PLACE EMPHASIS ON ENSURING FOOD SUFFICIENCY, LIFEBLOOD OF THE PEOPLE PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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MoEE reviews activities conducted in second quarter of 2020-2021FY

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy held coordination meetings in order to review the ministry's works done during the second quarter of 2020-2021FY and ongoing work plans to carry out in the third and fourth quarters in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 April and 1 May.

During the meetings, Union Minister U Aung Than Oo discussed the importance of electricity and energy sectors for developing the country and socio-economic of public and sufficient power distribution with stable volt and frequency.

The ministry is currently making efforts to fulfil the needs of electricity and energy as per the State's policies. At the same time, the potential projects are being implemented in the country.

Moreover, the ministry arranges to generate power from hydro, solar and renewable sources with minor impacts on natural resources and the environment.

Although there were difficulties in reading meters, distributing bills and collecting bills, the public appreciated the ministry's effort as it filled their power needs. Therefore, it should keep making efforts without just satisfying with such appreciation. Moreover, it should conduct bill collecting programmes as quickly as possible as they want to make the bill payments for their consumed power.

The Union Minister also instructed the need to train the newly assigned staff to serve their duties responsibly while communicating with the public.

He urged the region and state electrical engineers and the Department of Hydropower Implementation director to discuss their difficulties openly.

He then discussed the formation of servicing teams not to occur power cuts in monsoon despite the natural disaster and plans to supply sufficient power to the public.

The senior officers of relevant departments and enterprises, and engineers briefed the performance in the second quarter of the 2020-2021 financial year, further plans for the third and fourth quarters, including the river pumping project.

The Union Minister coordinated the discussion and gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Union Minister U Aung Than Oo presides over the MoEE coordination meeting to review the work done in Q2 of 2020-2021FY.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win discusses opening of postgraduate/undergraduate courses

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win met the rectors, professors and officials from the medical and relevant universities in order to discuss opening postgraduate/undergraduate courses yesterday morning in Yangon.

At the meeting, the Union Minister appreciated the efforts of the respective professors and those in charge of hospital wards. He said if healthcare cannot be resumed, it will affect people's health, increasing personal expenditure for healthcare expenses.

He said the death rate of children under five would increase in the coming years if regular immunization services for children are not implemented. He added that those who are social bullying the medical staff returning to work would be taken legal action.

Regarding the reopening of the postgraduate courses, he said the students would need to have 90 per cent attendance, and application deadlines for postgraduate studies for assistant doctors have been extended. The ministry would release health workers charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code according to guidelines issued by the State Administration Council and return them to work, he said.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met officials from the Public Health Department and instructed necessary matters relating to COVID-19 disease prevention, control and treatment, preventive measures against any possible importation of the virus from neighbouring countries into Myanmar, treatment to the COVID-19 patients at Waibargi Hospital and Phaungyi hospital and effective contact tracing, COVID-19 diagnostic services, coordination with the Yangon Region Administration Council in order to expand quarantine centres and closely monitor the activities of the Township Health/Public Health Departments. — MNA

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Union Minister U Ko Ko pays homage to Sitagu Sayadaw

The MoRAC Union Minister and party are paying the inspection tours in Sagaing yesterday.

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko donated offertories to Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara at the Sitagu International Vipassana Academy in Sagaing Township yesterday.

Then, the Union Minister presented the holding of 73rd Tipidakadhara Tipidaka Kovida exams, government Dhamma Cariya and Pali Prathama Pyan exam, plans for the propagation of Sasana and COVID-19 vaccination programmes for the monks and nuns.

The Union Minister and party also visited Ti Lawka Guru Cave in Sagaing and instructed the officials to adopt proper ways in preserving the mural paintings of the Nyaung Yan era.

He inspected the artworks of the Inwa era displayed at the museum, and he highlighted the duties of the ministry, like exploring the hidden clues of pre and post-history to conserve the materials. He said that if the ministry cooperates with the Department of Archaeology and National Museum for the findings, there would be valuable historical things for the country. It should preserve the historic buildings in their original styles. It should also share information about ancient areas or facilities via the ministry's website or distribute pamphlets to improve the tourism sector.

The Union Minister and party finally inspected Bagaya monastery, city wall, Nan Myint Tower and Mal Nu Oak Monastery in ancient Inwa city. — MNA

Pwintbyu Red Cross provides relief supplies to storm victims

THE Red Cross team in Pwintbyu township provided relief supplies on 30 April to the victims who were suffering from the strong winds, it is learnt.

The strong winds damaged residential buildings in Pwintbyu township. There were no reports of any casualties.

The strong winds damaged the houses in Nyaung Chaung village-tract, Kyaukdawyar village-tract, Ah Naut Lay Eain village-tract, Thayettaw village-tract, Nabaegone village-tract, Lyit Kaing village-tract, Kyupan village tract and Phalan Kyin village-tract in Pwintbyu township. The Red Cross in Pwintbyu township, led by U Zaw Win Khaing and his team members, provided relief supplies such as raincoat tents and 11 personal products to each household. A total of 43 households are affected by the strong winds. —Ye Win Naing (IPRD)/GNLM

A total of 43 households are affected by the strong winds.

Fulfil the needs for the betterment of sports grounds

THE Senior General noted that relevant ministries must strive for improvement of the sports sector. Plans are underway to fulfil the needs for the betterment of sports grounds which plays a crucial role in holding the sports competitions.

(Excerpt from the speech to the Management Committee meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 23 April 2021)

Union Minister U Chitt Naing meets members of Myanmar press council

The MoI Union Minister holds talks with the MPC new members in Yangon on 30 April 2021.

UNION Minister for Information U Chitt Naing met with the members of the Myanmar Press Council and the members of the Myanmar Press Council Selection Committee yesterday afternoon at the Department of Printing and Publishing in Yangon.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said he believes that young people in the Myanmar Press Council will learn from the good experiences of the seniors and try to be fair and impartial.

The Acting Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council discussed compliance with the council's code of conduct, rules, and regulations.

The meeting was also attended by the members of the council, U Ohn Maung (Myinmu-Maung Naing Moe), U Myo Htun (Maung Sein Naung-Lewe), U Khin Maung Aye (KMA), U Ye Naing Soe, U Tin Maung Oo and U Htay Aung. — MNA

Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects MoTC departments in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San made an inspection tour of Myanma Railways, Mandalay Central Station, Inland Water Transport (Ayeyawady Branch), Yadanarbon Shipyard, Diesel Locomotive Factory (Ywa Htaung), Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Workshop yesterday in Mandalay Region.

During the inspection tour, the Union Minister met with officials from the Myanma Railways, Department of Transportation Planning, Road Transport Administration Department, Telecommunications Directorate, Myanmar Post and Telecommunications, Inland Water Transport, Department of Marine Administration, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River System, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and the Diesel Locomotive Factory (Ywa Htaung).

At the meetings, officials presented their work implementation, challenges encountered, and further plans. The Union Minister gave instruction as necessary.

He urged them to pay special attention to security as there is frequent sabotage in places related to the Ministry and report to the superiors in a timely manner in case of special incidents. He added to accelerate the ongoing process of the projects. He recognized the performance of the staff who didn't participate in the civil disobedience movement to resume the operation of the transportation.

He also said the need to organize the remaining staff who are absent for no reason so as not to lose the departments' human resources, continuously build unity within the departments, pay special attention to the convenience of the employees, and provide them with foods.

The MoTC Union Minister is inspecting the new carriages at the Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Workshop yesterday.

The Union Minister inspected Central Railways Station and related buildings, ship repair works at Yadanarbon Shipyard and new carriages purchased from China and the Republic of Korea at the Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Workshop. — MNA

Union Minister U Win Shein inspects customs department and internal revenue department, Yangon

The MoPFI Union Minister holds talks with the officials from the Customs Department in Yangon yesterday.

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Win Shein met with the Director-General, Deputy Directors-General and Directors at the Customs Department (Headquarters) yesterday morning in Yangon.

At the meeting, the Union Minister intructed to abide by the code of conduct, ethics, rules and regulation of the civil servants and to pay special attention to the spread of COVID-19 disease as the recurrence of COVID-19 is on the rise in some neighbouring countries. He also added to pay special attention to the security and the activities funded by the Union according to the financial procedures and to take special care to prevent corruption.

The Union Minister inspected the operation of the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS).

Afterwards, he arrived at the Internal Revenue Department and met with the officials. During the meeting, he said efforts are being made in order to revive the economy under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) in response to the effects of the COVID-19 disease and collect the total amount of due taxes despite the reduction in taxes due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

He instructed to facilitate the tax payment via online payment and to pay special attention to the security and health as the COVID-19 virus is likely to increase.— MNA

MoSWRR provides cash assistance to charity organizations, disabled persons and senior citizens in Taunggyi

Cash assistance is provided to volunteer organizations, people with disabilities and the older adults in Taunggyi on 30 April.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine attended the support ceremony for the volunteer organizations, people with disabilities and the elderly held in Taunggyi, Shan State, on 30 April.

The ceremony was also attended by the Chairman of the Shan State Administration Council and the council members, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Tun Khine, Deputy Commander of the East Command, Shan State Chief Justice U Kywe Kywe, directors-general, officials, residents and charity organizations.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister said the formation of pre-primary schools, child care centres and training schools for the early childhood development, reorganization of the Myanmar Youth Committee to implement the national strategy included in the amended Youth Policy, the opening of vocational training schools, and women development centres. She said that the law on protection and care of the elderly was enacted. And efforts are being made in order to promulgate the rules of the law. Regarding the people with disabilities, she added the opening of blind and deaf schools and care centres for them.

She said the ministry is providing cash assistance to the charities and nursing homes established by the charity and volunteer organizations. The National Disaster Management Committee is formed to build a community where people can resist the disasters and provide a better social life for the victims.

She expressed words of thanks to regional authorities and people concerned for primary statistical data access and access to beneficiaries. The ministry is also working for extensive social welfare activities to provide more to the victims of the disasters.

She also urged the charity organizations and the people to continue to work together.

A total of 449.451 million kyats was provided to the charity organizations in Shan State; 399.87 million kyats to a total of 13,329 senior citizens over the age of 85 and 207.54 million kyats to the persons with disabilities were provided at the ceremony.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party attended the meeting with staff from the state-level Social Welfare Directorate and the Disaster Management Directorate held in the City Hall, Taunggyi, Shan State. —MNA

Small-armed insurgents' attack in Prusho.

Armed insurgents attack security members

THE terrorist groups and armed insurgents attacked the security forces and police stations in some townships.

Two men, riding a motorcycle, shot with small weapons to the Ma Yan Chaung inspection gate on Yangon-Mawlamyine road near Ma Yan Chaung village in Kyaikto Township, Mon State 8:30 pm on 30 April. They moved back due to the counterattack of security members. It reported that no one was injured in the attack.

Similarly, about 30 insurgents attacked the security members near Nam Kai Bridge in Kutkai Township of Shan State (North) with 60 MM weapons four times at about 9:35 pm.

Moreover, at about 10:45 am on 1 May, two men riding motorcycles shot the security members with the small weapons at Prusho Township of Kayah State. It reported no injuries and damages. — MNA

MoEA Union Minister attends opening ceremony of new Rakhine State Director Office building

Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint and officials are pressing the button to unveil the new Rakhine State Director Office yesterday.

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint attended an opening ceremony of a new Rakhine State Director Office building in Sittway Township yesterday.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new building, the Union Minister talked about the plans for social development of ethnic people in Rakhine State based on Social Affairs out of the nine objectives of the State Administration Council "to respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics".

He said that according to the geography of the Rakhine state, there would be a specific influence of the languages, literature and culture of neighbouring countries with a large population. He also highlighted Section 22 of the 2008 Constitution "to develop language, literature, fine arts and culture of the National races" and appointment of Teaching Assistant (TA)/ Language Teacher/ (LA) for ethnic languages at basic schools.

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing instructed to appoint more TA/LT and provide decent salaries and cash assistance at the SAC meeting 6/2021 held on 15 March.

Therefore, the ministry discussed with the education officials on 24 March and arrangement is underway for proposing the State budget from the Ministry of Education.

The ministry distributes storybooks written in ethnic languages at the basic schools in Rakhine and a total of 90,614 books supplied in 2019-2020 while 90,614 books in 2020-2021. It will also deliver further books in 2021-2020.

Then, Rakhine State Administration Council Chairman Dr Aung Kyaw Min presented the ethnic people living together in Rakhine State and the plans to preserve the different languages, kinds of literature, and cultures and ensure the official rights of socio-economic development.

He also clarified the annual cash assistance to literature and culture associations. The Rakhine State Administration Council provided K5.4 million to Daingnet (Tdekkama) via the state director's office under the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in order to hold Bezu May Lar Pan Hmaw Pwe in 2021 Thingyan and K2 million for Khamee National Day, which fell on 27 April.

The Union Minister also said the cash assistance would be provided to other literature and culture associations upon their requests.

The Union Minister and Deputy Minister donated masks to Shwe Yaung Metta Foundation social welfare team. They conducted inspection tours to Sittway View Point and other places. — MNA

Union Attorney-General meets legal officers of Yangon Region

UNION Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo presided over a meeting to maintain proper momentum in operations of UAG offices and other legal offices in Yangon Region yesterday.

During the meeting, the Advocate-General of Yangon Region U Htay Aung and Legal Officer U Maung Maung Tar presented the work plans under implementation in Yangon Region.

Then, the Attorney-General coordinated the discussion and gave Sein Ta Lone mangoes for legal officers to Yangon Region Advocate General. — MNA

Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo chairs the meeting with legal officers yesterday.

Security forces detain people with anti-government documents

SOME unscrupulous persons keep perpetrating destructive elements, and some rioters intentionally draw anti-government letters on public roads, government and public buildings, hang and scatter the vinyl or posters in the streets to affect the stability of the State.

The security forces crack down the riots and violence in line with the law to ensure the stability of the State and community peace and detain those distributing anti-government slogans or letters.

The police raided the house of Soe Win, who lives at No (2) Ward of North Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region on 1 May and arrested him together with 129 papers bearing voter lists of No (2) Ward of North Okkalapa Township, 2 hand speakers, 3 spray bottles, 2 posters bearing anti-government slogans and other materials.

Similarly, about 35 people staged a strike in Aung Zeya Ward of Meiktila Township of Mandalay Region.

The security forces dispersed the protest crowd under the law.

Moreover, about 50 people marched to protest in Kyaik Pauk Village in Bago Township of Bago Region.

The police dispersed the crowd and detained three men, including Than Htut Aung, who lives in Maha Zedi Ward of Bago Township and one woman.

Those arrested will face actions according to the law. — MNA

Protest crowd in Meiktila.

Announcement of Union Election Commission

30 April 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Myaung and YeU townships of Sagaing Region.

2. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	76 polling stations Myaung township of Sagaing Region	89,841	66,811	4,205	712	9,474
2	90 polling stations YeU township of Sagaing Region	104,684	86,007	2,613	654	11,212

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

4. According to the inspection, a total of 166 polling stations in these two townships took out 220,898 ballots and used 158,200 ballots. It left 61,793 ballots instead of 62,698 ballots. The difference was 1,517 ballots and it found 612 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myaung	76	102,352	74,586	27,766	27,274	520	28
2	YeU	90	118,546	83,614	34,932	34,519	997	584
	Total	166	220,898	158,200	62,698	61,793	1,517	612

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Myaung Township

5. According to the inspection, 76 polling stations in 4 Wards and 48 Village-tracts of Myaung Township in Sagaing Region took out 102,352 ballots and used 74,586 ballots. It left 27,274 ballots instead of 27,766. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village-tract ballots	95,900	74,327	21,573	21,081	520	28
2	Township ballots	6,452	259	6,193	6,193		
Total		102,352	74,586	27,766	27,274	520	28

6. There were 520 missing ballots at the polling stations in 7 village-tracts of Myaung Township and 28 extra ballots at the polling stations in 2 village-tracts.

7. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myothit Ward	1	2,000	1,612	388	388		
2	Myauk Ward	1	2,050	1,640	410	410		
3	Kyaungphyu Village-tract	1	1,050	763	287	287		
4	Kyaukphugon Village-tract	2	1,750	1,245	505	505		
5	Kinywar Village-tract	2	2,850	2,420	430	430		
6	Koepin Village-tract	1	1,200	947	253	253		
7	Gaungkhwe Village-tract	1	1,800	1,469	331	281	50	
8	Chaungzin Village-tract	2	1,450	1,080	370	370		
9	Ngarphae Village-tract	1	850	673	177	177		
10	Ngaryantohe Village-tract	2	1,950	1,425	525	525		
11	Zeekyun Village-tract	1	1,100	883	217	217		
12	Nyaungkaryar Village-tract	1	1,100	818	282	282		
13	Nagarpauk Village-tract	1	900	597	303	303		
14	Naypugon Village-tract	1	800	547	253	253		
15	Pannyo Village-tract	1	2,250	1,608	642	642		
16	Paukchaung Village-tract	1	1,150	878	272	272		
17	Pauktaw Village-tract	3	2,000	1,478	522	522		
18	Bukaing Village-tract	2	2,900	2,458	442	462		20
19	Phonekhaung Village-tract	2	1,500	1,150	350	350		
20	Mayoegon Village-tract	2	2,450	1,888	562	570		8
21	Minntan Village-tract	1	1,700	1,302	398	398		
22	Maemathaw Village-tract	2	1,300	921	379	379		
23	Myitson Village-tract	1	2,500	1,890	610	610		
24	Ywarpale Village-tract	1	1,450	1,111	339	339		
25	Shwepaukpin Village-tract	1	2,150	1,535	615	615		
26	Shwebontha Village-tract	2	1,500	1,256	244	244		
27	Thayatthar Village-tract	1	1,000	762	238	238		
28	Thardon Village-tract	1	1,300	857	443	443		
29	Aithar Village-tract	1	600	458	142	142		
30	Taung Ward	1	1,700	1,295	405	405		
31	Ahlae Ward	1	1,300	1,018	282	282		
32	Kutoegon Village-tract	2	1,350	1,073	277	277		
33	Kyarohe Village-tract	1	950	772	178	178		
34	Kyauktan Village-tract	2	2,500	2,091	409	409		
35	Kyaukyit Village-tract	2	2,100	1,557	543	343	200	
36	Sulaygon Village-tract	1	1,200	980	220	220		
37	Zayatkon Village-tract	3	4,700	3,939	761	711	50	
38	Tamasaykan Village-tract	1	1,200	1,022	178	178		
39	Twingyi Village-tract	2	3,900	3,123	777	757	20	
40	Nabat Village-tract	2	3,850	2,989	861	861		
41	Thaunggyi Village-tract	1	1,750	1,380	370	370		
42	Payeinma Village-tract	3	3,450	2,502	948	948		

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43	Thirizeya Village-tract	1	1,400	893	507	507		
44	Phwarsaw Village-tract	2	2,100	1,746	354	354		
45	Mageebote Village-tract	1	2,900	2,323	577	527	50	
46	Myitthar Village-tract	2	2,400	1,706	694	694		
47	Shwetachaung Village-tract	2	1,900	1,349	551	551		
48	Shwepan Village-tract	1	1,500	1,132	368	368		
49	Shwepankyun Village-tract	1	1,000	791	209	209		
50	Letyatma Village-tract	1	2,000	1,715	285	285		
51	Thanatkone Village-tract	1	1,350	1,068	282	182	100	
52	Outhnebote Village-tract	2	2,800	2,192	608	558	50	
	Ward/village- tract ballots	76	95,900	74,327	21,573	21,081	520	28
	Township Remaining ballots		6,452	259	6,193	6,193		
	Township Total	76	102,352	74,586	27,766	27,274	520	28

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in YeU Township

8. According to the inspection, 90 polling stations in YeU Township of Sagaing Region took out 118,546 ballots and used 83,614 ballots. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. There were 997 missing ballots and it found extra use of 584 ballots which were not granted by UEC. The poll heads did not follow Hluttaw Election Law Section 66(h) and they returned 11 ballot books (550 papers) of Lain Taw village-tract after election. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	117,550	83,308	34,242	33,829	997	584
2	Township Advanced ballots	306	306				
3	Township Remaining ballots	690		690	690		
Total		118,546	83,614	34,932	34,519	997	584

9. Of 90 polling stations in YeU Township, it found extra use of ballots at 8 polling stations and shortage at 14 polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Bo Aungzeya Ward	2	4,000	2,760	1,240	1,240		
2	Shwepyitha Ward	1	1,850	1,442	408	408		
3	Yeukon Village-tract	1	1,950	1,485	465	465		
4	Kanpauk Village-tract	1	1,250	961	289	289		
5	Kyarpannyo Village- tract	1	900	702	198	198		
6	Kwunohn Village-tract	2	2,250	1,401	849	849		
7	Khinpin Village-tract	2	800	542	258	258		
8	Khaungnwe Village-tract	1	900	589	311	311		
9	Chaungzon Village-tract	1	900	661	239	239		
10	Chaungshae Village-tract	1	1,050	671	379	379		
11	Sitharmye Village-tract	1	1,050	726	324	324		
12	Nyaungnikan Village-tract	1	1,850	1,165	685	685		
13	Nyaunglae Village-tract	1	1,150	786	364	364		
14	Tamartaw Village-tract	2	1,750	1,128	622	622		
15	Tumaung Village-tract	1	1,300	1,026	274	274		
16	Naypukone Village-tract	1	1,100	616	484	484		
17	Paluzawa Village-tract	2	2,500	1,385	1,115	1,115		
18	Pegyi Village-tract	1	1,550	1,149	401	401		
19	Ponetakar Village-tract	2	3,100	2,376	724	728		4
20	Phalankhon Village-tract	1	900	682	218	218		
21	Phankharsin Village-tract	1	750	575	175	175		
22	Phanekar Village-tract	1	900	717	183	183		
23	Bote Village-tract	1	750	444	306	306		
24	Montaingpin Village-tract	3	3,750	2,551	1,199	1,199		
25	Yaymyet Village-tract	2	2,650	1,647	1,003	953	50	
26	Ywarpugyi Village-tract	2	2,600	1,855	745	745		
27	Ywarnge Village-tract	1	650	467	183	183		
28	Layywar Village-tract	2	2,200	1,622	578	578		
29	Lanetaw Village-tract	1	1,700	1,187	513	13	500	
30	Wetthae Village-tract	2	1,500	1,086	414	414		
31	Thanthe Village-tract	1	1,750	1,336	414	354	60	
32	Inntaw Village-tract	3	4,650	3,347	1,303	1,253	50	
33	Innpin Village-tract	3	2,800	2,052	748	748		
34	Aungkhezin Village-tract	2	1,950	1,302	648	619	29	
35	Aungmingalar Ward	1	2,250	1,802	448	448		
36	Aungchantha Ward	2	4,250	3,037	1,213	1,213		
37	Aungsan Ward	2	4,350	3,315	1,035	1,035		
38	Kokkosu Village-tract	1	2,000	1,546	454	454		
39	Konethar Village-tract	1	1,350	947	403	403		
40	Kyaungpantaw Village-tract	1	600	343	257	257		
41	Choneywar Village-tract	2	1,700	1,127	573	603		30
42	Chanthar Village-tract	1	1,850	1,358	492	492		
43	Ngateton Village-tract	1	800	567	233	233		
44	Zeyawady Village-tract	1	1,850	1,295	555	555		
45	Zanezun Village-tract	1	2,300	1,732	568	568		
46	Tintaneyan Village-tract	2	3,150	2,267	883	833	50	
47	Tartine Village-tract	1	1,450	948	502	502		
48	Taungkwin Village-tract	1	1,000	655	345	345		
49	Htantaw Village-tract	1	1,450	1,060	390	390		
50	Htangyi Village-tract	1	950	546	404	404		
51	Hnawkone Village-tract	1	2,100	1,589	511	511		
52	Magyitaw Village-tract	1	1,950	1,603	347	347		
53	Magyini Village-tract	1	600	391	209	209		
54	Maeohe Village-tract	1	650	471	179	29	150	
55	Myinpauk Village-tract	1	1,550	1,135	415	415		
56	Meiktila Village-tract	1	900	539	361	361		
57	Motesi Village-tract	1	1,600	1,313	287	277	10	
58	Myogyi Village-tract	2	3,200	2,311	889	889		
59	Ywarmeiktha Village-tract	1	2,150	1,564	586	586		
60	Shawphyu Village-tract	1	800	471	329	329		
61	Ywarthit Village-tract	1	1,000	680	320	320		
62	Linphyu Village-tract	1	1,700	1,149	551	551		
63	Winwa Village-tract	1	1,350	912	438	438		
64	Outpho Village-tract	1	1,450	1,006	444	444		
65	Aungtha Village-tract	1	900	573	327	327		
66	Taungpyinnge Village-tract	2	2,400	1,719	681	583	98	
67	Inngyi Village-tract	1	1,250	896	354	354		
Village handover separately							550	
Ward/village-tract ballots		90	117,550	83,308	34,242	33,829	997	584
Township Advanced ballots			306	306				
Township Remaining ballots			690		690	690		
Township Total		90	118,546	83,614	34,932	34,519	997	584

Union Election Commission

Place emphasis on ensuring food sufficiency, lifeblood of the people

RICE is a primary staple food of Myanmar. So, Myanmar people have been emphasizing the cultivation of paddy on a large sown acreage across the nation since time immemorial.

Food sufficiency is a lifeblood at the levels of family, community, region, country and world. Hence, it Is necessary to seek various ways and means for the supply of foods to each other.

Undertaking livestock breeding tasks in respective regions to increase quality livestock and fish production will contribute to the people consuming meat and fish at fair prices, State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance to officials at Thilawa multiple agriculture and livestock zone recently.

> As Myanmar water territory is a pot of aquatic living beings, we have to discharge the duty of conserving those creatures in our generations to contribute a great deal to the food sufficiency of posterity.

If we analyze the consumption of quality meat and fish, the people will be healthy and fit due to obtaining nutrition from systemic digestion. But, we need not only quality meat and fish but also healthy, quality rice for consumption. As such, we should seek quality seeds of paddy.

We should conduct the research works for the production of high yield, quality paddy strains so as to produce quality rice for public consumption as well as for exportation.

It is required to operate vast multiple agriculture and livestock farms to produce quality paddy or meat and fish. As Yangon Region is populous with some seven million people, local authorities should unavoidably expand the aforesaid farms the region one after another in order to provide quality food supplies to the city dwellers.

Emphasis should be placed on livestock production while releasing fingerlings into the natural water to ensure the regeneration of fish to be abundant of fish resources. As Myanmar water territory is a pot of aquatic living beings, we have to discharge the duty of conserving those creatures in our generations to contribute a great deal to the food sufficiency of posterity.

Currently, Yangon Region focuses on implementing Thilawa multiple agriculture and livestock zone, 26th-mile multiple agriculture and livestock zone, and Shwemuyin fish farm in Twantay Township to meet the food demand of the people under the long term plans. Products from these zones will help the people enjoy food sufficiency.

Geoengineering: 'Plan B' for the planet

DISMISSED a decade ago as far-fetched and dangerous, schemes to tame the effects of global warming by engineering the climate have migrated from the margins of policy debates towards centre stage.

"Plan A" remains tackling the problem at its source. But the UN's top climate science body has made it clear that slashing carbon pollution won't be enough to keep Earth from overheating.

That has opened the door to a host of geoengineering schemes, from building underwater walls to shore up an Antarctic glacier the size of Britain to injecting a giant sunscreen into the stratosphere.

Here is a menu of "Plan B" geoengineering solutions, along with their potential drawbacks:

Direct CO2 capture

Experiments have shown it is possible to suck planet-warming carbon dioxide directly from the air, converting it into fuel pellets or storing it underground.

A company backed by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates launched a pilot facility in Canada in 2015, and another company operates one in Iceland.

DRAWBACK: The technology is currently prohibitively expensive and might take decades to operate at scale.

Solar radiation management

Unlike other strategies, solar radiation management does not target CO2. The goal is simple: prevent some of the sun's rays from hitting the planet's surface, forcing them back up into space.

One idea is to inject or spray tiny reflective particles into the stratosphere -- possibly with balloons, aircraft or through giant tubes.

Nature sometimes does the same: Debris from the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines lowered the planet's average surface temperature for a year or two afterwards.

Sixty-six million years ago, a ten-kilometre wide asteroid strike threw up so much debris that it wiped out land-based dinosaurs built for steamy tropical climes.

In April, a balloon test flight in Sweden for the Harvard-led project SCoPEx, short for "Stratospheric Controlled Perturbation Experiment", was postponed amid concerns over the implications for the environment and people in the country.

In Australia, trials of a controversial technique to spray microscopic salt crystals into the air above the threatened Great Barrier Reef to make the clouds brighter began last year.

Researchers have identified South Africa's Kruger National Park (seen here) as suitable for planting trees, even though it is mostly a natural open savanna ecosystem. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

Australian scientists say if successful and combined with other climate and protection measures this could help slow the decline of the reef.

DRAWBACKS: Even if it works as intended, solar radiation management would do nothing to reduce atmospheric CO2, which is making oceans too acidic. There is also the danger of knock-on consequences, including changes in rainfall patterns, and what scientists call "termination shock" -- a sudden warming if the system were to fail.

Afforestation

Extensive planting of trees could significantly slow the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere, which currently stands at more than 510 parts per million, 50 percent more than 150 years ago.

DRAWBACK: Even if deforestation could be reversed -- more than 100,000 square kilometres of tropical forests have disappeared each year since 2013 -- the huge number of trees needed to put a dent in CO2 emissions would clash with food and biofuel crops.

BECCS

Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) marries a natural process with a high-tech one.

The first step is to plant rapeseed, sugarcane, corn or "2nd-generation" biofuel crops such as switchgrass, which pull CO2 from the air while growing. The second step is while burning the harvested plants for energy to sequester the CO2 produced.

In theory, the result is less CO2 in the atmosphere than when the process started. Virtually all climate change models projecting a future consistent with the Paris Agreement's temperature targets assume a key role for BECCS.

DRAWBACK: Studies calculate that up to twice the area of India would need to be given over to biofuels, putting BECCS in conflict with food crops. Such schemes would also require vast amounts of fresh water.

Ocean fertilisation

Microscopic ocean plants called phytoplankton gobble up CO2 and drag it to the bottom of the ocean when they die. Their colony size is limited by a lack of natural iron, but experiments have shown that sowing the ocean with iron sulphate powder creates large blooms.

DRAWBACKS: Scientists worry about unintended impacts. Die-offs of plankton, for example, use up oxygen, which could create massive "dead zones" in the oceans, something already on the rise.

SOURCE: AFP

COVID Worldwide Cases Hit 150 Million

INDIA on Friday posted another global record for daily coronavirus infections, pushing worldwide cases past 150 million as a pandemic that has killed almost 3.2 million worldwide continues to wreak devastation.

The number of new daily cases has more than doubled since mid-February, an AFP tally showed, in an explosion in infections blamed in part on a new COVID-19 variant but also on failure to follow virus restrictions.

US army personnel prepare to unload COVID-19 coronavirus relief supplies from the US at the Indira Gandhi International Airport cargo terminal in New Delhi on 30 April, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

The countries with the highest total number of cases are the United States (US), India and Brazil, which recorded 3,001 COVID-19 deaths in the past 24 hours, bringing its overall toll to 401,186.

The continent seeing the bulk of new daily cases is Asia, driven largely by a devastating wave in India which has overwhelmed hospitals and crematoriums.

India recorded another 385,000 cases in the past 24 hours – a new global record – and almost 3,500 deaths, according to official data that many experts suspect falls short of the true toll.

More than 40 countries have committed to sending medical aid to India, with a US Super Galaxy military transporter carrying more than 400 oxygen cylinders, other hospital equipment and nearly one million rapid coronavirus tests arriving in New Delhi on Friday.

The Indian global diaspora has also sprung into action, with a collection of overseas volunteers scrambling to locate desperately-needed supplies for COVID-19 stricken family, friends and strangers back home.

Compounding India's woes as cases soared has been its failure to get a much-needed vaccine programme off the ground.

Until now, only "frontline" workers like medical staff, people over 45 and those with existing illnesses have been given the AstraZeneca shot or Bharat Biotech's homegrown Covaxin.

As of Saturday, jabs will be open to all adults, meaning around 600 million more people will be eligible.

But several states have warned they do not have sufficient stocks, and the expanded rollout is threatened by administrative bickering, confusion over prices and technical glitches on the government's digital vaccine platform.

Brazil Woes

Also struggling to inoculate a vast country facing a surge in cases is Brazil, which has one of the highest mortality rates in the pandemic, at 189 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants.

Experts blame the latest surge partly on the "Brazil variant" of the virus, a mutation that emerged in or around the Amazon rainforest city of Manaus in December.

But many have also pointed the finger at the administration of President Jair Bolsonaro, which now faces investigation from the country's Senate into whether there was criminal neglect in its handling of the pandemic.

Around 28 million people have received a first COVID-19 vaccine dose, just over 10 per cent of the population.

SOURCE: AFP

Public information

Yangon Region Administration Council is working with relevant departments to help the businesses in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their small and medium-scaled businesses and investments which are facing some delays and working to do new businesses.

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council

Trade Mark Ads
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Files opened against medical doctors who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

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.

Sr	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Dr San Hlaing Min (Professor)	Yangon Eye Specialist Hospital	Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
2	Dr Muyar Thway (Assistant Lecturer)	University of Medicine 1, Yangon	Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Dr Sandar Kyaw (Specialist)	Kyaukme People's Hospital	Monywa Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
4	Dr Aung Ngae Ngae Soe (Assistant Surgeon)	Pyay People's Hospital	Pyay Town, Bago Region	505-a	
5	Dr Myo Win Htay (Assistant Surgeon)	Shwebo People's Hospital	Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
6	Dr Eain Gyi Maung (Assistant Surgeon)	Ywarshae (N) Station Hospital	Taze Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
7	Dr Hein Zaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Shwebo People's Hospital	Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
8	Dr Theint Theint Aye (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung People's Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
9	Dr Ye Zarni Win (Assistant Surgeon)	Kawtbein Station Hospital	Kawkareik Town, Kayin State	505-a	
10	Dr Su Sandar Win (Assistant Surgeon)	Kawtbein Station Hospital	Kawkareik Town, Kayin State	505-a	

Among them, Dr Theint Theint Aye (Assistant Surgeon) of Kengtung People's Hospital, Dr Ye Zarni Win (Assistant Surgeon) and Dr Su Sandar Win (Assistant Surgeon) of Kawtbein Station 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, and work licences of the private hospitals/clinics which allowed them to give medical treatments will be closed. Deterrent action will be taken against owners of these hospitals/clinics under the law. Action will be taken against any health staff under the law for taking charges of providing healthcare services to the people and giving assistance to private hospitals/clinics with participation in CDM activities without discharging assigned duty. Severe action will be taken against owners of private hospitals/clinics which admit those medical doctors and health staff for supporting the CDM participants. — MNA

Files opened against education department personnel who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

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

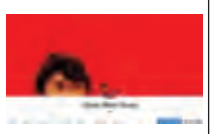
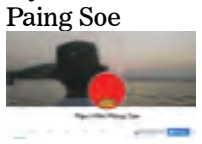
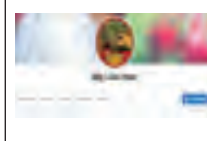
Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Chaw Su Htwe	Assistant Education Officer, Office of Township Education Officer, Mogaung Township	Mogaung Township, Kachin State	505-a	
2	U Hay Mar Tun (aka) U Thaung Htaik Oo	Accountant-2, Office of Township Education Officer, Singaing Township	Singaing Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
3	U Kyaw Swe	Headmaster, BEHS (2), Thazi Township	Thazi Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
4	Daw Myint Myint Yi	Headmistress, BEHS (7), Toungoo Township	Toungoo Township Bago Region	505-a	
5	U Aung Naing Win	Headmaster, BEHS (1), Kanbalu Township	Kanbalu Township Sagaing Region	505-a	
6	U Nay Soe Aung	Headmaster, BEHS, Myinoohlae Village, Mahlaing Township	Mahlaing Township Mandalay Region	505-a	
7	Daw Khin Nyein Chan	Headmistress, BEMS, Winkan Village, Kyaikto Township	Kyaikto Township, Mon State	505-a	
8	U Min Nyunt	Headmaster, B.E.M.S, Bagan Town	NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
9	U Zaw Lin Tun (aka) Ko Lin (aka) Zaw Lin Oo	Headmaster, BEMS, Kanyutkwin Town, Phu Township	Kanyutkwin Town, Phu Township, Bago Region	505-a	
10	U Kyaw Soe Moe	Headmaster, BEPS, Kyeintawmyaung Village, Pobbathiri Township	Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those education department personnel charged, anyone needs to inform matters related to those persons to nearby police stations, and action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education department personnel.—MNA

Student union members from universities/colleges/schools opened files under 505-a for their intentional incitements to undermine State peace and stability through social networks

1. The following members of the student unions and other related persons, who committed incitements to public service personnel for joining CDM activities with attempts to undermine the State administrative machinery, published topics and fake news supporting unlawful CRPH association, carried out instigation for causing unrests with deterioration of peace and stability in the country and public panic, intentionally posted and distributed acts of social punishment through social network pages were filed under Section 505-a of the Penal Code.
2. Action will be taken against those who admit the crime breakers, and more information about those who committed similar cases will be released.

Members of Student Union were filed under Section 505-a

Sr	Account Name	Profile	Address	Photo	Remark
1	Aung Kyaw Khant (杨林淼)https://www.facebook.com/aung.ky awkhant.31392	Aung Kyaw Khant	Insein Township, Yangon Region		Vice-chairman of students union of Yangon Technology University,
2	Kyaw Htet Aung https://www.face-book.com/ky awhtet.aung.75 47031	Kyaw Htet Aung 	Myaung-mya Township, Ayeyawady Region		Member of students union of Myaungmya Education College
3	Aung Myat Thu (Olivin) https://www.fa cebook.com/pr ofile.php?id=100045621240497	Aung Myat Thu	Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region		Member of students union of Labutta GTI
4	Aye Yati Phoo http://www.facebook.com/aye .y.phoo.10	Aye Yati Phoo	Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region		Member of student union of Labutta GTI
5	Htet Aung San https://www.facebook.com/pr ofile php?id=100009025153455	Htet Aung San	Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State		Chairman of students union of Hpa-an University
6	Linnmyat Oo (Terius) https://www.fac ebook.com/linnmyat.oo.75436	Linn Myat Oo	Kung-yangon Township, Yangon Region		Joint in charge of student affairs, students union of Technology University
7	Nay Oo Hlaing (Erics) https://www.fac ebook.com/nay.oohlaing.503	Nay Oo Hlaing	Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region		In charge of external relation of students union of Myeik University
8	Shine-Tay Zarr https://www.face book.com/shine.tayzar.9	Shine Tay Zarr	Thin-gangyun Township, Yangon Region		Member of students union of Kyaiklat GTI
9	Myo Htet Paing Soe https://www.facebook.com/myohtet17	Myo Htet Paing Soe 	Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region		In charge of information, students union of Technology University
10	Aung Kyaw Sint https://www.fa cebook.com/aung.kyaw.125	Aung Kyaw Sint	Insein Township, Yangon Region		Ex-chairman of students union of Yangon Technology University
11	Thant Sin Linn Htet https://www.fac ebook.com/than tsin.linhtet.351	Thant Sin Linn Htet	Mawlamyine Township, Mon State		member of students union of Mawlamyine University
12	Pyay Thwe Khin https://www.fac ebook.com/pya ythwekhin.khin	Pyay Thwe Khin	Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region		Vice-chairman of students union of Technology University
13	Juditx(Thae Myar Htoo) https://www.facebook.com/judith.htoo.3/	Twel Tar Oo	Demawso		Joint treasurer of students union of Loikaw Education Degree College
14	Hlian Htet Lin https://www.facebook.com/hli anhtet.lin.9	Hlian Htet Lin	Ottwin Township, Bago Region		chairman of students union of Toungoo University,
15	Nay Nwe Htun https://www.facebook.com/naynwe.htun.52	Nay Nwe Htun	Loikaw Township, Kayah State		member of students union of Loikaw University,
16	Hsu Myat Yin https://www.fac ebook.com/hsu hsu.yin	Hsu Myat Yin	Insein Township, Yangon Region		Fifth year student, Yangon Technology University
17	Aung Pyae Sone Phyoe (ယွန်းနီ) https://www.face book.com/aungpyaesonephyoe	Aung Pyae Sone Phyoe	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region		Member of students union, Yangon Education University
18	Noom https://www.facebook.com/phanpwint.lay	Nan Hmway Noom Hlaing	Hsipaw Township, Shan State		Member of students union, Lashio Technology University
19	Mg Linn Htut https://www.fa cebook.com/profile.php?id=100029296085367	Zaw Linn Htut 	Chan-ayethazan Township, Mandalay Region		Member of students union, Mandalay University of Foreign Languages
20	Hnin https://www.fa ce-book.com/mihnin.lay.18	Ma Hnin	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region		Member of students union, Yangon Education University

—MNA

Sesame market shows downticks on low foreign demand

Typically, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the primary buyer of Myanmar sesame, which is also shipped to markets in Japan, the Republic of Korea, China (Taipei), the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries.

THE sesame market is sluggish, and the price remains bearish in April-end, traders from the Mandalay market said.

The market of edible oil crop has been slow-moving prior to the Chinese New Year festival. The market continues facing slow-down owing to heightened border security amid the COVID-19 resurgences, a trader said.

The prices of white and brown sesame varieties have remained stable on the back of domestic demand. At the same time, there is low demand by foreign market. However, the price of black sesame seeds (Samone variety), which is primarily shipped to external markets, slightly declines.

On 4 February, the FOB prices of sesame stood at US$2,000-2,100 per metric tonne of Black sesame (Samone variety), $1,250-1,300 per metric tonne of white sesame and $1,150-1,200 per metric tonne of brown sesame. On 29 April, the black sesame price dipped to $1,900-2,000 per metric tonne. The white sesame is pegged at $1,200-1,300, and brown sesame fetches $1,100-$1,200, Bayintnaung wholesale market stated.

Last year, the sesame prices dropped by over 20 per cent compared with the prices in the previous years due to the COVID-19 negative impacts. Consequently, the growers do not make a significant profit this year, a trader from the Mandalay market stressed.

Typically, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the primary buyer of Myanmar sesame, which is also shipped to markets in Japan, the Republic of Korea, China (Taipei), the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries.

The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Trade Promotion Department.

Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are also exported to South Korea and Japan. Meanwhile, China buys various coloured sesame seeds from the country. This year, Japan has not purchased Myanmar's sesame yet.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the leading producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation.

The volume of sesame exports was registered at over 96,000 tonnes, worth $130 million, in the financial year 2015-2016; 100,000 tonnes, worth $145 million, in the FY2016-2017FY; 120,000 tonnes, worth $147 million, in the FY2017-2018; 33,900 tonnes valued at $43.8 million in the 2018 mini-budget period, 125,800 tonnes, worth $212.5 million in the FY2018-2019 and over 150,000 tonnes of sesame, worth $240 million in the previous FY2019-2020, the trade data of Central Statistical Organization indicated. – KH/GNLM

Domestic gold prices still on the rise

THE domestic prices of the gold continue to rise, said U Myo Myint, the chairman of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YRGEA).

People are collecting the gold bars currently because of the business being suspended as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, he added.

"The prices of the local gold are sky high these days because of the pandemic that has started again worldwide. Thus, the countries around the world have imposed restrictions again, resulting in the businesses halting again. That is the reason why people are collecting the gold bar. The domestic gold market has connected with the global gold market. Therefore if the global gold price goes high, the domestic gold price will rise. Now, the domestic prices of the gold continue to rise as a result of the restart of the COVDI-19 outbreak," said U Myo Myint.

The domestic gold price is around K100,000 less than that of the global gold price, according to the YRGEA.

"The domestic gold price is around K100,000 less than that of the global gold price. If the trading is permitted to make payments through telegraph transfer (TT), the gold trading could enter the international market. The trading will be faster and convenient if the Department of Mines under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation will issue the sale licenses. Now, the domestic gold price is K100,000 less than that of the global gold price," said U Myo Myint.

At present, the pure gold price is about K1,455,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) on 1 May in the domestic market, while global gold price touches a high of above US$1,772 per ounce.

Further, the dollar versus kyat exchange rate was at K1,575 per dollar on 1 May.

Therefore, the global gold versus dollar exchange rate remains skyrocketing. The domestic gold price will be still as high as the worldwide gold price and dollar exchange rate, according to the YGEA. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar Sterculia gum price declines

There are about 30,000 acres of Sterculia gum plantations in the Sagaing region, and the gums are chiefly grown in Ahyardaw and Monywa townships.

THE price of Myanmar Sterculia gum locally called Saekalamat has dropped recently in the market and the growers face losses, said U Zaw Min, chairman of Sagaing Region Sterculia Production and Exporter Association.

"Presently, the price of Sterculia gum is K5,000 per viss in the market. The high-quality Sterculia gum prices range between K7,000 and K8,000 per viss. However, we haven't got any high price yet. This time in 2019, the Sterculia gum price was K40,000 per viss. Every year, the price of the gum is high. But this year, the prevailing price of the gums is only K7,000-K8,000 per viss. Now, the growers are encountering losses. Even then, they didn't get back the production cost because of the pandemic and the political situation," said U Zaw Min.

In the market, the Myanmar Sterculia gums are sold for K28,000 per viss before the COVID-19 outbreak. The Sterculia gum market slightly declined when COIVD-19 started to break out, and its price was only K8,000 per viss.

There are about 30,000 acres of Sterculia gum plantations in the Sagaing region, and the gums are chiefly grown in Ahyardaw and Monywa townships.

The Sterculia gums are also grown in Monywa, Ahyardaw, Sagaing, Shwebo, Yinmabin, Katha, Kanbalu, Kalay townships in Sagaing Region. — Lulay/GNLM

AstraZeneca COVID vaccine sales hit $275m in first quarter

BRITISH pharmaceuticals giant AstraZeneca said on Friday that its COVID vaccine generated $275 million (€227m) in sales in the first quarter, as its chief executive defended performance in the face of EU legal action. It is the first time that the company has disclosed figures from sales of one of the world's leading vaccines, which it sells at cost.

The company has delivered about 68 million doses of the vaccine, which was developed with the University of Oxford and has been instrumental in Britain's rapid vaccination drive.

However, public confidence in the jab has been dented over links to very rare blood clots, and the company is also mired in a legal fight with the EU over delivery shortfalls.

'Did our very best'

A nurse shows a package of the Astrazeneca coronavirus vaccine at a doctor's surgery in Senftenberg, Brandenburg, eastern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

"I don't think we ever overpromised... more than we thought we could deliver," chief executive Pascal Soriot told reporters on Friday, insisting there were no regrets. "What we communicated at the time was based on the capacity that we had put together."

Soriot noted that AstraZeneca was the second largest supplier to the EU after US firm Pfizer. The bulk of AstraZeneca's jab sales during the first quarter – $224 million worth – were in Europe, the company said. A total $43 million were in emerging markets, and $8 million in the rest of the world, it added.

"Of course we would have preferred to have delivered more quantities to Europe, but at then end of the day we did our very best to help the world," Soriot said. AstraZeneca vaccine production had been rapidly assembled following the start of the outbreak in early 2020.

"Our vaccine continues to play a leading role in the global fight against the pandemic," Soriot insisted. "We are seeing signs that it is reducing transmissions," he added, citing recent UK data.—AFP ■

Eurozone enters double-dip recession in first quarter

THE eurozone economy fell into a second recession in less than a year in the first quarter, data showed on Friday, as slow vaccinations and pandemic lockdowns stopped a rebound.

The data was in stark contrast to the US, where the economy roared forward in the same period, posting annualised growth of 6.4 per cent.

China has also turned the corner from the coronavirus pandemic with a 18.3-per cent explosion in gross domestic product growth on an annual basis.

Europe has been hit hard by a second and third wave of the coronavirus pandemic, with multiple attempts to reopen the economy cut short by new outbreaks.

More recent data has given Europeans confidence that the recession will be short-lived, however, with surveys showing that manufacturing is now booming. And with the vaccination campaign finally getting into swing, pent-up demand is expected to follow as Europeans begin to spend more in shops, at reopened restaurants and on tourism.

The EU's slow-moving recovery plan is also expected to finally get on track, giving a much-needed boost to southern countries crushed by the pandemic, such as Italy or Spain.

The decline in economic activity was the steepest in Germany, falling by 1.7% in Q1. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Germany was the major drag on growth in January to March period, with exports unable to overcome a steep drop in demand by discouraged consumers, analysts said.—AFP ■

Profits at India's Reliance double on oil, retail recovery

The oil-to-telecoms giant enjoyed a strong recovery during the quarter as India eased coronavirus lockdowns before a ferocious second wave of infections. **PHOTO: ANI/FILE**

INDIAN conglomerate Reliance Industries saw its quarterly profits more than double between January and March, the firm said Friday, boosted by a turnaround in its key oil and retail businesses.

The Mumbai-based behemoth -- which is owned by Asia's richest man, Mukesh Ambani -- said its consolidated net profit for the period jumped 108 per cent to 132.27 billion rupees ($1.79 billion) from 63.48 billion rupees a year earlier.

The oil-to-telecoms giant enjoyed a strong recovery during the quarter as India eased coronavirus lockdowns, prompting the transport and retail sectors to bounce back, before a ferocious second wave of infections forced a new round of restrictions this month. "Our consumer businesses have proved to be a digital and physical lifeline for the nation in these challenging times," Ambani said in a statement.

Its telecom arm Jio added over 15 million subscribers during the quarter, with revenues up by 18.9 per cent, as pandemic restrictions saw increasing numbers of Indians rely on digital services.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Toyota fined by China's regulator for violating anti-monopoly laws

CHINA'S market regulator on Friday fined Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's largest automaker, 500,000 yuan ($77,313) for violating anti-monopoly laws.

Toyota failed to report to the authorities in advance when in 2019, it set up a joint venture with Didi Chuxing, a major Chinese ride-hailing service, the regulator said.

The latest move came as Chinese President Xi Jinping has pledged to strengthen measures to curb the monopolistic behaviour and disorderly capital expansion of IT giants in the country.

In March, Japanese wireless carrier SoftBank Corp. was also fined by the Chinese authorities for the same reason. – Kyodo News ■

Disneyland fans hail 'greatest feeling ever' as California theme park finally reopens

FANS wearing Mickey Mouse ears lined up as Disneyland in California finally reopened Friday, more than 400 days after the pandemic forced an unprecedented closure for the self-styled "Happiest Place on Earth."

"It is the greatest feeling ever!" said Momi Young-Wilkins, a 55-year-old mother as she brought her children to the world-famous park near Los Angeles. "I promised my daughters we would be back here on opening day, and I made it happen." Disneyland Park – the world's second-most visited theme park – and neighbouring Disney California Adventure Park have been closed the longest of all the Mouse House's globe-spanning parks, delayed by California's sharp winter Covid spike and tough restrictions. But with the Golden State now boasting the nation's lowest per capita infection rate, the sprawling resort flung open its gates Friday to the delight of many of its most obsessive devotees.—AFP ■

EU charges Apple in landmark App Store competition case

EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE EU formally accused Apple on Friday of unfairly squeezing out music streaming rivals through its App Store in one of the biggest-ever competition cases to hit the iPhone maker.

The charge sheet lands as Apple faces a rebellion from firms that want to break free of the global Apple App Store's strict terms and fees, with authorities in the US, Russia, Britain and South Korea also circling on the world's biggest company.

"By setting strict rules on the App Store that disadvantage competing music streaming services, Apple deprives users of cheaper music streaming choices and distorts competition," EU competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

The European Commission's case, put forward in a "statement of objections", is based on a complaint brought by Sweden-based Spotify and others that accuses Apple of making unfair use of the App Store to promote its own Apple Music.

Spotify filed the complaint in 2019 that also accused Apple of unfairly taking a 30 per cent cut from businesses using its store, which Spotify says amounts to a violation of fair competition rules.

The case is one of four taken up by the European Commission against Apple last year and could force the company to change the way it does business.

The other cases focus on the Apple Pay system as well as the company's eBooks offering. —AFP ■

Brazil auctions Rio water concession for US$4 billion in win for Bolsonaro

BRAZIL raked in a larger-than-expected US$4 billion Friday (Apr 30) auctioning the operating rights to the Rio de Janeiro water and sewer system, a win for President Jair Bolsonaro and his privatization agenda.

The far-right leader attended the auction in Sao Paulo, which garnered 22.7 billion reais - more than double the minimum price - and came after a political battle that nearly saw the concession sale canceled.

Bolsonaro, who has struggled to implement the privatization plans he campaigned on in 2018, called the auction "historic".

"This is a government that believes in the free market, that believes in winning investors' confidence," he said.

It was the biggest-ever water-treatment auction in Brazil.

"The result is in: Confidence in Brazil," said ultra-liberal Economy Minister Paulo Guedes.

"Brazil is going to return to growth. We are going to get through both waves," he added, referring to the hit that Latin America's biggest economy has taken from the coronavirus pandemic.

Rio's troubled public water company, Cedae, has faced criticism in recent years for the city's sometimes cloudy, smelly and earthy-tasting water.

The auction divided the company's system up into four lots by region - one of which failed to sell.

In all, Cedae serves 13 million people, including the greater metropolitan area.

The winning bidders gain 35-year concessions to their portions of the system, which they will be tasked with overhauling and operating. —AFP ■

Projects for Rio de Janeiro's new water and sewage system operators include a massive clean-up of Guanabara Bay and infrastructure for impoverished favela neighborhoods. **PHOTO: AFP**

US oil giants return to profitability in Q1 on higher oil prices

ExxonMobil reported profits in the first quarter after a string of losses in 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFTER a string of losses, ExxonMobil and Chevron on Friday both reported a return to profitability in the first quarter, bolstered by a significant jump in oil prices.

The results, which come amid a similar round of profits by Royal Dutch Shell, Total and other European petroleum giants, point to a much-improved demand outlook compared with last year, when oil prices tumbled midway through the first quarter as the coronavirus crisis shuttered large parts of the economy.

"Earnings strengthened primarily due to higher oil prices as the economy recovers," said Chevron Chief Executive Mike Wirth.

Yet larger petroleum companies still face major challenges, including campaigns from activist shareholders at annual meetings next month over their response to climate change.

Both US oil firms also face weakness in their downstream business amid tepid demand for petroleum products, especially jet fuel.

ExxonMobil, which reported losses in all four quarters in 2020, reported profits of $2.7 billion in the first quarter. Revenues rose 5.3% to $59.1 billion.

The company said its average price for crude oil sold rose 42% compared with the fourth quarter, while natural gas prices rose by 33%.

Conditions in the downstream business improved from the fourth quarter, "but remained below 10-year lows driven by market oversupply and high product inventory levels," ExxonMobil said. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colombia president axes tax plan after angry protests

COLOMBIAN President Ivan Duque caved in Friday to widespread anger and said he would overhaul a proposed tax reform that many said would leave them poorer during the pandemic.

Duque announced he was shelving clauses that would lower the income tax threshold to broaden the tax base and raise value-added taxes on goods and services.

He acted two days after tens of thousands of Colombians took to the streets across the country to denounce the proposed tax changes.

They were rejected across the board -- by opposition parties, unions, students and civil society groups that complained that the reforms came at the worst possible time and were particularly harmful to the middle class.

Even some in Duque's party opposed his plan.

"I have given very clear instructions to the finance ministry for it to ... compose a new draft with congress," Duque said. —AFP ■

Japan Jan.-March GDP seen having shrunk 4.8% under 2nd virus emergency

JAPAN'S economy in the January to March quarter is estimated to have shrunk an annualized real 4.8 per cent, as a second state of emergency over the coronavirus pandemic dampened consumption, economists said Friday.

The average estimate by 10 economists polled by Kyodo News indicates the world's third-largest economy likely logged its first shrinkage since an annualized 29.3 per cent contraction in the three months ended in June 2020, its worst economic plunge on record triggered by its first virus emergency.

The Cabinet Office is scheduled to release preliminary GDP data for this year's first quarter on May 18. — Kyodo News ■

Afghan retreat: US formally begins withdrawing from its longest war

THE United States formally begins withdrawing its last troops from Afghanistan Saturday, bringing its longest war nearer to an end but also heralding an uncertain future for a country in the tightening grip of an emboldened Taliban.

US officials on the ground say the withdrawal is already a work in progress -- and May 1 is just a continuation -- but Washington has made an issue of the date because it is a deadline agreed with the Taliban in 2020 to complete the pullout.

In this file photo taken on February 21, 2010, US Marines clear Improvised Explosive Devices from a main route in Trikh Nawar on the North Eastern outskirts of Marjah. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The skies above Kabul and nearby Bagram airbase have been buzzing with more US helicopter activity than usual as the pullout gears up, following the start Thursday of a concurrent NATO withdrawal.

The prospect of an end of 20 years of US presence comes despite fighting raging across the countryside in the absence of a peace deal.

A stark reminder of what remains came late Friday with a car bomb in Pul-e-Alam, south of the capital, killing at least 21 people and wounding 100 more.

US President Joe Biden is determined to end what he called "the forever war", announcing last month that the withdrawal of the remaining 2,500 American forces would be complete by the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

"A horrific attack 20 years ago... cannot explain why we should remain there in 2021," he said.

Since the US withdrawal deal was struck the Taliban have not directly engaged foreign troops, but insurgents have mercilessly attacked government forces in the countryside and waged a terror campaign in urban areas.

The exit of US forces has only exacerbated the fear felt by ordinary Afghans.

"Everyone is scared that we might go back to the dark days of the Taliban era," said Mena Nowrozi, who works at a private radio station in Kabul. —AFP ■

US investigates more 'Havana syndrome' attacks: senators

US senators said Friday that the government is investigating an apparent increase in mysterious directed-energy attacks dubbed "Havana syndrome", amid new reports of potentially brain-damaging incidents inside the country.

Democratic Senator Mark Warner and Republican Marco Rubio, who lead the Senate Intelligence Committee, issued a statement after two media reports saying attacks had taken place in Washington, including just outside the White House, and in Miami, Florida.

"For nearly five years, we have been aware of reports of mysterious attacks on United States government personnel in Havana, Cuba and around the world," they said.

"This pattern of attacking our fellow citizens serving our government appears to be increasing."

The still unexplained attacks have caused sickness and even brain damage in US diplomats and intelligence officials in Cuba, China, Russia, and other countries.

Moscow is suspected to be behind them, even if the mechanism for them has yet to be explained. Scientists have theorized that the attacks arise from pulsed microwaves. Earlier this week CNN, citing unnamed officials, said federal agencies were investigating a November 2020 incident at the White House Ellipse in which a national security council staffer was sickened.—AFP ■

Hit by mysterious microwaves? The US embassy in Havana. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ship prepares to ferry chemicals out of Beirut port

A ship prepared Friday to ferry dozens of containers of hazardous materials from Lebanon's capital to Germany, managers of a cleanup project said, months after disaster struck on the dockside.

German firm Combi Lift was tasked with removing dangerous substances from the port after the explosion of hundreds of tonnes of fertilizer there on August 4 last year killed more than 200 people and ravaged large parts of Beirut.

The last of 59 containers was lifted onto the ship on Friday.

Heiko Felderhoff, CEO of Combi Lift, said they would be disposed of in Germany.

"The ship is here and so on the weekend we are leaving" for Germany, he said at a ceremony on the docks.

Elias Assouad, the head of the Lebanese-German Business Council, said the project had cleared the port of "all toxic, cancerous, flammable and highly reactive chemicals that have been stored here for decades."

The August 4 explosion of hundreds of tons of ill-stored fertilizers devastated the dockside and large swathes of the capital, killing more than 200 people. **PHOTO: AFP**

The German firm had been expected "to deal with only 49 containers of hazardous material," he said. But they ended up "handling more than 75, of which 59 will be shipped."

He said 15 others would be "disposed of within safe and environmentally sound procedures in situ," without providing more details.—AFP ■

NGO files Khashoggi torture suit in France against Saudi general

AN NGO filed a case against a Saudi general in a Paris court on Friday, accusing him of being responsible for the torture of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018, its lawyer said.

Khashoggi was tortured, killed and dismembered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul after going there to get documents for his wedding.

The Gulf Centre for Human rights (GCHR) holds General Ahmad al-Assiri, a former intelligence official, responsible for the "physical and psychological abuse" that Khashoggi suffered just before his death, the NGO's lawyer William Bourdon said.

French courts have universal jurisdiction over crimes of torture, but not in murder cases, which is why the GCHR suit focuses on the torture claim and not the subsequent killing of Khashoggi, Bourdon told AFP.

In February, the US imposed sanctions on Assiri as well as an elite Saudi unit for their role in the killing.

The Treasury Department said it would block assets and criminalise transactions with the Rapid Intervention Force, which a declassified intelligence report said was answerable to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as well as al-Assiri.—AFP ■

Indonesian team to play two friendlies in UAE

THE Football Associations of Indonesia has set two friendly matches for its national football team in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ahead of their remaining rounds of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers in June.

"The first test match will be against Afghanistan on 25 May 2021 while the second friendly against Oman will be played four days later," football authorities said.

"UAE will be the centralized location for the remaining matches of Group G of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. Indonesia will play Thailand on 3 June 2021, Vietnam on 7 June 2021 and then against the hosts UAE on 11 June 2021," officials added.

"This is certainly positive news for the national team and will be useful for our matches in the UAE later," said Mochamad Iriawan, President of the Football Associations of Indonesia (PSSI).

"Coach Tae-yong wanted at least two test matches as a warm-up before playing in the qualifiers.

And these two countries have made the confirmation," Indra Sjafri, Indonesian team Technical Director said.

According to the statement with the Asian Football Confederation, the Indonesia team will start their centralized training on 1 May 2021 in Jakarta. —GNLM ■

Istiqlol become first Tajik club into Asian Champions League last 16

TOURNAMENT debutants Istiqlol on Friday became the first club from Tajikistan to qualify for the Asian Champions League last 16 despite suffering a 2-1 defeat to Uzbekistan's AGMK.

The Dushanbe-based Istiqlol finished on 10 points from six matches to top Group A on a better head-to-head-record with Saudi giants Al Hilal, who also advanced as one of the three best second-placed teams after a 2-0 defeat by Shabab Al Ahli of the UAE.

AGMK had nothing to lose and were aggressive from the start, keeping Istiqlol goalkeeper Rustam Yatimov on his toes throughout the match at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh.

After several close calls, the Tajiks finally fell to the pressure in the 67th minute with AGMK's Zafar Polovonov heading in from close off an assist from Akramjon Komilov.

Twelve minutes later Istiqlol suffered another setback as AGMK scored their second goal with Jovan Djokic's powerful shot off a pass from Murodjon Toshmatov finding the net.

On target: Ahli forward Igor Jesus celebrates his goal against Al Hilal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Istiqlol, who had already made history this month by becoming the first club from Tajikistan to feature in the continental club showpiece, pulled one back with Rustam Soirov scoring from the penalty spot after he was fouled by Komilov.

But even though AGMK withstood the pressure in the dying minutes to pull off only their second win, it emerged that Al Hilal had been beaten by Shabab Al Ahli at Riyadh's Prince Faisal bin Fahd Stadium.

Igor Jesus scored both the goals for Shabab in the second half to give the UAE side a second win in three matches.

Brazilian forward Jesus first struck with a spot-kick in the 54th minute after Mohamed Kanno brought down the dangerous Jaloliddin Masharipov. —AFP ■

Man. City season 'extra special' due to fixture stress, says Guardiola

PEP GUARDIOLA believes Manchester City's season has been "extra special" as the Premier League leaders chase a memorable treble despite a gruelling fixture schedule.

Guardiola's side won the League Cup last Sunday and could wrap up a third Premier League title in four seasons this weekend.

City are also on track to reach their first Champions League final if they finish off Paris Saint Germain in their semi-final next Tuesday, having earned a 2-1 advantage following Wednesday's first leg.

All this has come in a draining campaign which City began after a shortened close-season break, with matches coming thick and fast amid the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

"It's a lot of games and the problem is the shortness of time. It is home, game, home, travel, travel, here, here, game, game, travel," Guardiola said.

"You cannot enjoy one game. We don't have time to sit back one day or two, take a break and see what has happened.

"The team has been more resilient and calm. When you play every three days you don't have time to see things clearly, because it's the next one – then travel, then organise the team, then whatever. "This is the most difficult thing when you play a lot of games, but the difference here is lockdown – our lives have changed completely – and it's a shorter period of time. "That makes this season so special for everyone. Winning one title already, close to another and playing another 'final' on Tuesday.

It has been exceptional.

"I don't know what's going to happen in the last four weeks ahead of us but the season has been extraordinary already."

City will clunch the title if they win at Crystal Palace on Saturday and second-placed Manchester United lose against Liverpool on Sunday. —AFP ■

Chelsea face uphill task in bid for historic final

CHELSEA are gunning to become just the second English team to reach the final of the Women's Champions League but face a battle to overhaul Bayern Munich in Sunday's semi-final second leg.

Emma Hayes' team are well-placed to retain their domestic Women's Super League title after having only lost one game so far this season, but after establishing domestic prominence the Blues are aiming to become a continental powerhouse. Only Arsenal have reached the biggest match in European women's club football, when they won the competition in 2007.

Chelsea will have their work cut out for them against Bayern, who are the competition's leading scorers and are 2-1 ahead in the tie after last week's first leg in Germany, following which Hayes said she would "make sure the team puts in the performance of their lives next week".

Hayes seemed aware of the tough task awaiting her side when speaking to reporters on Friday, lamenting the poor finishing and "sloppy" goals conceded in the first leg which leave Chelsea with work to do. "I think the realities are if we're going to progress, we're probably going to have to score more than one goal," said Hayes.

"We're going to take the game to Bayern Munich. We're at home and I think we've got to trust in the belief that we're in the position because we deserve to be here, but if you want to go to the next level you have to produce something you didn't produce before. "I want an inspired performance from the team but I'm accustomed to getting that from them, so I trust them." Hayes' hope that Chelsea cut out the mistakes could be rocked by the possible absence of centre-back and captain Magda Eriksson because of a calf problem. —AFP ■

Sam Kerr will be hoping to fire Chesea to the win they need to overcome Bayern Munich and reach their first ever women's Champions League final. **PHOTO: AFP**