity in the crucial services sector hit an all-time high in March as orders surged thanks to a jolt of pent-up demand. That came after a gauge of manufacturing came in at a 37-year high last week.

Markets strategist Louis Navellier said the next few weeks could see more gains for equities.

“The primary reason that April is a seasonally strong month is due to new pension funding,” he said in a note. “The other reason is that the better weather in April lifts investor sentiment, and this year buoyant sentiment is likely to be boosted by a strong earnings season against a weaker quarter a year ago.”

“Second-quarter earnings growth is likely to be more pronounced, offering the prospect of a longer rally in stocks.”

However, Asia was unable to keep the momentum from New York, with a mixed picture in early trade.

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EU chiefs in rare Turkey visit to revamp relations

The European Union’s top two officials will pay a rare visit on Tuesday to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, aiming to strengthen ties after years of disagreements over issues such as energy exploration in waters claimed by EU members Cyprus and Greece.

Tensions between the EU and Turkey have cooled somewhat since Erdogan withdrew the vessels and this year engaged in its first maritime talks with Greece since 2018.

The bloc pulled back from its threat to sanction Turkey as a result.

A senior EU official said its threat to sanction Turkey as a result of Russian activity in the Crimea and on the Ukrainian border.

In a tweet after the call, Zelensky thanked Johnson for his support and said the Ukraine was “not alone” and was “supported by the G7 nations,” referring to the elite club of advanced economies.

The call between the British and Ukrainian leaders follows messages of solidarity from the US and the European Union, which on Saturday accused Moscow of massing thousands of military personnel on its northern and eastern borders, as well as on the Crimean peninsula annexed by Moscow in 2014.

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Sunday pledged the bloc’s “unwavering” support for Kiev US President Joe Biden in his first call with Zelensky affirmed Washington’s support for “Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia’s ongoing aggression.”

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US joins talks aimed at salvaging Iran nuclear deal

The US will join talks in Austria’s capital Vienna aimed at salvaging an international agreement on Iran’s nuclear programme, which Washington withdrew from in 2018.

US President Joe Biden has said he is ready to reverse the decision of his predecessor Donald Trump and return to the 2015 agreement, which was supposed to ensure that Iran never developed a nuclear programme.

But Iran is demanding an end to crippling sanctions imposed by Trump and has refused to meet US negotiators at the latest talks, meaning European players will act as intermediaries.

Iran confirmed in January that it was enriching uranium to beyond the threshold set by the 2015 nuclear deal at its Fordow plant.

Beirut’s blast-hit silos must be demolished, experts warn

A section of the grain silos that absorbed much of last year’s Beirut port blast must be demolished to avoid collapse, experts warned in a report published Monday.

Swiss company Amann Engineering, which has offered laser scanning assistance to Lebanon since the catastrophic August 4 explosion, called the most damaged of the demissed silos an “unsuitable, moving structure.”

“Our recommendation is to proceed with the deconstruction of this block,” the company said in a report. “As it becomes more obvious the concrete piles have been heavily damaged... new silos will have to be built at a different location,” it warned.

Economy minister Raoul Nehme had said in November that Lebanon will demolish its largest grain store over public safety concerns, but authorities have yet to take action.

Bangladesh protest turns violent, 3 shot: Police

A protest over police enforcement of coronavirus restrictions in rural Bangladesh turned violent as the Monday when a mob of demonstrators attacked a police station, with at least three people shot, police and a doctor said.

The incident took place in the central town of Saltha in Faridpur district, where police said rumours had spread that a man was injured in a police sweep at a market aimed at enforcing health measures to curb the spread of Covid-19, as cases spike nationwide.

Thousands of villagers took to the streets to express their anger. A group of them hurled bricks at a police station and vandalized government offices in the town, torching an officer’s home and two cars belonging to government officials, police said.— AFP
N. Korea says will not go to Olympics over Covid fears

NORTH Korea will not attend this year’s Tokyo Olympics because of the coronavirus pandemic, Pyongyang’s sports ministry said, blowing the final whistle on Seoul’s hopes of using the Games to restart talks with its nuclear-armed neighbour.

The isolated North’s participation in the last Winter Games, hosted by the South in Pyeongchang, was a key catalyst in the diplomatic rapprochement of 2018.

Leader Kim Jong Un’s sister Kim Yo Jong attended as his envoy in a blaze of publicity, and the South’s President Moon Jae-in seized the opportunity to broker talks between Pyongyang and Washington that led to a series of high-profile meetings between Kim and then US president Donald Trump.

But Pyongyang’s announcement puts an end to Seoul’s hopes of using the postponed Tokyo Games, due to begin in July, to kick off a reset in the now deadlocked talks process.

North Korea’s Olympic Committee “decided not to participate in the 32nd Olympic Games in order to protect players from the world public health crisis caused by Covid-19”, said the Sports in DPR Korea website, run by the sports ministry in Pyongyang.

But analysts said other factors may have been at play. The announcement – dated Monday – reported a meeting of the national Olympic committee on March 25.

Members of the Nadeshiko Japan soccer team that won the 2011 Women’s World Cup start the torch relay from the J-Village sports complex in Fukushima Prefecture on March 25, 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

Honduran civil groups call for president’s resignation over drug trafficking charges

DOZENS of Honduran civil society organizations have demanded the “immediate” resignation of President Juan Orlando Hernandez and main government officials for having turned the country into a “narco-state.”

Hernandez’s brother was sentenced to life in prison by a New York judge at the end of March for large-scale drug trafficking. During the trial, US prosecutors said the president had been a “co-conspirator” in Tony Hernandez’s crimes.

The organization leaders said they were “filled with indignation” in a statement released to “unconditionally demand... the immediate departure of Juan Orlando Hernandez from the government (and) the replacement of the high military command” that supports him.

They also called for the resignation of the “attorney-general, the president of Congress, the Justice and the attorney general of the republic,” and called to convene a transitional government to carry out the general elections on November 28.

Minneapolis police chief testifies in George Floyd murder trial

THE head of the Minneapolis Police Department discussed training and de-escalation techniques on the witness stand on Monday at the trial of the former police officer accused of killing George Floyd.

Police chief Medaria Arradondo, 54, fired Derek Chauvin and the three other officers involved in the May 25, 2020 arrest that led to Floyd’s death, within days of the incident.

Chauvin, who is white, was seen in a video taken by a bystander kneeling on the neck of a handcuffed Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, for nearly nine minutes.

The video touched off protests against racial injustice and police brutality in the US and around the world.

Chauvin, 45, has pleaded not guilty to charges of murder and manslaughter.

The first five days of his trial featured emotional testimony by bystanders who witnessed Floyd’s arrest and repeatedly urged Chauvin to remove his knee from Floyd’s neck. Arradondo was questioned extensively on Monday by prosecutor Steve Schleicher about the training his officers receive in de-escalation techniques designed to prevent the use of force.

Arkansas governor vetoes bill banning gender treatment for youths

ARKANSAS Governor Asa Hutchinson vetoed controversial legislation Monday that would have banned gender-confirming treatments for transgender youth and has made the state a front in what he called “the cultural war in America.”

Hutchinson, a conservative Republican, said the bill represented overreach by the state into the private affairs of transgender children, their parents and doctors.

“I House Bill 1570 becomes law, then we are creating new standards of legislative interference with physicians and parents as they deal with some of the most complex and sensitive matters involving young people,” he said.

“They deserve the guiding hand of their parents and the healthcare professionals that their family has chosen.”—AFP
Men’s FIFA ranking: Myanmar team stands fourth in ASEAN

THE Myanmar men’s national football team is currently standing fourth in the ASEAN region and ranked 137th in the world with 1,081 points, according to the FIFA rankings released in October 2020.

Thailand moved a point up while others remain unchanged in the previously released FIFA Rankings.

Team Viet Nam is still standing first in ASEAN with a world ranking of 93rd and 1,258 points earned. Meanwhile, Thailand’s national football team is placed second in ASEAN with a FIFA ranking of 110 and 1,178 points.

The Philippines squad is third with a world ranking of 124th and 1,136 points. Next, Malaysia’s national team is fifth in ASEAN and 153rd globally, ranking with 1,040 points earned. In the meantime, Singapore is next with a FIFA world ranking of 150th and 1,020 points.

Indonesia and Cambodia are tied in seventh place in ASEAN with FIFA ranking of 173rd and 964 points. Laos is next in eighth with a FIFA world ranking of 188th. Brunei and Timor Leste are in ninth and tenth place, with FIFA ranking of 191st and 197th.

According to FIFA, Myanmar had the highest FIFA records as 97th in April 1996 and lowest as 182nd in August 2012. —GNLM

Man City blame coronavirus for £126 million loss

PREMIER League leaders Manchester City blamed a £126 million ($175 million) net loss last season on a series of factors caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

City’s revenue for the year to the end of June 2020 fell 11 percent to £478.4 million, with the Premier League and Champions League finishing after the accounting period.

Delayed income from the postponed fixtures, including broadcast earnings, and player sales will show up in next year’s figures. “Clearly, the 2019/20 accounts in isolation are not the best representation of the reality of the season with delayed player trading and numerous games being played after 30th June 2020, the revenues from which will be accounted in the 2020/21 period,” said City CEO Ferran Soriano. “A better financial picture of the Covid years will be provided at the end of the 2020/21 season, when the two seasons are combined and normalized.” —AFP

German FA says Loew to remain Germany boss at Euro 2020

JOACHIM Loew will remain Germany coach at Euro 2020 despite last week’s latest humiliating defeat, the president of the German FA (DFB) said in an interview on Thursday.

“Clearly, the 2019/20 accounts in isolation are not the best representation of the reality of the season with delayed player trading and numerous games being played after 30th June 2020, the revenues from which will be accounted in the 2020/21 period,” said City CEO Ferran Soriano. “A better financial picture of the Covid years will be provided at the end of the 2020/21 season, when the two seasons are combined and normalized.” —AFP

There have been calls to replace Joachim Loew as head coach of Germany since last week’s shock home defeat to North Macedonia.

“Joel” Loew and his team will analyze everything and draw the right conclusions to be successful at the European championships.” The defeat left Germany third in their World Cup qualifying group, trailing leaders Armenia by three points and behind North Macedonia on goal difference and led to calls for Loew to be replaced before the Euros.

“It is clear that we need a change — and not just at some point, but now, in the short term,” Felix Magath, who coached Wolfsburg to the 2009 Bundesliga title, said last week. But the DFB insist there is no rush to name Loew’s successor.

“My plan is to propose a successor to the DFB presidium around the time of the European Championship,” said Germany team director Oliver Bierhoff, who is in charge of finding the new coach.

Former RB Leipzig sporting director Ralf Rangnick is among the favourites for the job and Bierhoff says he will hold further talks concerning Loew’s replacement “in the coming weeks”. —AFP

Time for Tuchel to take tough decisions at Chelsea

THOMAS Tuchel’s serene start as Chelsea manager came to a crashing halt as lowly West Bromwich Albion became the first visiting side to score five goals at Stamford Bridge in 10 years on Saturday.

Thiago Silva’s early red card played a large part in a shocking 5-2 defeat that ended Tuchel’s 14-match unbeaten run since replacing the sacked Frank Lampard in January.

The German coach now has to show he can deal with his first taste of adversity with the west London club.

“It’s a wake-up call. We will get the right response,” said Tuchel.

“It’s important we digest it. I did not see it coming, now we have to take our responsibilities — me included — and shake it off.

“We can’t, after 15 or 14 matches, lose our head. We can’t take away the trust that we have in these players.”

His call for calm fell on deaf ears among some of his squad with reports of a training ground clash on Sunday between Antonio Rudiger and Kepa Arrizabalaga.

A swift response is needed in Wednesday’s Champions League quarter-final first leg against Porto in the first of two clashes between the sides in Seville due to coronavirus restrictions on travel between Portugal and England.

Despite the Portuguese giants’ heroics in dumping out Juventus in the last 16, anything other than progression to Chelsea’s first Champions League semi-final since 2014 will be seen as a huge disappointment. —AFP

Thomas Tuchel’s 14-match unbeaten start as Chelsea manager came to a stunning end with a 5-2 defeat to West Brom on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP