THINGYAN, which is a transition from an old year to a new year, is the most notable and solemn traditional festival of Myanmar citizens. At this moment of saying farewell to the old year and ushering into the New Year, I pray for all the brethren of the Union to enjoy health and happiness and the auspicious days and to be free from the Covid-19 pandemic. I also wish all your wishes come true.

During the previous year, we saw the challenges and hardships triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the formation of the State Administration Council (SAC) by the Tatmadaw as per the delegation of the responsibilities of the State made in accord with the emergency provisions of the 2008 Constitution due to massive vote-rigging generated willfully during the multiparty democracy general election held on 8 November 2020 and an unusual situation.

The SAC is now trying to restore peace and stability and generate socio-economic development, which are the two aspirations of the people, in shouldering the duties of the State. It also promises the utmost efforts to fulfill the wishes of the people.

Not only the government but also the collective involvement of other pillars, political parties and the people are required in carrying out this task. The most important thing is that all should work with the wider outlook and wisdom in generating national peace and stability and progress towards a gentle transition.

SAC will join hands with all the national brethren and exert utmost efforts for ensuring a peaceful and stable socio-economic life, unity and development for the State and the people.

Efforts and consideration must be made on a national scale in carrying out the task of rebuilding the national economy. Chiefly, we must reform the existing important economic institutions and build new ones to strengthen the whole economic infrastructure.

The government is constantly monitoring and conducting Covid-19 prevention and treatment undertakings for the public, and it now has a three-stage priority programme for giving the vaccine, produced in India, China and Russia, for over 15 million people in five groups. Till now, 3.5 million doses have already been arrived in the country, and 28 million more will arrive soon. Priority will be given to the people in preventing and containing the virus. People will be able to work or learn only if they are healthy. We will be able to shape our better future only if we are healthy.

As for the success of the peace process, the Tatmadaw stays away from any acts that may hinder peace. Hence, all the organizations and persons, who are the stakeholders of the peace process, should join hands for peace and tranquillity of the Union, socio-economic progress, and installing a correct democratic system to reach this end. Only the enduring peace can bring national development.

In this auspicious Myanmar Year 1383, we all must address the weakness and promote the strengths of the previous year in serving the interests of the country and its citizens.

I send this New Year message urging all the brethren of the Union to join us in collectively serving the interests of the Union happily and vigorously. I wish you all health and happiness.
**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

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**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.

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**Over 70,000 acres of non-paddy crops irrigated by Thaphanseik Dam**

**PHOTO: LU LAY**

PLANS are underway to supply sufficient water to more than 70,000 acres of non-paddy crops with the irrigation water from the Thaphanseik Dam in Sagaing Region, according to U Win Hlaing Oo, Region Director of Agriculture Department.

“We couldn’t supply water last year, but we are irrigating about 70,000 acres of non-paddy crops this year. We will especially plant black sesame and green pea with about 500 acres of legumes,” he said.

In Sagaing region, the regular water supply for summer crops is expected to be more than 300,000 acres. However, the Department of Agriculture has informed that the water supply is limited due to insufficient water in the Thaphanseik Dam and have notified to select crops that use less water in areas where there is no water supply. Although more than 300,000 acres of paddy were grown when the irrigation water was available in Sagaing Region, no paddy is grown anymore. The irrigation water is reportedly supplied this year because the dam couldn’t provide water last year. —Lu Lay

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**MYASEINYAUNG project to implement in 41 villages of Sagaing region**

MYASEINYAUNG project will be implemented in 41 villages of Sagaing region in this financial year of 2020-2021. So far, implementation in two villages out of 41 has been completed, according to the Sagaing Region Rural Development Department.

“This FY, Myaseinyaung project will be carried out in 41 villages from nine districts of Sagaing region. The implementation in the two villages has been completed since the start of January, 2021. These 41 villages were targeted to complete within this year,” says U Win Kyaw Myo, the head of the department.

“The Myaseinyaung village project provides K 30 million for each village unit of the project. It is not a loan but a revolving fund. The authorities formed a management committee and provided a training course to manage those funds. Then, the villagers will be disbursed the loans initially. The committee will decide how much to provide for agriculture, livestock, manufacturing and other sectors. The interest rate will be between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent. However, the interest is set up 0.5 per cent in a year of COVID-19 stricken period. The training course will also enable the committee to decide on the interest period as to whether to repay in three or six months,” he added.

The project will be carried out in 41 villages of Sagaing region including one village each in Kalay, Khin-U, Yinnabain and Hlgyaing townships, two each in Indaw, Kawlin, Thabyin, Wetlet, Taze and Kanbula townships, three each in Sagaing, Monywa, Budaian, Ayadaw, Pale, Shwebo and Yi-U townships and four villages in Homalin township. —Lu Lay
In the events of the riots, 16 police members fell, and more than 260 were injured

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.

(Excerpt from the speech to 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 made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 7 April 2021)

Parts of sitting marble Buddha image, throne conveyed to Nay Pyi Taw for seventh time

The seventh ceremony to convey the parts of Maravizara sitting marble Buddha image and throne to be built in Nay Pyi Taw took place in Simikhon Village of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

Venerable monks, Lt-Gen Kan Myint Thun of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Oo and officials sprinkled scented water on the parts of the Buddha image and the throne, which will early leave for Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

On the agenda, the modular trailers carrying part-2 from the main marble rock for the sitting Buddha image weighing 570 tonnes and part-3 weighing 633 tonnes started departure at the auspicious time.

Chairman of Mandalay Region Sangha Nayaka Committee venerable Sayadaw of Pali-New Padetha Monastery from Masoyein Monastery, Lt-Gen Kan Myint Thun, the commander and congregation paid homage to the parts of the Buddha image.

The ceremony ended with a three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Thittathu. —MNA

Sand Pagoda Festival held in Twantay

THE 456th Shan traditional Thei Pone Pagoda Festival (Sand Pagoda Festival) was held at Shwesandaw pagoda of Twantay Township of Yangon Region on 17 April (1st day of Myanmar New Year).

The people from four Shan Villages - Shansugyi, Nyuangdaga, Muelaman and Ngakhonmasan collectively carried the sand and built the pagoda.

These four Shan villages yearly hold the festival, and Ngakhonmasan village made diamond ord for the pagoda this year festival. In contrast, Nyuangdaga village made five-terraced bamboo coils and shaft, Shansugyi village made bell and inverted lotus flower and spreading lotus flower and Muelaman village made umbrella. The villages alternatively made the parts of pagodas yearly, according to the responsible person of the festival.

The young Shan people preserve the tradition of Shan, and now the festival reaches its 456th anniversary. The four Shan villages have to construct the pagoda in accordance with the measurement fixed by Shan Literature and Culture Association (Twantay). The pagoda is 9 ft high. “The Shan religious hall was constructed in the Shwesandaw pagoda precinct to contribute to Shan literature, tradition and culture to young Shan people,” said U Ba Win, member of festival organizing committee. — Myo Hlaing (Twantay)

The young Shan people preserve the tradition of Shan, and now the festival reaches its 456th anniversary.
U Khin Maung Swe, SAC member

MINGALABA! I would like to extend my best wishes for the health and happiness of the entire people during New Year. There is a saying in the political field, “The political leaders prioritize the victory in the election. But, the leaders who love the country think of only for the improvement of successive generations.”

Dear esteemed people, we should consider more than 50 million people, including those we love or hate. It is time for our community to be in a fair situation. Then, I would like to request to implement a well-developed country with the spirit of national unity.

Every citizen has a responsibility to protect the country. There is also proof that the ethnic people Mon, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Chin protected the country from generations to generations. Therefore, we should love and admire our people and protect our country not to be the follower of other countries by paying respect to the dedicated efforts of our ancestors and the founders of our country. I urge all the people to implement a federal Union, which the entire people want, with the spirit of national unity.

May all Myanmar people and the country be peaceful and healthy.

U Thein Nyunt, SAC member

THE country faced the situation like the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. It was nearly to encounter the wars like in Iraq and Libya. But the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing saved the country from that situation in 1382 ME.

Moreover, the country dips in poverty, and it needs qualified leaders and systematic leadership. And these needs are filled now, and it is a good thing out of the worst things. Whatever the people say, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and efforts of Tatmadaw should be honoured in history. The people will know who is working for the country and the public soon. Whatever the situation is, the people will come to know the answer, like which leader is trying best for the country very soon. I am sure that the country gains good fortune with proper transition under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

All can see such a situation in 1383 ME. Therefore, there is only one point that I want to say. If we want the best situation of the country and the people have hopes for their future, we all should be ready to build a new era under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and I extend best wishes for all.

Jeng Phang Naw Taung, SAC member

DEAR esteemed people, I wish to pray for the good health and well-being of all people. I would like to make another wish that may the COVID-19 pandemic end soon in the country.

We all should implement the proper plans in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment, COVID-19 -hit businesses, keep of public, peace processes, the living standard of government employees and treatment, COVID-19-hit businesses, keep of public, peace processes, the living standard of government employees and human resources. There is a saying in the political field, “Every citizen has a responsibility to protect the country. There is also proof that the ethnic people Mon, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Chin protected the country from generations to generations. Therefore, we should love and admire our people and protect our country not to be the follower of other countries by paying respect to the dedicated efforts of our ancestors and the founders of our country. I urge all the people to implement a federal Union, which the entire people want, with the spirit of national unity.”

May all Myanmar people and the country be peaceful and healthy.

Saw Daniel, SAC member

I extend my heartfelt wishes for the health and happiness of the entire people during Myanmar New Year. Various ethnic people and religions are living in our country. If we treat well each other without any hatred, it will be a peaceful and happy country.

The country is rich in natural resources and human resources. Therefore, it is not that hard to be a well-developed nation. But, we should choose the right persons. Due to some disorders, the country has been standing at the average level for more than 70 years. Therefore, the people should not be extremists regarding the party, policy and people. We should prioritize the intelligent people in the sectors where they are good at. If we carry out hand in hand, there would be signs of progress in our country. We need to fix some sectors. As long as we cannot fix that, we will have to encounter a worse situation than now. I extend my best wishes for the health and well-being of our people. Thank you all.
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 Sagaing and Myinmu townships of Sagaing Region.

Findings were as follows:

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 Sagaing and Myinmu townships of Sagaing Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.

2. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Sagaing and Myinmu townships of Sagaing Region with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.

4. According to the inspection, a total of 229 polling stations in these two townships took out 379,492 ballots and used 278,332 ballots. It left 98,160 ballots instead of 101,160 ballots. The difference was 3,427 ballots, and it found 732 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

5. A total of 163 polling stations in 34 Wards and 76 Village-tracts of Sagaing Township in Sagaing Region took out 272,576 ballots and used 199,460 ballots. It left 73,116 ballots instead of 73,116. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

6. Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

7. Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Sagaing Township

8. It found 2,950 missing ballots at polling stations in 22 Wards/Village-tracts of Sagaing Township and 680 extra ballots at polling stations in 7 Wards/Village-tracts. Findings were as follows:

9. Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

10. It left only 70,846 ballots instead of 73,116. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

11. Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Sagaing and Myinmu townships of Sagaing Region.

12. Findings were as follows:

13. Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Sagaing Township and numbers of polling stations.

14. Missing ballots was 2,950 and it found 732 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations.
Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Myinmu Township

8. A total of 66 polling stations in 4 Wards and 48 Village-tracts of Myinmu Township in Sagaing Region took out 186,916 ballots and used 78,872 ballots. It left 27,019 ballots instead of 28,044. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/Village tract ballots</td>
<td>98,750</td>
<td>78,872</td>
<td>20,107</td>
<td>7,937</td>
<td>20,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Township ballots</td>
<td>8,166</td>
<td>7,937</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>106,916</td>
<td>78,872</td>
<td>27,044</td>
<td></td>
<td>27,019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. It found 477 missing ballots at the polling stations in 6 Wards/Village-tracts of Myinmu Township and 52 extra ballots at the polling stations in 2 Wards/Village-tracts. 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/Village tract ballots</td>
<td>58,894</td>
<td>78,872</td>
<td>19,978</td>
<td></td>
<td>19,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Township ballots</td>
<td>1,997</td>
<td>7,937</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60,891</td>
<td>78,872</td>
<td>14,981</td>
<td></td>
<td>14,981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Those spreading false 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Account name</th>
<th>Profile</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Section of Penal Code</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NyiNyi</td>
<td>Lin Thha</td>
<td>Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bo Nma</td>
<td>Nyan Myo Aung</td>
<td>Lammadaw Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>La Pyae Mg Mg</td>
<td>La Pyae Mg Mg</td>
<td>Thanlwin Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Yee Mon Htun</td>
<td>Yee Mon Htun</td>
<td>Mayangon Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Zaw Win Manzaw</td>
<td>Zaw Win</td>
<td>Mahasangmye Township, Mandalay Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image5.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Heinz Zaw Nyo</td>
<td>Heinz Zaw Nyo</td>
<td>Pyaywby Township, Mandalay Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image6.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ye Min Thein</td>
<td>Ye Min Thein</td>
<td>Kyaukpadau Township, Mandalay Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image7.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Myat Noe Tin Aung</td>
<td>Myat Noe Aung</td>
<td>Ye Town, Mon State</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image8.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Phone Khant</td>
<td>Phone Khant</td>
<td>Yankin Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image9.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>HlaSoewai</td>
<td>Hla Soe Wai</td>
<td>(Temporary Residing in Canada)</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image10.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mani Zar Min (Daw Mas)</td>
<td>Mani Zar Min</td>
<td>Yankin Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image11.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Aung Win Htut</td>
<td>Ko Aung</td>
<td>Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image12.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sayar Kyaw</td>
<td>Kyaw Min Tun</td>
<td>Tamway Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image13.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Richard Michael William</td>
<td>La Pyae Win</td>
<td>Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image14.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tun Myat Nyunt</td>
<td>Tun Myat Nyunt</td>
<td>Dagon Myothit Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image15.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Khant Thu</td>
<td>Khant Si Thu</td>
<td>South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image16.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Poe Lay</td>
<td>Poe Lay</td>
<td>Pabedan Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image17.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Khit Naing</td>
<td>Hay Naing</td>
<td>Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image18.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Moe Myint</td>
<td>Moe Myint (Hann Ma)</td>
<td>Han Ni Oo</td>
<td>Muse Town, Shan State</td>
<td>505-a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nilar Sein</td>
<td>Nilar Sein</td>
<td>PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay (Temporary Residing in USA)</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image20.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Action will be taken against those who admit the offenders, and list of remaining offenders will be released. —MNA
Smokeless industry, a key drive for improving Myanmar economy

EVERTYBODY has experienced viewing industries with smoke floating in the air which results from traditional fuels. These industries are being operated for manufacturing of various kinds of products with the purpose of local consumption. The majority of people cannot see the industries without smoke, but they are actually in operation. In fact, the tourism industry is dubbed as a smokeless industry.

The government of Myanmar places emphasis on boosting tourism industry with many plans to resume operations of varieties of tourism sector such as inbound, outbound, ecotourism, community-based tourism, mass tourism, adventure, trekking, cultural and tour-related activities, coastal and marine, and others.

The country can earn income from the visits of local and foreign travelers. So, it needs to invite travelers from around the world. As such, the country needs to give tourism services to local and foreign travelers anywhere while arranging accommodations and foods for the guests.

Tour operators need to widen their scopes of knowledge for the development of their business to forecast and calculate the results from tourism cooperation under the frameworks of the ASEAN, the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar (CLM) of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya River Corridor Economic Cooperation Strategy -ACCRS, and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM- STEC).

Myanmar people, including tour operators, need to have a broader knowledge and higher techniques on how to manage the tourism industry for booming the State economy.

THE Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award presentation ceremony was successfully held at the hall of Printing and Publishing Department on Thursday, 1 April 2021. This year’s ceremony was the last one held last year due to the period to contain the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award presentation ceremony has continued annually for 75 years.

This ceremony was made possible for my childhood memories. Although I was born in 1948 when Myanmar regained her independence, my childhood days saw insecurity which was a daily routine. Most of the townspeople were panicstricken, and we had to take refuge in the blinding place or hill holes. As I pursued an education at a monastic primary school, I had no books on knowledge to read except schoolbooks which we had in neither reading exam nor public libraries. Objectively speaking, there was no book store other than the book stores in the dark age. To make matters worse, I had to memorize all important information in my memory.

My heart longed for a little light in the dark cloud. It was nothing but a book I got from the monk. I have clearly recollected that the title of the book was 'ရှင်သက်ရွှင် (Tales for Children). On the cover page, I saw a logo with its motto. It was an opening mark of a book, which enlightened my one side. This book is dark, and its opposite page was white. And a pen was penetrating through the book. The motto was 'နေထောင်ခွင်းစာလမ်း (Motto in Burmese language): ‘မြန်မာစာသီး (Mandalay Script)’.

As a matter of fact, Sarpay Beikman’s long life was an account of hardships in Bruno’s translation. In 1947, Bruno held a conference titled ‘လိုဏော်ဂါ (Bruna Translation)’ at the renowned translators and linguists of the Burmese translation.

Bruno was the Burmese Translation Society (BTS) which was established in 1936. Since then, it has been continuously working for the research and promotion of Burmese literature. It has published over 33 volumes of short stories, novels, poems, and literary works. The Mass Pocket Series, beside its financial gain, earned K500, K300, K200 for first, second and third prizes, respectively. In addition to the category of novel, the Sarpay Beikman will give awards to readers including researchers, writers, scholars, translators, and editors who are undertaking the literary development works.

The idea for the motto came from the movie star Bo Ba Ko, whom I visited the house of the post-independence period. The motto 'မြန်မာစာသီး (Mandalay Script)’ is known as the “Sorrento Villa Plan”.

Bruno and the motto ‘လိုဏော်ဂါ (Bruna Translation)’ at the renowned translators and linguists of the Burmese translation were undertaken by Sarpay U Akin Zaw (Ko). The logo was deftly designed by Aung Aung Kyaw o/w Sayagyi U Ngwe Pyae. From that year onward, Sarpay Beikman produced three literary series – ‘မြန်မာစာသီး’ (Mass Light Book Series), ‘မြန်မာစာသီး’ (Mass Light Books Series, and ‘မြန်မာစာသီး’ (Mass Uni- versity Book Series)). Translating the ancient literary works into modern Burmese is a matter of science and applied sciences, translation and the fine arts with a view to creating a modern literary work.

The country can earn income from the visits of local and foreign travelers. So, it needs to invite travelers from around the world. As such, the country needs to give tourism services to local and foreign travelers anywhere while arranging accommodations and foods for the guests.

Tour operators need to widen their scopes of knowledge for the development of their business to forecast and calculate the results from tourism cooperation under the frameworks of the ASEAN, the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar (CLM) of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya River Corridor Economic Cooperation Strategy -ACCRS, and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM- STEC).

In fact, it is necessary to enhance the awareness of tourist destinations. Consistent, local authorities need to cooperate with tour operators in arranging transportation, accommodations, healthcare, accommodation of hotels and food to attract more tourists. Better catering services is an addition to entertainments such as traditional dance and musical performances.

Generally, local authorities and tour operators should give better services to the travelers within the law frameworks to win their heart and soul for being challenging to depart from Myanmar and to live in the victory in the tourism sector. A lot of virgins lands for the tourism sector are mushrooming across the nation. There are good potentials for the Myanmar people, including tour operators, to need to have a broader knowledge and higher techniques on how to manage the tourism industry for booming the State economy.

UN atomic energy agency to work with Japan on Fukushima water disposal

By Maung Hainga

UN atomic energy agency IAEA, said Japan’s decision to release contaminated water from the stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea stirred fierce controversy.

Japan’s decision to release radioactive water to the sea is one of the worst violations of international law that the IAEA has ever seen.

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Japan’s decision to release radioactive water to the sea is one of the worst violations of international law that the IAEA has ever seen. The move is likely to be conducive to the intellectual and cultural development of the existing Chinese races of Burma.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Section of Penal Code</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dr Nay Zaw Aung</td>
<td>Toungoo People's</td>
<td>Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dr Han Thi Thi Zaw</td>
<td>Toungoo People's</td>
<td>Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dr Saw Mark Hal Htoo</td>
<td>Toungoo People's</td>
<td>Min Gyn Nyo Ward, Toungoo Town</td>
<td>505-a</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dr Min Khant Kyaw</td>
<td>Toungoo People's</td>
<td>Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dr Swe Mar Aung</td>
<td>Toungoo People's</td>
<td>Myittha Township, Mandalay Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dr Zar Ni Tun</td>
<td>Indaw People's</td>
<td>Indaw Town, Sagaing Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dr Ye Marn Myoe Win</td>
<td>Yedashe People's</td>
<td>Monywa Town, Sagaing Reion</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dr Pyae Sone Tun</td>
<td>Yedashe People's</td>
<td>Yankin Township, Yangon Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dr Nay Lin Zaw</td>
<td>Sittway People's</td>
<td>South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dr Ei El Khine</td>
<td>Sittway People's</td>
<td>Nyaungdon Town, Ayeyawady Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Dr Nwe Nwe Win</td>
<td>Loilem People's</td>
<td>Loilem Town, Shan State (South)</td>
<td>505-a</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dr Phyoe Gyan Aung</td>
<td>Indaw People's</td>
<td>Htigyaing Town, Sagaing Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dr San Aung Lin</td>
<td>Kyaiaklat People's</td>
<td>Kyaiaklat Town, Ayeyawady Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Dr Aung Ko Ko</td>
<td>Sittway People's</td>
<td>Hline Township, Yangon Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dr Chit Thang Aung</td>
<td>Hlaingebon Village</td>
<td>Mawlamyinegyun Town, Ayeyawady Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dr Phyoe Wai Zin</td>
<td>Myawady People's</td>
<td>Myawady Town, Kayin State</td>
<td>505-a</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dr Arkar Thit Tun</td>
<td>Mogok People's</td>
<td>Mogok Town, Mandalay Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Dr Yu Maung</td>
<td>Mogok People's</td>
<td>Mogok Town, Mandalay Region</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Dr Kyaw Thura</td>
<td>Kyatpyin Station</td>
<td>Mogok Town, Mandalay Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Dr Thei Wah Lin</td>
<td>Mawlamyine General Hospital</td>
<td>Mawlamyine Town, Mon State</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among them, Dr Phyoe Wai Zin (Assistant Surgeon) of Myawady People’s Hospital, Dr Arkar Thit Tun (Assistant Surgeon), Dr Yu Maung (Assistant Surgeon), Dr Kyaw Thura (Specialist) of Mogok People’s Hospital and Dr Thei Wah Lin (Assistant Surgeon) of Mawlamyine General Hospital participated in CDM activities without performing medical treatments at assigned hospitals but gave medical treatments at private hospitals/clinics according to the documentary photos.

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those medical doctors charged, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those medical doctors to private hospitals to give medical treatments. Severe action will be taken against owners of these hospitals/clinics which allowed them to give medical treatments. Deterrent action will be taken against owners of private hospitals/clinics which admit those medical doctors and health staff for supporting the CDM participants.
Maritime trade drops by $4.3 bln in H1

The value of Myanmar’s maritime trade over the first half (1 Oct-2 Apr) of the current financial year 2020-2021 sank to US$10 billion, a drastic drop of over $4.3 billion as against the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce. While maritime exports were valued at $4.66 billion, imports have registered at $6.16 billion. Compared to the same period in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, imports fell by $2.78 billion, while exports reported a decrease of $1.53 billion.

Meanwhile, the value of trade through the border this FY was estimated at $5.6 billion, a decrease of $0.34 million as against a year ago period. Myanmar witnessed a slump in exports and imports triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts and political changes.

The neighbouring countries tightened the border security and limited the trading time to contain the spread of the virus. For maritime trade, disruptions in the logistic sector, the suspension of some ocean liners and the pandemic-induced container shortage scaled down the maritime trade somehow.

“The lack of money in circulation due to the closure of private banks decreases economic efficiency,” an exporter stressed. The country’s total external trade touched a low of $15.78 billion, which plunged from $20.36 billion recorded in a year ago period. Myanmar’s sea trade generated $26 billion from an overall trade value of $36 billion in the edge FY 2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics indicated. Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products.

Stock trading value in equity market plummeted to record low in March 2021

The value of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in March 2021 sank to the lowest level in history with just K110 million in March 2021, the YSX’s monthly report indicated.

In February 2021, K442 million worth of 77,388 shares were traded on the exchange. The figures extended further drops to K110-million value of 19,816 shares in March 2021.

Additionally, the value of shares traded on the exchange in March 2021 drastically dropped compared with the figures in March 2020 (registered K1.425 billion valued 228,913 shares), the YSX’s monthly report indicated.

At present, shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank Public Co., Ltd (FMB), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), and the Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFPR) are being traded on the exchange.

The shares prices last month also declined as against the previous months. The price per share of FMI decreased to K9,400 in March 2021. Similarly, the share price of MTSH slid to K3,500. The stock prices slipped to K2,000 for MCB and K21,500 for FPB, while TMH’s share price remained unchanged at K2,800. The share price of EFPR last month was closed at K3,300.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, Myanmar’s securities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading.

In 2020, the value of stocks traded on the exchange peaked at K14.8 billion in February. In contrast, trading on the exchange registered an all-time low of K502.9 million in November due to the COVID-19 resurgences in Myanmar, the exchange’s monthly report showed.

According to the annual report released by the exchange, a total of K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on the exchange in 2020, a significant drop compared to 2019.

Over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019. In 2016, only three companies were traded on the YSX — FMI, MTSH, and MCB. One more public company, FPB, was listed on the YSX in 2017. In 2018, TMH debuted on the exchange. EFPR entered the exchange in 2020.

Moreover, Amata Holding Public Co., Ltd. (AMATA) released a statement that the listing date will be postponed for a certain period, and the rescheduled listing date will be announced in due time, YSX notified on 26 February 2021.

The stock markets worldwide have reported their most significant declines since the 2000 financial crisis. Similarly, the local equities market is also scarred by the COVID-19 crash, a market observer points out.

At present, people are keeping emergency savings rather than investing in the COVID-19 crisis and current political conditions, he added.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECMO) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market from 20 March 2020.

Furthermore, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 26 September 2020 to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX. YSX stated.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars. The stock exchange has also sought the government’s support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge.

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Over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019. — KK/GNLM
Press release on inaccurate death toll in riots

SINCE the State Administration Council has taken over the country, peaceful protests following the democracy led by NLD members and illegally-formed CRPH and the extremists, who support them, have escalated from insurrection to acts of terrorism. In some cities, they blocked the roads. They attacked the police stations, military headquarters, ward administration offices, schools and private business buildings, public roads and innocent homes with grenades, homemade mines and grenades and fire bottles.

The members and the supporters of the NLD party attacked a total of 63 police stations, 62 ward administration offices, 52 department buildings, 16 roads and bridges, 13 banks, 105 schools and other buildings from 1 February to 15 April. Moreover, they destroyed by fire a total of 13 industries in the Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha industrial zones and in Insein township, Yangon Region.

They also accused and abducted innocent people who didn’t have the same opinion as to the traitors and killed brutally or punished them inhumanely. There were a total of 17 innocent people who were killed brutally and 30 with severe injuries.

The media, which does not want peace and stability in the country, is plotting to mislead the international community and the public about the security forces’ response, and on the other hand, the misinformation they are writing is being spread by unscrupulous people through social media. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), a Thai-based illegal organization, has released a list of actual deaths due to the security forces based on figures compiled based on misinformation from social media. According to them, there were a total of 726 deaths as of 15 April.

In the event of a fatal shooting, security forces conduct a systematic autopsy to record all deaths. According to the official records of the Myanmar Police Force, the death toll from 1 February to 15 April is as follows:

| No | State/Region | Police Station | Ward/village/Admis- | Office/de- | Road | Bank | Other | Total |
|----|--------------|----------------|----------------------|partment buildings | bridge | | places | |
| 1 | Nay Pyi Taw | 1  | 1  | 1  | 5  |
| 2 | Kachin | 2  | 3  | 3  |
| 3 | Kayah | 1  | 1  |
| 4 | Kayin | 6  | 1  | 6  |
| 5 | Chin | 1  | 1  |
| 6 | Sagaing | 12 | 13 | 10 | 2 | 28 |
| 7 | Taninthayi | 1  | 4  | 3  | 6  |
| 8 | Bago | 4  | 3  | 11 |
| 9 | Magway | 4  | 2  | 3  | 1  | 4 |
| 10 | Mandalay | 26 | 5  | 4  | 4  | 13 |
| 11 | Mon | 5  | 3  | 1  |
| 12 | Rakhine | 1  | 1  |
| 13 | Yangon | 6  | 3  | 11 | 2 | 5 | 16 |
| 14 | Shan | 6  | 1  | 4  | 13 |
| 15 | Ayeyawady | 3  | 1  | 3  |
| Total | 63  | 62 | 52 | 16 | 13 | 163 |

Of the 258 deaths, only 247 were killed during the clearing operation and the attack on security forces. At the same time, the other 11 were not caused by security forces firing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Region/State</th>
<th>Tatmadaw members</th>
<th>Police members</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kachin</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Kayah</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chin</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Ayeyawady</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although there were inevitable casualties on both sides while security forces responded to the insurgents’ attacks in self-defence, the security forces have been accused of firing at peaceful protests by illegitimate media outlets, which the State has shut down, in violation of the law and fake news is being biased. The media, which does not want peace and stability in the country, is plotting to mislead the international community and the public about the security forces’ response, and on the other hand, the misinformation they are writing is being spread by unscrupulous people through social media. According to them, there were a total of 726 deaths as of 15 April.

List of people killed/injured as alleged traitors in regions/states from 1.2.2021 to 15.4.2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>State/Region</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Injured</th>
<th>Head shaved</th>
<th>Tattoo</th>
<th>Threat-</th>
<th>Home destroyed</th>
<th>Re- mark</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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List of rioters died in regions/states from 1.2.2021 to 15.4.2021

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>State/Region</th>
<th>Killed during road-block clearing</th>
<th>Killed during terrorist attack to security forces</th>
<th>Killed during fights between protesters</th>
<th>Killed due to accident during arresting</th>
<th>Killed due to shooting between rioters</th>
<th>Death during protests due to health issue</th>
<th>Death by other ways</th>
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Mango traders urged to avoid flooding market in border

FLOODING the market could damage the mango market during the early season. Moreover, only a handful of buyers follow lockdown in Shweli (Rui-li), Khwarnyo fruit wholesale centre stated. “As China is stepping up the coronavirus containment measure, there are only a small number of buyers in border market”, said a trader from Shweli.

The market of Seintalone mango variety relies on the digital market via Wechat for Shweli traders. However, the lockdown in Shweli could affect the market to a large extent. For now, the traders need to ensure quality and good packaging for the same size. At present, about 70 per cent of mango (Seintalone variety) are entering the early maturity stage, which might harm the market. Transport with 16-tonne trucks is suggested to ease the traffic congestion at the border and reduce the freight rate. The mango growers are urged to supply quality mango to maintain the market reputation and observe market conditions.

Myanmar’s mango is expected to reach an 80 per cent market share in China, along with a high yield during the upcoming mango season, according to Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association. Additionally, mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification. The Agriculture Department has been instituting criteria for long-term organic farming, the association stated. Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar, Ngamauk, Yinke, Matu, and Japan.

Ayeyawady Region possesses the most extensive mango plantation acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second-largest producer with 33,000 acres, and Mandalay has 20,000 acres of mango. According to the association, there are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State, and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region.

— KK/GNLM

Press release on inaccurate death toll in riots....

FROM PAGE-12

died of shooting against each other among the rioters; U Zaw Myat Lin and Ma Lynn Zar Aung, who died of other ways; U Ko Ko Lay and Daw Tin Nwe Yi died of heart diseases; Yar Zar Aung, who died of COVID-19 disease and others who died of killing by terrorists.

It has also been found that there may be missing people who are not confirmed as dead, people under medical treatment in military hospitals for injuries, people fleeing to border areas, and people mentioned under false names and false addresses just to inflate the list.

In addition, some of the people on the list of AAPP did not verify their addresses or the names of their fathers and many people whose cause of death is not clearly mentioned. The list also found to be highly bloated, as 76 incidents were reported in the Bago incident on 8 April, but no one was confirmed dead.

The death toll due to the security shootings posted on social media has been misrepresented based on false information and social media reports. The death toll has risen exponentially. Security forces respond to the rioters in a limited manner; and Myanmar Police Force conduct a systematic autopsy on the victims.—MNA
NASA successfully flew its tiny helicopter Ingenuity on Mars early Monday, the first powered flight on another planet and a feat a top engineer called “our Wright brothers’ moment.”

At 3:34 am Eastern Time (0734 GMT), the four pound (1.8 kilogramme) rotorcraft lifted off, hovered 16 feet (three metres) above the Martian surface, then came back to rest after 39.1 seconds.

Data and images from the autonomous flight were transmitted 171 million miles (278 million kilometers) back to Earth where they were received by NASA’s array of ground antennas and processed more than three hours later.

Engineers were tensely watching their screens at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, where the mission had been designed and planned for the past six years.

They broke into applause as one of them read off a checklist of tasks Ingenuity had achieved and concluded: “Ingenuity has performed its first flight — the first flight of a powered aircraft on another planet.”

**This NASA photo released on 19 April 2021 shows members of NASA’s Ingenuity helicopter team in the Space Flight Operations Facility at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory as they prepare to receive the data downlink showing whether the helicopter completed its first flight on 19 April 2021. PHOTO: AFP**

Cape Town Fire guts library, moves closer to city

A fire in Cape Town has ravaged part of a university library housing a unique collection of African archives, its director said, as the blaze advanced Monday towards the city centre.

The fire, which broke out Sunday in the foothills of the landmark Table Mountain before spreading to the University of Cape Town (UCT), forced hundreds of students to flee on foot.

The African studies section of the 1930s building and its parquet-floored reading room were “completely gutted”, the head of UCT Libraries Ujaia Satgoor said in a Facebook post on Sunday. “Some of our valuable collections have been lost,” she wrote, adding that fire shutters had protected other parts of the building.

Photos accompanying the post showed flames and smoke billowing from the roof and windows of the column-lined building, which has been closed until further notice.

A full assessment of the damage will be carried out once the building is safe to enter, Satgoor said. Thick smoke hovered over a deserted UCT campus on Monday, blocked off to students and staff.

One student, 20-year-old Kosmas Joannou, had walked over from a nearby residence hall to gauge the situation. “It was just horrible,” Joannou told AFP. “The sky “was orange, there was ash everywhere and everyone was screaming. It was chaos.”

Joannou, a student in business studies, added: “All the history that was lost in the library, that destroys me.”

Hundreds of students housed closer to the blaze have been moved to temporary accommodation, with donors sending food and other essentials.

Firefighters were still battling the blaze on Monday as high winds pushed the fire west, closer to the city centre. “The fire is not yet under control,” Cape Town fire spokeswoman Jermaine Carelse said in a statement. “The wind is a major contributing factor,” she added, noting that the wind was also preventing aerial firefighting. Schools in the suburb of Vredehoek, around three kilometres (two miles) away from UCT, have been asked to evacuate the cause of the fire is under investigation, with one suspect taken into custody overnight, city official Alderman JP Smith said.

The blaze has already destroyed the Cecil Rhodes Memorial Restaurant, private homes and historical structures such as the Mostert’s Hill windmill.

No casualties have been reported so far apart from a few firefighters who have been injured. —AFP

**Coronavirus: Latest global developments**

North America:

The United States is running out of beds and oxygen supplies low.

The nation of 1.3 billion people reports a record-high of 273,810 infections — the fifth-consecutive day of more than 200,000 cases — to take the total to 15.06 million.

Due to the cases surge in India, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson cancels his already delayed trip there next week.

Families reunite

Emotions ran high as excited passengers set off on the first flights to take advantage of a quarantine-free travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand, allowing families split when borders closed to finally reunite.

US vaccine milestone

The world’s hardest-hit country the US passes a hopeful milestone as half its adults have had at least one vaccine dose — that is roughly 130 million Americans aged 18 and over.

Virus-hit Ontario

Canada will funnel additional health staff and equipment into Ontario as the province battles a worrying spike in infections, says Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

More than three million dead

At least 3,020,765 people have died of Covid-19 around the world since the outbreak reached New Zealand in December 2019, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP. The United States is the world’s hardest-hit country with 567,217 deaths, followed by Brazil with 373,335, Mexico with 212,339, India with 178,769 and Britain with 127,270. —AFP

**Photo: Cape Town Violet Fire and Rescue Services / Handout via Reuters**

**Photo: AFP**

**Photo: Scott Sturgess / handout via Reuters**
Week-long lockdown in New Delhi as virus cases soar

INDIA’s capital New Delhi will impose a week-long lockdown from Monday night, officials said, as the megaacity struggles to contain a huge surge in Covid-19 cases with hospitals running out of beds and oxygen supplies low.

The nation of 1.3 billion people reported a record-high of 273,810 infections on Monday—the fifth-consecutive day of more than 200,000 cases—to take the total to 15.06 million.

In Delhi— the worst-hit city in India — 25,500 fresh cases were reported on Sunday, with almost one-third of those tested returning positive coronavirus results.

“Delhi’s health system is at a tipping point. The Covid-19 situation is pretty critical,” Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a televised address.

“If we don’t impose a lockdown now, we will be looking at a bigger disaster. From tonight there will be a lockdown until next Monday,” he said business-ess would be shut and movement around the northern city of 20 million limited to essential services, from 10:00 pm on Monday to 5:00 am the following Monday.

“The lockdown doesn’t end the pandemic but just slows it. We will use this week-long lock-down to improve our healthcare,” he added, adding that the healthcare system was “under severe strain” and had “reached its limit”.

In the last seven days, India has recorded more than 1.4 million cases— an increase of 64 per cent on the previous week, according to data compiled by AFP.

Experts blame complacency about the virus, with the spike coming after daily cases fell below 9,000 in February.

There is also growing concern that virus variants, including a “double mutant”, are fuelling infections. “It looks like the second wave is due to fast-spreading variants... It’s spreading much faster than the first wave,” virologist T. Jacob John told AFP.

Following the announcement, long queues formed outside Delhi’s food and alcohol stores in several neighbour-hoods, in scenes reminiscent of the rush ahead of last year’s nationwide lockdown.

Kejriwal tried to address fears that the lockdown would be extended, appealing to migrant workers not to leave Delhi.

Last year’s harsh restrictions put millions of poor daily-wage workers out of work, with many fleeing cities for their villages — often on foot with some dying along the way.

“My hope is it is not a long lock-down. It gets really tough for people like us,” said flower vendor Surinder Singh. “We are very scared, everyone is scared,” added Satinder Kumar, 25. “One week is good, at least there’s no economic downside.”

By Monday evening, thousands of workers crowded Anand Vihar Terminal in east Delhi, waiting to take buses to their home states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, according to an AFP reporter on the scene. Delhi’s restrictions followed measures in other states, including Maharashtra, home to financial capital Mumbai, and Tamil Nadu.

The northern state of Punjab on Monday announced further restrictions, including an extended night curfew.

The national government has said it will address states’ appeals for more medical supplies. On social media, families begged appeals for more medical supplies. On social media, families begged for beds, oxygen and drugs. Local media reported long queues at crematoriums. —AFP

Japan tightens rules on COVID-19 test certificates for travellers

A passenger from overseas (L) has his coronavirus test certificate checked at Narita airport in Chiba Prefecture on 19 April 2021. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japan tightened Monday its rules on coronavirus test certificates needed to be submitted by all passengers upon arrival at Japanese airports, with those failing to meet required conditions to be denied entry into the country in principle.

Since March, Japan had been asking airlines to deny boarding of passengers without negative coronavirus testing results taken within 72 hours of departure.

Until Sunday, the country’s quarantine authorities, however, still allowed those who had come to Japan with insufficient certificates to stay at a designated facility and re-take a coronavirus test after three days.

But the authorities said such alternative treatment will no longer be available, as the country reels from surging infections.

To enter Japan, a passenger needs to obtain a certificate that proves negative results for the virus based on nasopharyngeal or saliva samples, which need to be taken within 72 hours before departure.

Japan does not approve antigen or antibody tests as certificates for entering the country.

Given the spread of the virus, Japan currently only allows entry of Japanese nationals and resident foreigners as well as foreigners “with special exceptional circumstances”.

Japan is also requesting domestic and foreign airlines to restrict the number of passengers planning to enter the country. —Kyodo News

Thirteen people, including children, were killed in the northern Philippines when the SUV they were travelling in plunged into an irrigation canal, drowning most of the occupants, police said Monday.

National police chief General Debold Sinas ordered an investigation into the accident in Kalinga province and instructed highway patrol and local police units to strictly enforce rules “against overloading”,—AFP

SUV plunges into Philippine irrigation ditch, kills 13

Photo: Kyodo News

Australia, New Zealand resume quarantine-free travel

TRAVELERS from Australia arrived in New Zealand with no quarantine requirement for the first time in over a year on Monday after coronavirus restrictions between the neighbouring countries were eased.

Australia has allowed passengers from New Zealand to arrive freely since October. However, Monday marked the first time quarantine-free, two-way travel between the countries has been permitted since March 2020, when Canberra and Wellington effectively closed their borders to all international arrivals. —Kyodo News

Covid alert in Vanuatu after infected body washes ashore

VANUATU slapped travel restrictions on its most populous island Monday after tests confirmed a body that washed ashore on the largely coronavirus-free Pacific nation was infected with Covid-19.

Government sources said the deceased was a Filipino sailor whose vessel had left Port Vila a day before his body was found washed up near a village about five kilometres (3.1 miles) outside the city on Sunday.

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Seven eSport games to be included in 2021 SEA Games

A total of seven games will be included in the upcoming South East Asian (SEA) Games which is slated to be held from 21 November to 2 December, 2021. There will be seven games that will featured in the eSport category with 10 events said officials.

The name of the eSport games are Arena of Valor, League of Legends, Free Fire, PUBG Mobile, FIFA Online 4, Mobile Legends and Cross Fire.

One mix team will compete in the Arena of Valor while a total of three events including men’s team, women’s team and mixed team will compete in the League of Legends.

Next, Free Fire game will feature one mixed team while PUBG Mobile will have comprised of two mixed teams.

In the meantime, FIFA Online 4, Mobile Legend Bang Bang and Cross Fire games will see with one mixed team each.

eSports were approved as medal events by the SEA Games Federation (SEAG) Executive Committee for the Hanoi Games, according to the official statement with the ASEAN level authorities. — GNELM

Mourinho sacked by Tottenham after 17 months in charge

JOSE Mourinho was sacked by Tottenham on Monday just six days before they play Manchester City in the League Cup final as the Portuguese boss paid the price for a turbulent campaign.

Mourinho had been struggling in their bid to qualify for the Champions League via a top-four finish in the Premier League. Spurs are currently seventh, five points behind fourth-placed West Ham, and suffered a shock Europa League last-16 exit against Dinamo Zagreb.

“‘The club can today announce that Jose Mourinho and his coaching staff have been relieved of their duties,’ a Tottenham statement said. The bombshell news came less than 24 hours after Tottenham have been struggling in their bid to qualify for the Champions League via a top-four finish in the Premier League.

Jose Mourinho was sacked by Tottenham on 19 April 2021, just six days before they play Manchester City in the League Cup final, the club announced on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

Mourinho has been sacked by Tottenham since returning from a breakaway European Super League. Tottenham's Portuguese head coach Jose Mourinho reacts ahead of the English Premier League football match between Everton and Tottenham Hotspur at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The 29-year-old’s injury is badly timed for City as they try to retain an eight-point lead over second-placed Manchester United, while looking to win the Champions League and League Cup.

Takuto Otoguro successfully defended his men’s 65-kilogramme freestyle title at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Almaty.

THE Asian Wrestling Championships wrapped up in Kazakhstan on Sunday, with three Japanese athletes topping the podium during the six-day tournament.

The competition at Almaty’s Balaun Sholak Palace of Culture and Sports served as an important warmup for this summer’s Tokyo Olympic Games following the suspension of the international wrestling calendar amid the coronavirus pandemic.

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Aleksey Kebispayev of Kazakhstan (right) and India’s Bajrang Punia compete in the 65-kilogramme freestyle final during the Asian Wrestling Championships in Almaty. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

In this file photo taken on 16 April 2021 Tottenham Hotspur’s Portuguese head coach Jose Mourinho reacts ahead of the English Premier League football match between Everton and Tottenham Hotspur at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England. Jose Mourinho has been sacked by Tottenham on 10 April 2021, just six days before they play Manchester City in the League Cup final, the club announced on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

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