

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 15, 8th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME
 www.gnlm.com.mm
 Tuesday, 4 May 2021

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
 State Administration Council
 Order No 117/2021
 7th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME
 3 May 2021

Reformation of Union Ministry

THE State Administration Council reformed the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry as the following ministries in accordance with Section 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:
 (1) Ministry of Planning and Finance
 (2) Ministry of Industry

By order,
 Aung Lin Dwe
 Lieutenant-General
 Secretary
 State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
 State Administration Council
 Order No 118/2021
 7th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME
 3 May 2021

Transfer and Appointment of Deputy Minister

THE State Administration Council transferred and appointed Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Lwin of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry according to Section 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,
 Aung Lin Dwe
 Lieutenant-General
 Secretary
 State Administration Council

Yezin fishery camp, hub of fish farming, hatching in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

YEZIN fishery camp in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area operates fish farming and distribution of fingerlings.

The fishery camp is formed with the pedigree fish farm, nursery ponds and water tanks for the development of fish resources in the area.

The fishery camp under the Nay Pyi Taw Fisheries Department has a plan to release fingerlings into natural water areas in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area so as to realize the Good Aquaculture Practice-GAqP.

For the time being, the camp is engaging in the preservation of pedigree fish species, hatching of fingerlings and distribution of fingerlings using 12 farms for pedigree fish species, 40 nursery ponds and two water tanks.

In the 2020-21 financial year, the Nay Pyi Taw Fisheries Department adopted a plan to distribute 4 million of fingerlings to the local fish farmers in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area thanks to efforts of the Yezin fishery camp while releasing



The camp is engaging in the preservation of pedigree fish species, hatching of fingerlings and distribution of fingerlings using 12 farms for pedigree fish species, 40 nursery ponds and two water tanks. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LWIN

fingerlings into dams and reservoirs, rivers, creeks and lakes.

In order to develop the fishery industry, fishery camps need to extend the breeding of marketable fish species and choose the fingerlings with the

resilience of climatic conditions. Moreover, fish farmers should take care of preventing infection of diseases that happen at fish.

Moreover, fish farms should systematically extend their

work processes and the breeding of fish for local consumption and distribution of pet fish on a commercial scale to increase income for the fishery sector.

Yezin fishery camp on the duty of fish farming and distri-

bution of fingerlings needs to emphasize the development of fish resources in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area contributing to the food sufficiency of local people. — Zaw Min Lwin (District IPRD)/GNLM

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
 Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 170,000 outpatients

PAGE-2

NATIONAL
 Union Minister U Win Shein joins 24th AFMGM+3

PAGE-3

NATIONAL
 Village youths need to work on self-management for inclusive, sustainable rural development

PAGE-4

NATIONAL
 MoE holds meeting on reopening of basic education schools

PAGE-5

LOCAL BUSINESS
 Onion growers expect high price to cover production costs

PAGE-10

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.

Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 170,000 outpatients

MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states are giving medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 179,381 outpatients and 4,323 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 8,409 major operations and



A local mother and baby are receiving treatments at the Tatmadaw Station Hospital in Toungoo.

4,294 minor operations. The senior doctors treat the severe cases. These hospitals managed for the birth of 11,054 babies to date. Of those, 4,367 cases are done in the caesarean section and 6,687 cases in ordinary delivery. Moreover, the Myanmar Fire Brigade members collectively donated blood for the military members, police, and locals, who took treatments at the local military hospitals in Taunggyi town, Shan State (South) and PyinOoLwin town, Mandalay Region, to mark the 75th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade yesterday. In addition to providing medical care to patients in need of hospitalization, Tatmadaw is making arrangements for the well-being of hospitalized patients and caregivers. — MNA

Security measures conducted to ensure community peace



Tatmadaw, police force and fire brigade take security measures at night in Toungoo.

TATMADAW, Police Force and Fire Brigade jointly conducted security measures to ensure the State’s stability, security of people, the rule of law and community peace starting 14 February night. Tatmadaw, police and fire brigade members also jointly conduct security measures for the peaceful at night and community peace in respective regions and states and keep serving security measures the whole day. — MNA

4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 May, total figure rises to 142,842

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 142,842 after 4 new cases were reported on 3 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 131,989 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

For uplifting the living standard of rural people

THE government is encouraging the enrichment of fish resources in rivers and creeks and agricultural and livestock tasks for uplifting the living standard of rural people, 70 % of total population. Officials concerned need to make field trips for managing food sufficiency and urge subordinates to carry out the tasks successfully.

(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 Win Shein joins 24th AFMGM+3

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Win Shein attended the 24th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM+3) yesterday. The meeting was virtually held together with the 54th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank between 3 and 5 May.

The meeting was conducted under the co-chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea. During the meeting, the leaders exchanged views on the outlook for the global and regional economies during the COVID-19 pandemic and policy responses to risks and challenges.

They also discussed plans to enhance regional financial cooperation together with ASEAN+3, IMF, ADB and AMRO.



The MoPFI Union Minister U Win Shein joins the online 24th AFMGM plus 3 on 3 May 2021.

The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of ASEAN+3 and the economists of IMF, ADB and AMRO also coordinated the discussion regarding approval for the amendment of Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM), the performance of ASEAN + 3 Macroeconomic

Research Office (AMRO), progresses of Asian Bond Markets Initiatives (ABMI) and formation of four working groups.

During the meeting, the Union Minister also discussed economic responses to COVID-19 being carried out in the country individually or together

with ASEAN+3 members and IMF, Comprehensive Economic Stimulus Plan so-called COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) of the country to revive the businesses hit by COVID-19 and close cooperation with ASEAN+3 members.

The meeting then approved

the Joint Statement.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry Daw Than Than Lin virtually joined the Governors' Seminar on Cooperation for a Resilient Future.

President of ADB, Mr Masatsugu Asakawa, presided over the meeting and discussed the economic policy transformation and sector-wise development in Asia-Pacific regions, potential responses to revive the border trade, investment and tourism sectors badly hit by COVID-19, rehabilitation processes with digitalization and innovation and regional and international cooperation to overcome the global pandemic.

The 25th AFMGM+3 will be held in Colombo of Sri Lanka under the co-chairmanship of Cambodia and China in 2022. — MNA

Virtual review meeting on investment-related business licences, permits and recommendations held

THE review meeting on investment-related business licences, permits and recommendations led by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo was held via video conferencing at 1:00 pm on yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister explained the objectives of the review meeting to streamline the issuing process of relevant licences, permits and recommendations from concerned departments after obtaining the permits and endorsements from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). In this regard, the Union Minister highlighted the major functions of the recent forming of the Review Team comprising high-ranking officials from line ministries led by the Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations under the guidance of the State Administration Council for en-

suring to improve the business environment with the efficient procedure. The Union Minister urged the relevant ministries to cooperate with innovative ways for facilitating the business aiming to recover the country's economy at the soonest.

Moreover, the Union Minister stressed the important role of digital technology and encouraged to develop the online platform except for some activities to be undertaken manually. He also informed that MIFER, as a coordinating ministry, could negotiate with development partners for the technical assistance for the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in respective ministries.

Then, Deputy Minister U Than Aung Kyaw discussed the functions of the Review Team and work Programmes. Representatives from ministries and organizations discussed scrutiny



The MIFER Union Minister is leading the virtual review meeting on investment-related matters yesterday.

of licences, permits and recommendations for businesses and easing of restrictions.

After that the Secretary of the Review Team, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate

of Investment and Company Administration, presented the detailed schedules of the Review Team.

The meeting was attended by a total of 50 participants, in-

cluding Directors-General and senior officials from line ministries and the members of the Review Team. The meeting was successfully concluded at 15:30 pm. — MNA

Village youths need to work on self-management for inclusive, sustainable rural development



The rural youths who have a basic knowledge of technology should be trained in advance during the project, which would be very helpful for the village development.

IN carrying out rural development, which is fundamental to the country's economic transformation, active cooperation of the local residents and their good practice of maintaining the development facilities for sustainable and efficient use is one

of the strengths of the village committees and villagers, said Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo during the Solar Mini-Grid opening ceremony in Thae Aww village in Myeik District on May 2. Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

U Tin Htut Oo also added the rural youths who have a basic knowledge of technology should be trained in advance during the project, which would be very helpful for the village development.

In order to provide electric-

ity to rural areas, rural lighting works will be carried out in areas that have not yet been electrified, areas more than 10 miles from the power grid, villages interested in cooperating and in densely populated villages with more than 50 households in the next ten years in accordance with the NEP Off-Grid policy.

With the support from the World Bank and the German Development Agency (GIZ), the National Electrification plan (NEP) is implemented by the 60% contribution of the Rural Development Department, 20% public contribution and the 20% investment company's contribution.

The availability of electricity will provide electricity to the rural population and seafood farming, which needs electricity, small-scale production and business, and expansion of value-added products in Thae Aww village.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party arrived at OK advanced rice mill and inspected the rice production and packaging, the use of by-products of paddy husk to generate electricity and reuse in rice mills and factories. The Union Minister also met with local farmers who were cooperating with the rice mill and discussed the concept of a contract farming system with mutual understanding and trust between private entrepreneurs and farmers and the possibility of obtaining assistance from the relevant departments for good seed conversion and technical requirements.

The Union Minister and party also encouraged the water supply system being carried out by the Department of Rural Development in Pyin Gyi village and inspected the demonstration of rubber tapping field with raincoat and oil palm research at Shwe Du Farm.— MNA

Kyaukse Forest Dept sows 50,000 seeds of variety plants

FOREST Department in Kyaukse township sowed 50,000 seeds of various plants to distribute free of charge, it is learnt.

The seeds are being sowed for cultivation by the departments, religious associations and the people from villages and wards in Kyaukse township, Mandalay Region.

“Regarding the distribution of the plants free of charge, our department sowed 50,000 seeds of various plants, including 3,000 tectona trees, 1,000 wild almond trees, 14,000 neem trees, 3,000 Bombay-ebony trees, 6,000 kinds of ornamental shade trees, 4,000 gold mohur trees, 1,000 starflower trees, 3,000 golden shower trees, 1,500 Terminalia Billerica trees, 3,000 rhu or casuarina

trees and two other species of 10,500 plants”.

These trees are aimed to be grown in religious areas, departmental compounds and public area to ensure the greenery and fair climate in the region, an official from the Township Forest Department said.

In addition to sowing seedlings for public distribution free of charge, the Township Forest Department is planting 96,160 eucalyptus trees and 116,160 senegalia catechu trees for firewood plantations on 80-acre plots of land in Myauk Radan creek forest reserve. These plants are targeted to be grown not later than the 2020-2021 financial year, said the Township Forest Department. — Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM



These plants are targeted to be grown no later than the 2020-2021 financial year.

Meeting on Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act (draft) held



The UAG Office coordination meeting on amending legislation in progress.

THE Office of the Union Attorney-General held the coordination meeting on the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act (Draft) yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, Deputy Attorney-General U San Lwin, Director-General and officials from the Legal Scrutiny and Advisory Department and the Union Supreme Court Office.

At the meeting, the Union Attorney-General said it was known from the meeting of the State Administration Council (1/2021) that many laws had

not been drafted and enacted in various Union ministries. She said according to the instruction to join the professors from the law departments in Universities with the Union Attorney-General's Office in order to enact laws as soon as possible, the list of bills that should be passed at present has been submitted to the State Administration Council after the meeting with officials from the Union-Level departments and organizations.

She added the Code of civil Procedure (Amendment) Act (Draft) is an addition to Section 89-A of the Code of Civil

Procedure Act and a requirement for the establishment of the Mediation process as a means of resolving disputes amicably between parties to conflicts that are separate from the judicial process of the Supreme Court. She continued it is not against the policies and objectives set by the State and is a law that needs to be enacted immediately, and such meetings would continue to be held on other laws that should be enacted soon.

The attendees discussed the details of Section 89-A (draft) of the act. — MNA

MoE holds meeting on reopening of basic education schools

THE Ministry of Education held the coordination meeting on the basic education sector yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, the Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, state or regional education officers and district education officers and officials.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said the meeting aims to coordinate for the opening of all basic education schools on June 1, and all the teachers who attended the meeting must work together for the educational development of the country.

The enrollment week will be held from May 24 to May 31, and the government is implementing a free education system. The textbooks, one dozen



The enrollment week will be held from May 24 to May 31, and the government is implementing a free education system.

note books, and four pencils each will be provided to all students, including the primary school students and two pens and two pencils each to middle and high school students. Students and teachers will also be provided two reusable masks and one face shield each.

The Union Minister urged the teachers to repeat the explanation about the implementation of the free education system and further necessary process when they arrive in

their respective area, adding also to teach the students appropriate cultural and religious lessons that will make them mutually respectful and polite.

He also said to the teachers to work according to financial regulations to avoid financial problems in carrying out management matters and implement the education work with the value of being a good teacher. He added that the security would be fully provided to the teachers in opening schools.

Afterwards, the Deputy Ministers and the Deputy Director-General for the Basic Education Department addressed the meeting. The attended district and state/regional education officers presented the preparation for the basic education sector and the requirements in opening schools, and the Union Minister fulfilled the requirements.

— MNA

24th ASEAN+3 AFMGMs' Meeting convened virtually



CBM Chair U Than Nyein joins the 24th AFMGM plus 3 meetings online yesterday.

THE 24th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM+3) was held virtually yesterday.

The ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, President of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Director of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), ASEAN Secretary-General, Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF), Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and Vice-Governors U Win Thaw and Daw Than Than Swe were present at the meeting.

During the meeting, Direc-

tor Mr Toshinori Doi of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) discussed under the title of "Macroeconomic Prospects and Challenges in 2021" while President of Asia Development Bank (ADB) Mr Masutsugu Asakawa with "Ensuring Sustainable and Resilient Recovery and Growth in ASEAN+3" and Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) with "Global Economic Outlook and Securing a Transformation Green, Digital and Inclusive Recovery".

The ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Banks Governors exchanged views on the current economic status of

their respective countries during the COVID-19 pandemic and quick strategic response to economic impacts of COVID-19.

The meeting also focused on Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM Agreement), progresses of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), Asian Bond Markets Initiatives (ABMI) and ASEAN+3 Finance Process.

Then, the leaders finalized the joint statement of 24th AFMGM +3. The meeting also agreed to conduct the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Process in Colombo of Sri Lanka in 2022.

—MNA

State Administration Council Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who arrive in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries with worries because of incitement and intimidation of NLD members, the extremists who support that party, CRPH unlawful association, incitement of CDM and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since after 1 February 2021 when the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibility.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of CRPH unlawful association and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in their areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. As those who evaded from their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from evaded areas to various regions of Myanmar.
4. Information was released that if those who evaded to various areas except the persons who committed any kinds of crime wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord, the citizens abroad are to contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates without facing action taken in accord with the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Announcement of Union Election Commission

2 May 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 Mawlamyine and Kyaikmaraw townships of Mon State.
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	119 polling stations in Mawlamyine township of Mon State	248,145	224,824	35,352	1,398	21,264
2	98 polling stations in Kyaikmaraw township of Mon State	183,685	140,224	58,286	799	13,386

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Mawlamyine and Kyaikmaraw townships of Mon State 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 217 polling stations in these two townships took out 471,741 ballots and used 242,715 ballots. It left 225,013 ballots instead of 229,026 ballots. The difference was 6,013 ballots and it found 2,000 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	Subject	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Mawlamyine	119	266,746	153,737	113,009	110,699	2,721	411
2	Kyaikmaraw	98	204,995	88,978	116,017	114,314	3,292	1,589
	Total	217	471,741	242,715	229,026	225,013	6,013	2,000

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Mawlamyine Township

5. According to the inspection, 119 polling stations in 29 Wards and 13 Village-tracts of Mawlamyine Township in Mon State took out 266,746 ballots and used 266,746 ballots. It left 110,699 ballots instead of 113,009. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra 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	250,800	151,026	99,774	97,464	2,721	411
2	Township ballots	15,946	2,711	13,235	13,235		
Total		266,746	153,737	113,009	110,699	2,721	411

6. It found 2,721 missing ballots at the polling stations in 19 wards/village-tracts and 411 extras in 5 wards/village-tracts of Mawlamyine Township.
7. Finding were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remain-ing	Remaining on the Ground	Differ-ence	
							Missing	Extra
1	Zayathiri Ward	5	10,900	5,934	4,966	4,706	260	
2	Thayaaye Ward	2	6,000	3,152	2,848	2,798	50	
3	Shwemyaingthiri Ward	9	18,100	11,074	7,026	6,876	150	
4	Hlaingshansu Ward	7	19,100	11,175	7,925	7,665	260	
5	Kyaikphane Ward	3	5,550	3,511	2,039	1,989	50	
6	Aukkyin Ward	3	6,950	4,500	2,450	2,400	50	
7	Phattan Ward	5	9,000	5,469	3,531	3,531		
8	Mandalay Ward	2	4,100	2,687	1,413	1,311	102	
9	Shwetaung Ward	4	6,650	4,290	2,360	2,310	50	
10	Sitkegone Ward	3	5,550	3,421	2,129	2,111	18	
11	Mayangone Ward	2	3,550	2,412	1,138	1,188		50
12	Panbedan Ward	2	4,350	2,778	1,572	1,572		
13	Bogone Ward	3	5,900	4,063	1,837	1,937		100
14	Nyaungpinseik Ward	3	6,750	3,486	3,264	3,264		
15	Katoe Village-Tract	1	2,350	1,257	1,093	1,093		
16	Kawhnet Village-Tract	1	2,550	1,343	1,207	1,207		
17	Kawhlar Village-Tract	2	2,950	1,640	1,310	1,260	50	
18	Kawton Village-Tract	1	2,350	1,262	1,088	1,088		
19	Kawpauk Village-Tract	1	2,550	1,313	1,237	1,237		
20	Kawsein Village-Tract	1	1,150	770	380	380		

21	Maungngan Ward	4	7,250	4,235	3,015	2,875	140	
22	Kwin Ward	4	8,450	5,153	3,297	3,297		
23	Mupon Ward	5	10,150	6,092	4,058	4,056	2	
24	Thirimyaing Ward	6	10,750	6,402	4,348	3,148	1,200	
25	Thirimingalar Ward	3	6,250	3,464	2,786	2,786		
26	Zaykyoe Ward	6	14,350	9,170	5,180	5,281		101
27	Myaynigone Ward	2	5,650	3,299	2,351	2,251	100	
28	Myaingthaya Ward	3	9,800	5,517	4,283	4,164	119	
29	Zayyamyaing Ward	1	3,500	1,772	1,728	1,728		
30	Kyauktan Ward	2	4,250	2,471	1,779	1,779		
31	Chyaukmine Kywechan Ward	3	5,150	3,156	1,994	1,944	50	
32	Ngantay Ward	2	4,200	2,865	1,335	1,335		
33	Sangyi Ward	1	1,250	870	380	380		
34	Gwaygone Ward	2	4,300	2,732	1,568	1,578		10
35	Naungkhari Ward	4	7,200	5,018	2,182	2,132	50	
36	Muyaung Village-Tract	1	2,700	1,487	1,213	1,203	10	
37	Minywa Village-Tract	1	1,750	1,093	657	657		
38	Kyainn Village-Tract	3	5,450	3,655	1,795	1,795		
39	Kawkhani Village-Tract	1	1,050	831	219	219		
40	Kawkhame Village-Tract	2	4,250	2,433	1,817	1,807	10	
41	Hpaauk Village-Tract	2	3,750	2,044	1,706	1,856		150
42	Yogoe Village-Tract	1	3,000	1,730	1,270	1,270		
	Ward/village -tract ballots	119	250,800	151,026	99,774	97,464	2,721	411
	Township Remaining ballots		15,946	2,711	13,235	13,235		
	Township Total	119	266,746	153,737	113,009	110,699	2,721	411

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Kyaikmaraw Township

8. According to the inspection, 98 polling stations in 4 Wards and 43 Village-tracts of Kyaikmaraw Township in Mon State took out 204,995 ballots and used 88,978 ballots. It left 114,314 ballots instead of 116,017. 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	186,435	86,263	100,172	99,799	1,962	1,589
2	Township ballots	18,560	2,715	15,845	14,515	1,330	
Total		204,995	88,978	116,017	114,314	3,292	1,589

9. It found 1,962 missing ballots at the polling stations in 16 wards/village-tracts and 1,589 extra ballots in 24 wards/village-tracts of Kyaikmaraw Township. There must be 15,845 remaining ballots at the township election sub-commission but it found 14,515 remaining ballots and so 1,330 ballots were found missing.
10. Findings were as follows:

FROM PAGE-6

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remain-ing	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Shisawpu Ward	3	5,312	2,914	2,398	2,086	312	
2	Yanmyoaung Ward	3	5,625	2,878	2,747	2,822		75
3	Aungthukha Ward	2	3,694	1,695	1,999	1,855	144	
4	Ahtanyan Ward	1	2,592	816	1,776	1,734	42	
5	Ankaye Village-Tract	1	2,084	555	1,529	1,345	184	
6	Attaran Village-Tract	2	2,996	1,377	1,619	1,633		14
7	Babugone Village-Tract	1	3,650	1,471	2,179	2,179		
8	Beinbyaw Village-Tract	1	2,191	1,064	1,127	1,136		9
9	Dhammatha Village-Tract	2	3,551	1,939	1,612	1,964		352
10	Hlakazaing Village-Tract	4	7,417	3,706	3,711	3,694	17	
11	Kada Village-Tract	5	10,081	5,301	4,780	4,649	131	
12	Kalaingkanaing Village-Tract	1	1,468	961	507	592		85
13	Khanaung Village-Tract	1	899	531	368	368		
14	Kawbwe Village-Tract	3	6,306	2,750	3,556	3,610		54
15	Kawkhalain Village-Tract	2	3,555	1,462	2,093	2,238		145
16	Kawpalaing Village-Tract	1	1,332	627	705	723		18
17	Kawkalaw Village-Tract	2	4,719	2,324	2,395	2,426		31
18	Kawpanaw Village-Tract	2	5,023	2,039	2,984	3,081		97
19	Kawthat Village-Tract	2	3,668	1,611	2,057	2,101		44
20	Khayone Village-Tract	2	2,855	1,425	1,430	1,525		95
21	Kwanngan Village-Tract	1	2,148	976	1,172	1,172		
22	Kyaikpayan Village-Tract	2	4,463	1,837	2,626	2,669		43
23	Kyioake Village-Tract	1	2,099	1,127	972	923	49	
24	Kyonekwe Village-Tract	3	5,670	2,487	3,183	3,063	120	

25	Kyonesein Village-Tract	1	1,930	993	937	1,008		71
26	Kyonewan Village-Tract	2	4,218	1,659	2,559	2,640		81
27	Kyunywa Village-Tract	3	5,884	2,884	3,000	2,896	104	
28	Lamukho Village-Tract	2	4,189	2,137	2,052	2,013	39	
29	Letpan Village-Tract	1	2,140	910	1,230	1,340		110
30	Mekayo Village-Tract	1	1,372	689	683	711		28
31	Mikathit Village-Tract	2	4,399	2,535	1,864	1,864		
32	Musoekyun Village-Tract	1	2,448	1,063	1,385	1,385		
33	Ngapyayma Village-Tract	1	2,791	1,424	1,367	1,376		9
34	Ngapuinn Village-Tract	1	1,849	944	905	905		
35	Nidon Village-Tract	2	3,738	1,882	1,856	1,922		66
36	Pharpyauk Village-Tract	1	2,331	1,261	1,070	1,070		
37	Peinhnegone Village-Tract	4	9,520	4,008	5,512	5,232	280	
38	Phanone Village-Tract	3	4,196	2,017	2,179	2,183		4
39	Pharthein Village-Tract	3	4,083	2,039	2,044	1,861	183	
40	Tayana Village-Tract	9	13,087	5,728	7,359	7,370		11
41	Thankalaung Village-Tract	1	1,570	525	1,045	1,025	20	
42	Ulay Village-Tract	1	2,397	1,037	1,360	1,363		3
43	Yetwingone Village-Tract	5	10,561	3,830	6,731	6,872		141
44	Hlysingone Village-Tract	1	1,047	471	576	579		3
45	Chaunghnitkha Village-Tract	2	4,129	2,217	1,912	1,883	29	
46	Katonesi Village-Tract	2	3,274	1,115	2,159	2,135	24	
47	Yepu Village-Tract	1	1,884	1,022	862	578	284	
	Ward/village -tract ballots	98	186,435	86,263	100,172	99,799	1,962	1,589
	Township Remaining ballots		18,560	2,715	15,845	14,515	1,330	
	Township Total	98	204,995	88,978	116,017	114,314	3,292	1,589

Union Election Commission

Black bean price drops by K 50,000 per tonne in ten days

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the price of black bean has dropped by K50,000 per tonne in ten days, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Brokerage). Although the black bean price on 22 April was K930,000 per tonne, the price fell to about K880,000 per tonne on 30 April, which is a decrease of

K50,000 per tonne in only ten days, according to the bean market data. The black bean price keeps its downward trend because India, the primary buyer of Myanmar pluses, controls its bean purchasing volume with their quota system. India’s purchasing system is based on the quota system. The price of beans has increased while the bean is highly demanded

when India sets up the quota and issues the bean companies’ licences. Afterwards, the price of beans will plunge while the quota is almost completed. According to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA), the demand has also declined. Myanmar yields around 400,000 tonnes of black bean

annually, and the bean is primarily exported to India. Similarly, about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas are produced yearly and exported to India as well. Since 2017, India has been setting the import quota on beans, including black beans and pigeon peas. Myanmar has to export black beans and pigeon peas under a quota system and dur-

ing the limit period. Consequently, according to market observers, there is no guarantee that we could get the prevailing market price this year. Following no assurance of black beans and pigeon peas in the market, the association suggested in the end-October 2020 that the local farmers should grow the black-eyed beans more. — NN/GNLM

Plan to reopen final-year courses, master’s courses (written test) opened at universities, degree colleges, colleges under Higher Education Department of Education Ministry

UNIVERSITIES, degree colleges and colleges under the department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education will reopen the final-year courses and master’s courses (written test) which were conducted in the 2019-2020 academic year, as of 5 May 2021.

GTC, GTI under Technical, Vocational Education and Training Department of Education Ministry to open third-year courses, GTHS, second-year courses

GOVERNMENT Technological Colleges and Government Technical Institutes under the Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training of the Ministry of Education will open the third-year courses, the final years of three-year diploma courses of AGTI and the Government Technical High Schools,second-year courses as of 5 May 2021.

Based on patriotic spirit in running media

EVERY global country is formed with supports of the executive, legislative and judicial pillars through a check and balance system for their standing as the essence of democratic practice.

The media, dubbed as the fourth pillar of the country, plays a crucial role in its efforts to enhance the freedom of expression for democracy, improving the transparency of the government by distributing knowledge to the people. The fourth pillar upholds the obligations to perform the acts of check and balance over the movements of executive, legislative and judicial pillars not to derail from the right track for the sake of the people.

Media personnel, who are citizens of Myanmar, should prioritize the interests of Myanmar citizens. So, they need to focus on presenting information to the people with a constructive attitude for ensuring the perpetuation of the nation and sovereignty.

attacks through the political, economic and social sectors imposed by developed countries on a wider scale with the use of modern multimedia as their powerful tools for serving their interests.

Media personnel, who are citizens of Myanmar, should prioritize the interests of Myanmar citizens.

So, they need to focus on presenting information to the people with a constructive attitude for ensuring the perpetuation of the nation and sovereignty.

That is why not only the State-owned media but also private-run media need to hold up the patriotic spirit without losing sight of media ethics in presenting the invaluable information which must be deserved to be known for the people on a daily basis.

Myanmar needs to have a strong and dynamic media which must be a tool to be used in the nation-building tasks.



FAO Council ends successfully and paves the way for the first virtual Conference in history

THE 166th Session of the FAO Council, the third session held entirely virtually, ended on 1 May with its Members praising the Organization's main actions and initiatives to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to foster sustainable development, as well as supporting the proposed documents to guide the Organization's work over the next years.

The Council is the executive organ of the FAO Conference. It has 49 Members and meets between Conference sessions which bring all 194 FAO Members together every two years.

The Council exercises functions dealing with the world food and agricultural situation and related matters, current and prospective activities of the Organization, including the Programme of Work and Budget, administrative matters, the financial management of the Organization, and constitutional questions.

In his closing remarks to the Council, the FAO Director-General QU Dongyu thanked the Council Members for their active and constructive engagement and noted that the outcomes pave the way for the success of the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference in mid-June, which will be the first Conference to be held virtually in the history of the Organization.

This session of the Council took place as the world continues

to cope with the pandemic and adapts to the digital world as the new normal," Qu said.

"The Digital FAO has been accelerating evolution and preventing involution," he added.

The FAO Conference in June will consider the approval of the proposed Strategic Framework 2022-31, as well as the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23.

The documents received positive feedback and support from the Council. The Director-General welcomed this support and noted that "It confirmed that the unprecedented, broad and inclusive consultation process that went into the preparation of these documents was recognized and appreciated".

The Strategic Framework seeks to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life, leaving no one behind.

The "Four Betters" represent an organizing principle for how FAO intends to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).

The Programme of Work and



In battling COVID-19, countries shouldn't lose sight of sustainable development. PHOTO: FAO

Budget 2022-23 translates the strategic narrative into the biennial programme of work. It maintains a flat nominal regular budget of \$1,005.6 million while reallocating resources to high-priority areas, including the new Programme and Recovery Programme and its seven priority areas.

The Programme has enabled intensive work on linking social protection to agricultural and rural-based livelihoods with a focus on more jobs for women and youth in agri-food systems as well as bolstering the use of digital technologies to assist smallholder farmers in maintaining production, produc-

tivity and market access. It is now expanding its areas to integrate Green Recovery plans.

The Council also welcomed the support that the Food Coalition can provide to the COVID-19 Programme and looked forward to further discussions and analysis on the Food Coalition within the G20 process in 2021 under the Italian Presidency.

FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative was recognized by the Council as a catalyst and important support to strengthening the Organization's capacity to deliver integrated, science- and evidence-based, techni-

cal, policy and investment support to Members.

The Council also commended the tangible progress made on the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative in supporting 37 participating countries despite the extraordinary circumstances prevailing due to the simultaneous impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic recession.

"We are working very hard to produce concrete results on the ground, despite the pandemic and its impacts," stressed the Director-General.

Tribute to the Independent Chairperson of the Council

This week's session marked the last of Khalid Mehboob, from Pakistan, who is completing his second term of two years as Independent Chairperson of Council (ICC).

The Director-General paid tribute to Mr Mehboob, who has been involved in the work of the Organization since 1969. For 40 years (1969 to 2009), he worked for FAO at increasing levels of responsibility. From 2010 to 2017, Mr Mehboob served as Alternate Permanent Representative of Pakistan to FAO.

He was elected by FAO Conference in 2017 as the ICC. "My high respect and appreciation go to my brother, the esteemed Chairperson,

Source : FAO

Since 2010, Amazon forest emitted more CO2 than it absorbed: study



A lone burnt tree stands on a deforested area in the surroundings of Porto Velho, Rondonia State, in the Amazon basin in west-central Brazil, on Aug. 24, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

THE Brazilian Amazon released nearly 20 per cent more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere over the last decade than it absorbed, according to a stunning report that shows humanity can no longer depend on the world's largest tropical forest to help absorb manmade carbon pollution.

From 2010 through 2019, Brazil's Amazon basin gave off 16.6 billion tonnes of CO2, while drawing down only 13.9 billion tonnes, researchers reported Thursday in the journal Nature Climate Change.

The study looked at the volume of CO2 absorbed and stored as the forest grows, versus the amounts released back into the atmosphere as it has been

burned down or destroyed.

"We half-expected it, but it is the first time that we have figures showing that the Brazilian Amazon has flipped, and is now a net emitter," said co-author Jean-Pierre Wigneron, a scientist at France's National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA).

"We don't know at what point the changeover could become irreversible," he told AFP in an interview.

The study also showed that deforestation — through fires and clear-cutting — increased nearly four-fold in 2019 compared to either of the two previous years, from about one million hectares (2.5 million acres) to 3.9 million hectares, an area the size of the Netherlands.

"Brazil saw a sharp decline in the application of environmental protection policies after the change of government in 2019," the INRA said in a statement.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was sworn into office on 1 January, 2019.

Terrestrial ecosystems worldwide have been a crucial ally as the world struggles to curb CO2 emissions, which topped 40 billion tonnes in 2019.

Over the last half century, plants and soil have consistently absorbed about 30 per cent of those emissions, even as they increased by 50 per cent over that period.

Oceans have also helped, soaking up more than 20 per cent.

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

သတင်းစာဖတ်ပြည်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြေးမုံ၊
The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်စုံသတင်းစာများ
မှာယူဖတ်ရှုလိုခြင်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့်
အခက်အခဲများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့
ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်-

- | | |
|--|--|
| > သတင်းနှင့်စာဖတ်လုပ်ငန်း(ရုံးချုပ်)၊ အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ၊
ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၄၁၁၀၈၊ ၀၉-၄၃၀၁၅၁၆၇ | > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(စစ်တွေ)
ဖုန်း-၀၄၃-၂၀၂၄၀၅၁၊ ၀၄၃-၂၀၂၃၀၆၈ |
| > အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာသတင်းစာတိုက်(မေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်)
ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၆၁၀၇၇၊ ၀၉-၄၂၀၇၀၆၈၆၇ | > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(တောင်ကြီး)
ဖုန်း-၀၈၁-၂၁၁၁၀၆၄ |
| > မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကုန်)
ဖုန်း-၀၁-၆၅၄၄၃၃၇၇၊ ၀၉-၄၄၀၀၄၂၂၁၄ | > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(မကွေး)
ဖုန်း-၀၆၃-၂၀၂၃၇၁၂ |
| > ကြေးမုံသတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကုန်)
ဖုန်း-၀၁-၈၂၆၂၀၃၁၊ ၀၉-၄၅၀၀၂၅၅၇၀ | > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(ကျိုင်းတုံ)
ဖုန်း-၀၈၄-၂၀၂၄၅၂၂ |
| > The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကုန်)
ဖုန်း-၀၁-၈၆၅၄၃၃၂၊ ၀၉-၆၈၃၆၂၄၅၃၃ | > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(ကလေး)
ဖုန်း-၀၇၃-၂၀၂၂၁၃၃ |
| > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(မန္တလေး)
ဖုန်း-၀၂-၄၀၃၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၂-၄၀၃၂၅၅၀ | > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(မြစ်ကြီးနား)
ဖုန်း-၀၇၄-၂၅၂၅၄၂၂ |
| > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(မုံရွာ)
ဖုန်း-၀၇၁-၂၀၂၆၃၃၇၊ ၀၇၁-၂၀၂၆၃၃၃ | > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(လားရှိုး)
ဖုန်း-၀၈၂-၂၂၀၄၀၆၇ |
| > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(မော်လမြိုင်)
ဖုန်း-၀၅၇-၂၀၂၇၅၂၅၊ ၀၅၇-၂၀၂၇၅၂၆ | > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(မြိတ်)
ဖုန်း-၀၅၉-၂၀၄၂၁၀၃ |



Trade Mark Ads

Call

09251022355,
09974424848

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာမှာယူဖတ်ရှုလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။
Circulation order is in easier way. **HOTLINE 09-45237515**

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ်စာစောင်များ အား နိုင်ငံတကာအဆင့်
ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. **Contact: 01-8604530**

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
ကြော်ငြာရှင်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအကူခံများအနေဖြင့် ကြော်ငြာ
ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်သွေးဆွေးနိုင်ပါသည်။
Advertise with us. **HOTLINE 09-974424848**

Onion growers expect high price to cover production costs



Onion is priced only K250 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg). But, the nursery plants of onion cost around K100,000 per basket

ACCORDING to the local farmers, onion growers from Taungtha township are expecting a high price to cover the production costs this year.

The onions are grown along Hsintewah creek. Now, all the onions have yielded, and nearly all the harvested onions are already stored in the warehouse.

Onion is priced only K250 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg). But, the nursery plants of onion cost around K100,000 per basket. With the rising production costs, the local farmers face the prospect of a loss. The cost of production of a viss of onion is ranging K400-K 500. So, the local

growers have already submitted the matters to the related authorities to cover the cultivation costs.

“Onion growers have been losing the cultivation costs for three years already. The merchants association has also coordinated with those concerned to solve this issue. Now, the growers are expecting to get a better price of onion. The onion production is also down this year than that of last year,” said U Win Naung, the chairperson of Merchant’s Association. —Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha Township IPRD)/GNLM

Muse trade almost halts due to COVID-19 resurgence

THE trade between Myanmar and China through Muse border ground to a halt as China tightened the border security and made policy changes in light of the COVID-19.

China temporarily shut down Mang Wein and Chinshwehaw checkpoints in early April. Myanmar’s Muse border trade came to a standstill following the closure of the Mang Wein border checkpoint triggered by the detection of the coronavirus cases in the border area, according to the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

On 29 March, one Myanmar citizen who tested positive for COVID-19 was found in Kyalgaung gems stone market. It prompted China to restrict border access at the Mang Wein

checkpoint, a major border crossing between Muse and Kyalgaung areas.

Consequently, there is no trade flowing in and out of the country via the Muse-Mang Wein border. Furthermore, trade through the Kyinsankyawt border, a major checkpoint for fruit exports, is down by 80 per cent, said the traders.

The closure of the Mang Wein checkpoint wreaked havoc on the Muse trade. The trade value through Muse land border plummeted to US\$2.529 billion between 1 October and 16 April in the current financial year 2020-2021 from \$2.738 billion recorded in the corresponding period of last FY, the Ministry of Commerce’s data showed.



This Mang Wein post plays a pivotal role in trading between Myanmar and China.

Suspension in border trade caused a negative impact on perishable fruits. The policy changes in China’s border exacerbated Myanmar’s exports amid the

COVID-19 resurgences, said a Muse trader.

Prior to the Mang Wein checkpoint closure, Myanmar daily sent about 2,000 tonnes of

rice and 40,000 tonnes of broken rice bags to China.

At present, Myanmar’s rice export to China through the Muse land border has stalled amidst the coronavirus concerns.

This Mang Wein post plays a pivotal role in trading between Myanmar and China. Myanmar exports rice, broken rice, onion, chilli pepper, pulses and beans, food commodities and fishery products to China. In contrast, electrical appliance, equipment, medical device, household goods, construction materials and food products are imported in the country via Mang Wein. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, about 500 trucks were daily flowing in and out of the Myanmar-China border Mang Wein.—KK/GNLM

Myanmar conveys about 600,000 tonnes of corns to Thailand under zero-tariff this year

MYANMAR has shipped about 600,000 tonnes of corns under zero tariff to Thailand this year, Chair U Min Khaing of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said.

Myanmar is sending corns through Myawady and Tachilek borders. He added that the current problem in corn exports is corn insect, difficulties in the logistic sector, and price flat on low demand.

“We are facing certain problems in the recent days. The exports went smoothly in April. Now, Thailand traders blame the corn pest problem. We are negotiating with them. The corns will be sent back if the pest is found. Another barrier is a disruption in the logistic sector. Thailand’s

demand for corn has declined. Consequently, the price is flat for now,” U Min Khaing stressed.

Myanmar has been exporting corns to Thailand through cross-border trade. A tonne of corn stands at about 8,000 baht.

Myanmar is allowed for corn export between 1 February and 31 August with Form-D, under zero tariff.

Myanmar corn exports were exempted from tax between February and August. Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn import to protect the rights of their grower if the corns are imported during the corn season of Thailand according to the notification of the World Trade Organization for corn im-

port of Thailand.

With the local corn consumption growing, Myanmar’s corn export to foreign markets is expected to reach 1 million tonnes this year, the association stated.

Myanmar exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to the foreign market in the past Financial Year 2019-2020 ended 30 September, with an estimated value of \$360 million, the Ministry of Commerce’s data showed.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayah states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons- winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corns. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar-India border trade up by \$84 mln this FY

BORDER trade between Myanmar and India hit US\$160 million as of 16 April in the current financial year 2020-2021 ending September, said a statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures reflected an increase of \$84.62 million as against a year-ago period.

The Myanmar-India total border trade during the period was shared by Myanmar’s export of \$160.086 million and its import of \$0.811 million.

Myanmar conducts border trade with neighbouring India through Tamu, Reed, and Thantlang border posts.

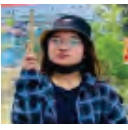
Between 1 October and

16 April in the current budget year, trade values have registered at over \$31.46 million at Tamu and \$129.44 million at Reed. There was no trade recorded at the Thantlang post.

Myanmar exports mung beans, pigeon peas, green grams, areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves, fishery products, fruits, and vegetables to India. At the same time, it imports pharmaceuticals, oil cakes, electronic appliances, motorbikes, steel and other construction machines and building materials from the neighbouring country. — ACM/GNLM

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

THE following education staff 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 CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Sec-tion of Penal Code	Photo
1	U Wunna Aung	Headmaster BEMS(Kyaukhtit) Mindon Township	Mindon Township, Magway Region	505-a	
2	U Aung Myo Naing	Headmaster BEMS, Infantry regiment 11, Shwe-bo Town	Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
3	U Htay Win	Headmaster BEMS(Post-Primary School), Ngwetha Village, Salingyi Township	Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
4	U Zaw Thet	Headmaster BEMS (Leinbin), Kyaukgyi Township	Kyaukgyi Township, Bago Region	505-a	
5	U Khine Saw Lin	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Ywadow (South) Village, Pobbathiri Township,	Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Coun-cil Area	505-a	
6	U Khin Maung Hsan	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS(1), Myothit Town	Myothit Town, Mag-way Region	505-a	
7	Daw Khar Khar Yi (a) Aye Aye Khine	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Hlingbwe Town	Hlingbwe Town, Kay-in State	505-a	
8	Daw Min Nay Nwe Mon	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Mahling Town	Mahling Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
9	Daw Dawtthou Shwe	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Haka Town	Haka Town, Chin State	505-a	
10	Daw Amar	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Pinlebu Town	Pinlebu Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those education staff charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those education staff and action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff.—MNA

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 Kyaw Soe Thet (Assistant Surgeon)	Phaungpyin Hospital	Phaungpyin Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
2	Dr Hein Min Zaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Yangon General Hospital	Latha Town-ship, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Dr Kyaw Thura (Assistant Surgeon)	Pyay Hospital	Pyay Town, Bago Region	505-a	
4	Dr Yin Min Thu (Assistant Lecturer)	University of Medicine-1 Yangon	Lanmadaw Township, Yan-gon Region	505-a	
5	Dr Than Zaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Taungle Station Hospital	Pyay Town, Bago Region	505-a	
6	Dr Ei Kay Khine (Assistant Lecturer)	University of Dental Medi-cine, Mandalay Region	Chanmyathazi Township, Man-dalay Region	505-a	
7	Dr Myo Min Zaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Dhammathaw Station Hos-pital	Pale Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
8	Dr Lin Aung Htet (Specialist)	Shwebo Hos-pital	Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
9	Dr Thae Yu Wai (specialist)	Shwebo Hos-pital	Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
10	Dr Naung Naung Min (Assistant Surgeon)	Taungtwingyi Hospital	Taungtwingyi Town, Magway Region	505-a	

Among them, Dr Lin Aung Htet (Specialist)and Dr Thae Yu Wai (Specialist) of Shwebo Hospital and Dr Naung Naung Min (Assistant Surgeon) of Taungtwingyi Hos-pital 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

Italy unveils winning project to restore Colosseum floor



A view shows the Colosseum monument in Rome on 27 March 2021 after the lights were turned off for Earth Hour. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Italian minister of culture announced the winning bid to restore the Colosseum's arena on Sunday, a project that will allow visitors to view the archeological wonder from ground level as soon as 2023. The 2,000 year old structure is currently floorless, the ruins of the underground levels' walls and tunnels exposed to the open air save for a small platform. A Milan engineering firm beat 10 competitors who answered a 2020 call for submissions with its vision involving rotating wooden slats

that would allow natural ventilation and lighting of the lower levels. "It's another step forward towards rebuilding the arena, an ambitious project that will aid the conservation of the archeological structures while getting back to the original image of the Colosseum and its quality as a complex scenographic machine," said culture minister Dario Franceschini.

With the new floor, visitors to the Colosseum will be able to admire the treasured monument from the centre of the arena — a

view once reserved for gladiators and slaves as they prepared to meet their doom. Franceschini plans to host the Rome G20 culture summit at the Colosseum in July and it may serve as a venue for other major cultural events.

The Colosseum's executive archaeologist Alfonsina Russo said construction of the arena — which will be the subject of a Europe-wide call for bids of about 15 million euros — should begin by the end of the year or early 2022. —AFP ■

Coronavirus: Latest global developments

HERE are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis: **More aid arrives as India**

More emergency medical aid from foreign donors to alleviate a dire oxygen shortage arrives in India, as Covid-19 deaths in the South Asian nation rise to a new record.

The country of 1.3 billion reported 3,689 deaths on Sunday — the highest single-day rise yet in the pandemic, to take the overall toll to more than 215,000. Just under 400,000 infections were added, bringing the total number of cases past 19.5 million.

Nigeria restricts passengers from India, Brazil

Nigeria will ban entry to non-Nigerian passengers who have been in Brazil, India or Turkey in the last fortnight due to concerns over the spread of coronavirus, health authorities say. The travel ban does not apply to passengers who have just transited through those countries.

All passengers arriving in Nigeria will now have to show a negative Covid-19 test taken within 72 hours of travel rather than the previous 96-hour period.

Pfizer jabs for South Africa

South Africa was awaiting delivery of the first batch of its 4.5 million Pfizer coronavirus vaccines as the country readies to start ramping up immunisation.

Some 325,260 doses were expected to land in Johannesburg with a similar number expected weekly until the end of this month.

Brussels police teargas anti-lockdown partygoers

Belgian police arrest 132 people as they used tear gas

and water cannon to break up a banned anti-lockdown party in a Brussels park, according to an official report. One partygoer was knocked out by a water cannon and 14 others were slightly injured — including one struck by a police horse — as riot police brutally dispersed the party on Saturday in scenes echoing a similar gathering in the park a month before. Three officers were hospitalised and a dozen slightly injured during clashes with the protesters.

Britain defends aid cuts

Britain defends cuts to its aid spending, stressing the budget impact of the coronavirus pandemic, after several UN agencies warned they would translate into thousands of deaths among the world's poor.

Despite the cut of £4 billion (\$5.5 billion, 4.6 billion euros) to £10 billion in its aid budget, Britain remains a leading contributor among the G7 nations, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said as he prepares to chair a meeting of G7 foreign ministers in London this week.

20 million vaccine doses administered each day

At least 1.15 billion vaccine doses have been administered worldwide, according to an AFP count based on official figures. Around 20 million doses on average are being given each day.

Nearly 3.2 million dead

The coronavirus pandemic has killed more than 3.19 million people worldwide since the virus first emerged in late 2019, according to an AFP compilation of official data.

The US is the worst-affected country with 576,722 deaths, followed by Brazil with 406,437, Mexico 217,168, India 215,542 and Britain 127,524. —AFP ■

Fire-hit Shuri Castle recreated in miniature form at theme park

SHURI Castle, a symbol of Okinawa located at a UNESCO World Heritage site that burned down in the southern Japan prefecture in 2019, has been recreated in miniature form at a theme park in Nikko, a popular tourist spot north of Tokyo.

The 1:25 scale replica of the castle, which is currently being reconstructed, has been on display since 24 April at Tobu World Square that features models of world-famous landmarks.

On public display are 24 replica buildings, including a 62-centimeter-high Seiden main hall and a 44-cm-high Nanden south hall, in a 120-square-meter space at the park in the popular Kinugawa hot spring resort area in Nikko, Tochigi Prefecture.

Hundreds of dolls have also been placed to replicate the New Year rituals of the Ryukyu King-



A one-25th scale replica of Shuri Castle in Okinawa Prefecture goes on public display at the Tobu World Square theme park in Nikko in Tochigi Prefecture, eastern Japan, on 24 April 2021. The World Heritage-listed castle, hit by a massive fire in 2019, was added to items of the park, featuring miniature replicas of world-famous landmarks. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

dom, as Shuri Castle was the center of the kingdom's politics, foreign affairs and culture from 1429 until the southern island was annexed by Japan in 1879.

The miniature reproduction of Shuri Castle, made possible

with the cooperation of the Okinawa prefectural government and the heritage site, had been scheduled to go on public display last year, but it was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. — Kyodo News ■

New Zealand to open travel bubble with Cook Islands

NEW Zealand will open a travel bubble with the tiny Cook Islands this month, adopting quarantine-free arrangements similar to those already established with Australia, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said. Ardern said the bubble with the South Pacific island state of about 20,000 people would open on 17 May and initially involve about three flights a week.

"Two-way quarantine-free travel is a significant step in both countries' Covid-19 recovery, and a direct result of both New Zealand and the Cook Islands' successful response to the pandemic," she said. The remote Cook Islands is one of few places in the world to remain coronavirus-free, while New Zealand has eliminated community transmission and recorded only 25 deaths in a population of five million.

The Cook Islands is self-governing in "free association" with New Zealand, meaning that while it

administers its own affairs, Cook Islanders are both New Zealand citizens and Cook Islands nationals. As a result, there are more expatriate Cook Islanders living in New Zealand than on the islands.

"(The bubble) will mean families can reconnect, commercial arrangements can resume and Kiwis can take a much-welcomed winter break and support the Cook Islands' tourism sector and recovery," Ardern said.

A long-awaited travel bubble between New Zealand and Australia opened last month, and has been hailed as a major milestone in restarting a global travel industry gutted by the pandemic.

New Zealand opposition leader Judith Collins said Wellington should now prioritise opening travel bubbles with Tonga and Samoa, two Pacific island nations that have detected no community cases of Covid-19. —AFP ■

Asian finance chiefs expect COVID-19 vaccines to boost recovery

ASIAN finance chiefs said Monday they expect their economies, hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, to recover this year with the help of COVID-19 vaccine rollouts, but still warn of downside risks stemming from the emergence of new mutations and differences in vaccination rates among nations.

“We expect vaccine rollouts to play a key part in accelerating regional economic recovery,” the finance ministers and central bank governors of Japan, China, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations said in a joint statement after holding a videoconference.

While calling for vigilance against “uneven” economic recovery from the global health crisis, they pledged to “use all available policy tools to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery and maintain financial stability.”

“It was meaningful that we could reaffirm the importance of regional financial cooperation,” Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso told a press conference after their discussions.

Underscoring their commitment to an “open and rules-based multilateral trade and investment system,” the finance chiefs also welcomed the signing of the



The finance ministers and central bank governors from Japan, China, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations hold a videoconference on 3 May 2021. Pictured in the front is Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement, the world’s largest free trade deal signed by Australia, New

Zealand and the 13 Asian nations in November.

They gathered online on the sidelines of three-day annual Asian

Development Bank meetings that started in virtual format on Monday. Next year’s meetings will be held in Colombo, Sri

Lanka, according to the statement.

At the previous teleconference held in September, the ASEAN-plus-three countries decided to increase the operational flexibility of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization scheme, which came into force in 2010 to address balance-of-payment and short-term liquidity difficulties in the region in times of crisis.

The scheme evolved from the Chiang Mai Initiative, the first regional currency swap arrangement launched by the 13 Asian nations in May 2000 with the aim of preventing a repeat of the 1997 Asian currency crisis. — Kyodo News ■

Pandemic boosted e-commerce in 2020: UNCTAD

THE Covid-19 pandemic provided a boost for e-commerce last year, but the digital windfall was not enjoyed equally across the board, a UN study found Monday.

“Although it will take some time to get the full picture of the impact of Covid-19 on e-commerce... a number of developments point to the strong rise in e-commerce in 2020,” said the report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The study crunched data from seven countries — Australia, Britain, Canada, China, Singapore, South Korea and the United States — representing some two-thirds of online trade.

Online sales rose 59 per cent in Australia, 46.7 per cent in Britain, 32.4 per cent in the United States and 14.6 per cent in China.

Turnover rose by 22.4 per cent last year to \$2.5 trillion, having increased by some 15 per cent in 2018-19, UNCTAD said.

By contrast, overall retail sales declined by one per cent.

“These statistics show the growing importance of online activities,” the report’s author, Torbjorn Fredriksson, told AFP.

They also underscore the need for countries, especially developing states, to use such data as they rebuild from the pandemic, said Shamika Sirimanne, head of UNCTAD’s technology and logistics section, in a statement.

A standout performer was Jumia, Africa’s online retail giant, whose transactions jumped by more than 50 per cent in volume in the first six months of 2020 compared with the first half of 2019, Fredriksson said. —AFP ■

Asian markets mostly down as inflation concerns persist

ASIAN markets mostly fell Monday following a soft lead from Wall Street, hit by profit-taking and lingering inflation worries.

With bourses closed in Japan and China for holidays most of the week, traders were easing back from their recent buying frenzy while there are also concerns that the more than year-long rally may have gone a little too far.

Investment giant Warren Buffett instilled some unease after saying at the weekend that he expected the US economy was in “super high

gear” thanks to massive Federal Reserve and government support but that it would fan inflation. He said “people have money in their pocket and they’re paying higher prices” and there was more inflation than expected six months ago.

His comments revived concerns that the explosive recovery, vaccinations and easing of lockdowns would push up prices to the extent that the Fed would have to ease up on its market-supportive, ultra-loose monetary policies.

Those worries continue to hover over trading floors despite Fed boss Jerome Powell’s repeated insistence that they will not tighten policy until they are happy that unemployment has been tamed and inflation is running consistently hot for some time.

However, Dallas Fed president Robert Kaplan broke ranks with Powell on Friday as he said tapering could soon be considered.

“We’re now at a point where I’m observing excesses and imbalances

in financial markets,” he said.

“I’m very attentive to that, and that’s why I do think at the earliest opportunity I think will be appropriate for us to start talking about adjusting those purchases.”

National Australia Bank’s Ray Attrill said in a note: “The main overarching rationale remains on the pace of the recovery which he sees as being much faster than he previously expected and now forecasts unemployment at 4 percent by year’s end. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (026N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (026N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLT0173/N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLT0173/N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

'Europe or death': West Africans risk all to leave Tunisia

AMINATA Traoure survived a shipwreck in which she lost her baby daughter, her sister and her niece but she is determined to embark again on the illegal crossing to Europe.

For the 28-year-old from Ivory Coast, the perilous Mediterranean crossing from the North African nation of Tunisia is her only way to build a better future.

"Leaving Tunisia could ease my pain," said Traoure.

Her attempt ended in tragedy on 9 March, when the rickety boat she had boarded capsized along with another in the Mediterranean, and she was flung into the waters with around 200 others.

Among the 39 who drowned was Sangare Fatim, her 15-month daughter.

Traoure said she would like to return home to Ivory Coast, 3,000 kilometres (2,000 miles) southwest across the sands of Sahara, but she can't afford it.

The price of the ticket – plus a fine for staying three years illegally in Tunisia – costs more than a crossing to Europe. —AFP ■

25 killed in boat accident in Bangladesh: police

AT least 25 people were killed in a collision between two boats in central Bangladesh on Monday, police said.

"We have rescued five people and retrieved 25 bodies," local police chief Miraz Hossain told AFP.

The collision was between a packed boat carrying at least 30 passengers and a vessel transporting sand in the Padma river near the town of Shibchar.

More people were reportedly missing while fire service officials and locals continued rescue operations, another policeman said.

Maritime accidents are common in Bangladesh, a delta nation crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers.

Experts blame poor maintenance, lax safety standards at shipyards and overcrowding for many of the accidents.

Vessels transporting sand sit low in the water and can be hard to see in choppy conditions, particularly when light is poor. —AFP ■

Pakistan tightens borders as Covid-19 cases soar

PAKISTAN has closed land crossings with Iran and Afghanistan for travellers and slashed international flights as the government warned of a "critical" few weeks ahead in the battle against Covid-19.

The border restrictions were announced Sunday as the country prepared to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which usually sees the mass movement of people between cities and villages as well as the return of migrant workers and overseas Pakistanis for celebrations.

Pakistani officials have anxiously watched the coronavirus crisis unfolding in neighbouring India.

The Civil Aviation Authority said Saturday that from Wednesday, 80 per cent of flights would be suspended for two weeks, mainly from the Middle East, until mid-May when the Eid holidays are over.

Foot crossings with Iran and Afghanistan would also be sealed, the country's coronavirus task force said, adding that trade would be exempt.

Flights and land crossings with neighbouring India – reeling from a devastating outbreak with hundreds of thousands of new cases a day – were closed before the pandemic because of political tensions. —AFP ■

Deadly oxygen shortages as India nears 20m cases



A worker sprays disinfectant inside a function hall temporarily converted into a quarantine centre for Covid-19 coronavirus patients, in Hyderabad on 3 May 2021. PHOTO: AFP

INDIA'S total Covid case-load neared 20 million on Monday as oxygen shortages in hospitals exacerbated a devastating second wave and much-needed foreign assistance continued to pour in.

Infections have soared by around eight million since the end of March, according to official data which many suspect are a considerable underesti-

mate.

India's underfunded health care system is under severe strain, with fatal shortages of beds, drugs and oxygen leaving some to die awaiting treatment in long queues outside hospitals in capital New Delhi and other cities.

Twenty-four people died in one hospital overnight on Sunday in the southern state of Karnata-

ka after the hospital ran out of oxygen, press reports and sources said, though the district administration denied that shortages had caused the deaths.

Another 12 died on Saturday in a hospital in the capital New Delhi after it ran out of oxygen, reports said.

Several hospitals sent out desperate appeals for oxygen on social media

overnight, with deliveries arriving only in the nick of time. One children's clinic in Delhi raised the alarm on Twitter over a shortage of oxygen that has reportedly left around 25 to 30 newborns and children at risk.

"Oxygen is a basic requirement of a hospital and a consistent supply has not been assured. We are constantly firefighting," the head of the Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital Dr Dinesh told the Indian Express daily.

'No more oxygen'

Federal and state authorities have been scrambling to get extra oxygen to hospitals, including by sourcing it from industry and sending special "Oxygen Express" trains.

Foreign assistance has also been pouring in, including from Germany and France, which this weekend sent medical equipment including oxygen-generating plants.—AFP ■

Blinken in UK as G7 foreign ministers resume in-person talks

BRITAIN this week hosts the first face-to-face meeting of G7 foreign ministers in two years, joined by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, as world powers tackle pandemic recovery plus growing tensions with Russia and China.

The Covid-secure gathering in London will prepare the ground for a G7 summit in southwest England next month, which will mark Joe Biden's inaugural visit to Europe as US president. Both events will also be joined by Indian leaders.

Many of the G7 nations have rallied to India's aid as the world's most populous democracy confronts a terrifying surge of coronavirus cases, although the pandemic is ebbing elsewhere in the West thanks to mass vaccination drives.

After its Brexit withdrawal from the Europe-

an Union, Britain is reorienting its foreign policy towards the Asia-Pacific region, and British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab will also play host this week to ministers from Australia, South Korea and the ASEAN bloc.

In the face of Russian "lies and propaganda" over Ukraine and other fronts, Raab said he wants the G7 "to come together with a rapid rebuttal mechanism" against disinformation.

Blinken is en route to Ukraine this week pledging "unwavering" US support after Russian troops had massed on its border.

In bilateral talks Monday before the G7 ministers sit down to a working dinner, Raab and Blinken will discuss Afghanistan, China, Iran and trade, according to the British Foreign Office. Like Russia, China also stands accused



Yael Lempert (L), Charge d'Affaires of the US embassy and John Holloway, UK representative from the Foreign and Commonwealth office greet US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (R) after landing at Stansted Airport, northeast of London on 2 May 2021, ahead of the upcoming G7 foreign ministers meeting. Britain this week hosts the first face-to-face meeting of G7 foreign ministers in two years, joined by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, as world powers tackle pandemic recovery and renewed tensions with Russia. PHOTO: AFP

by Western intelligence of unleashing trolls on social media, and of using foreign-language arms of its state media to channel an aggressive line on issues such as the plight of Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

On China, the US ex-

pects the G7 "to discuss how we can work closely with our allies and partners to address our collective challenges from a position of strength", senior State Department official Erica Barks-Ruggles told reporters.—AFP ■

Controlled bushfire cloaks Sydney in hazardous smoke

SYDNEY was enveloped in a thick bank of hazardous bushfire smoke Monday, forcing authorities in Australia's largest city to scale back controlled forest burning nearby.

Ferries were cancelled and the city's five million residents were told to stay indoors if necessary, as air pollution levels spiked.

Levels of hazardous PM 2.5 pollution — particles that can seep deep into the lungs and cause respiratory illnesses — were among the worst in the world at more than 190 on the air quality index. Australia's fire services regularly try to carry out "hazard reduction burning" outside summer months, clearing the forest floors of debris that can fuel wildfires.

But they were forced to scale

back plans for further burns Monday as pollution reached hazardous levels and some union groups told workers to drop tools if the smoke was too much.

"Light winds and an overnight inversion has resulted in smoke settling in low-lying residential areas," the fire service said. The smoke was forecast to clear as the day progresses.

Fires ravaged much of eastern Australia in 2019-2020, killing 33 people, destroying more than 3,000 homes and enveloping Sydney and other cities in a soup of smoke and ash for months on end. Climate change is believed to be making fire seasons longer and more dangerous, as well as limiting the timeframe when controlled burns can be carried out safely. —AFP ■



This picture taken on 2 May 2021 shows smoke filling the sky as Sydney is enveloped in a thick bank of hazardous bushfire smoke forcing authorities in Australia's largest city to scale back controlled forest burning nearby. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan accelerates defense capability enhancement in new domains



Photo taken 29 March 2021 shows an electronic warfare system introduced at a Ground Self-Defence Force base in Kumamoto. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

THE Japanese government is accelerating its enhancement of the Self-Defence Forces' capabilities in the field of outer space, cyberspace and the electromagnetic spectrum in the face of China and Russia's military buildup.

Together with the conventional land, sea and air domains, having advantages in the new fields is "crucially important" for the SDF to ensure effective communication capabilities and troop deployment, as well as grasp locations of enemy troops and assets, according to a senior SDF official.

An 80-member electronic warfare unit was launched in March at a Ground Self-Defence Force base in the southwestern city of Kumamoto.

The unit detects and analyzes naval and airborne com-

munications as well as radar emissions from neighboring countries. It will also be responsible for disrupting enemy communications and radar if called upon.

Five other similar units are scheduled to be set up with their headquarters at Camp Asaka in the Tokyo metropolitan area by March 2022.

The Defense Ministry is also developing a stand-off electronic warfare aircraft designed to jam enemy radar.

As for the Space Operations Squadron, a new organization will be established during this fiscal year to lead a team of some 70 members, expanded from approximately 20 people who are currently commissioned to monitor space debris and suspicious satellites. — Kyodo News ■

Setback for Modi after loss in key India state poll

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist party suffered a setback Sunday when it lost a fiercely contested state poll.

Over the past month India held its biggest democratic exercise in two years, with 175 million people eligible to vote in five regional elections.

But the marathon polls involved huge rallies where many attendees were maskless, and a record-breaking coronavirus spike coincided with the final phases of voting.

Experts blame complacency about the pandemic, as well as religious festivals attended by millions of devotees and political rallies, for the virus crisis.

The most important election was in the eastern state of West

Bengal, home to 90 million people.

Modi and his right-hand man, Home Minister Amit Shah, campaigned heavily in the state as they sought to end a decade of rule by firebrand leader Mamata Banerjee. But as results started trickling in, they showed Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) party on course for a third term.

Thousands of TMC supporters took to the streets, despite a virus-related ban on celebrations.

In a victory speech later Sunday, 66-year-old Banerjee said West Bengal's "immediate challenge is to combat the Covid-19 and we are confident that we will win".

"This victory has saved the humanity, the people of India. It's the victory of India," Banerjee, a fierce critic of Modi, added.

Modi tweeted his congratulations but added that his party had grown its support in the state "from a negligible presence earlier".

Banerjee however lost her seat in Nandigram to a former confidant who defected to Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

She vowed to challenge the loss in court. She can still be sworn back in as chief minister, but has to be elected in another constituency within six months.

Earlier, polling for two constituencies was postponed after two candidates died of Covid-19.

Despite the defeat in West Bengal, there was a silver lining for the BJP "in the sense that it has now established itself as the principal opposition to the TMC," political strategist Amitabh Tiwari told AFP.

But it was also a setback since the party's top leadership put "a lot of political capital into the state, they did a lot of rallies... it was perceived to be a close contest and some of the opinion polls were saying that the BJP could win there."

The BJP retained the northeastern state of Assam.

In Puducherry -- a small former French colony previously known as Pondicherry -- the BJP was expected to come to power through an alliance amid efforts to increase its presence in the country's south, where it has been traditionally weak. —AFP ■



Supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attend a public rally being addressed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (not pictured) during the ongoing fourth phase of the West Bengal's state legislative assembly elections, at Kawakhali on the outskirts of Siliguri on 10 April 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Two belts are cool, but three is better: Reinier De Ridder



Reinier De Ridder seen with his Middleweight and Light Heavyweight titles after a tough fight against Aung La N Sang on 29 April in Singapore. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

DURING an interview with the ONE Championship, Reinier De Ridder, Middleweight and Light Heavyweight ONE World champion has expressed his feeling that he was so pleased with his current championship belts but aiming to get one more belt.

“It would be cool if it’s Brandon Vera because he’s been the champ for a while, so it would be cool to take it from him. Two belts are cool, but three is better,” De Ridder said.

“He’s a great striker. His wrestling is all right, but it’s not on my level. It’ll be cool, man, to fight for history again, to fight

for my legacy. I hope we can make that happen.”

Next, De Ridder has also expressed his overwhelmed feeling about Aung La N Sang as he won the Championship belt from Aung La with some difficulties.

“I have spoken to [Aung La N Sang] a few times now in passing. He’s a legend, he’s a great fighter, I respect him, but I never want to see him inside the cage again. I’m happy to put this to bed now. Two wins, it’s done”, the Dutch fighter added.

“It was one helluva battle. With respect to Aung, he’s a

great fighter and a great champion. I’m just happy it’s over,” De Ridder said afterwards.

“Yes, I’m happy. It’s fine this way. I would have preferred to choke him out — I got close a couple of times — but it’s cool to show that I can go five rounds”.

“[I showed] I’ve got the cardio, the stamina, I can take guys down every round, show my heart and will on 6 days’ notice against a much heavier guy, a much improved Aung, so I’m content. He was very strong this time – a lot stronger than last time”, De Ridder commented.

—GNLM ■

Inter fans party in Milan after 19th Serie A title triumph

THOUSANDS thronged onto the Milan streets on Sunday as Inter claimed a first Serie A title in 11 years to end rivals Juventus’ nine-year reign. Antonio Conte’s side clinched their 19th Scudetto after Atlanta drew 1-1 at Sassuolo to leave the ‘Nerazzurri’ 13 points clear with four games remaining. Conte had started Juve’s record run, winning the first three titles in a streak that stretched from 2012 to 2020. The 51-year-old took over Inter in 2019 and lifted the trophy against their bitter rivals after finishing second last season.

“This triumph is one of the biggest achievements in my career,” said Conte, who also won the Premier League with Chelsea in 2017. “It wasn’t an easy choice for me to go to Inter, at a time when the



FC Internazionale supporters celebrate at Piazza Duomo in Milan on 2 May 2021, after the team won the Italian Serie A Championship title. **PHOTO: AFP**

team wasn’t used to winning. They were also the direct rival of Juventus, my former club.” Inter are now the second most successful team in Italy, one league success ahead of bitter city rivals AC Milan’s 18, but

still some way short of Juve’s 36.

The Lombardy side had not won the title since Jose Mourinho’s historic Champions League, Serie A and Coppa Italia treble in 2010. —AFP ■

Man City put faith in collective strength to blunt PSG’s star power

“WE don’t have a specific player to win games,” Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said earlier this season to explain his side’s consistency in a more congested season than ever before. “We have to do it together.” City’s strength as a collective was evidenced in Saturday’s 2-0 win at Crystal Palace that took them to the brink of a third Premier League title in four years.

Guardiola could afford the luxury of making eight changes from the side that beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final and still roll out a starting XI that cost over £350 million (\$483 million) to recruit.

Sergio Aguero, Raheem Sterling, Gabriel Jesus, Fernandinho, Ferran Torres and

Aymeric Laporte were among those to return against the Eagles having spent the full 90 minutes watching from the bench at the Parc des Princes four days earlier.

Backed by Abu Dhabi ownership, City and Qatari-owned PSG have often been compared for the manner in which they have changed the face of European football over the past decade.

The failed European Super League (ESL) proposals that sought to create guaranteed income and limit costs came as a result of some of the continent’s more established powers such as Real Madrid, Barcelona and Manchester United struggling to compete with City and PSG’s ability to spend freely on transfers. —AFP ■

Man Utd fans’ anti-Glazer protest forces postponement of Liverpool clash

MANCHESTER United’s Premier League clash against Liverpool was postponed on Sunday after fans invaded the Old Trafford pitch as part of a protest against United’s owners, the Glazer family. Hundreds of fans managed to make their way into the ground, chanting “we want Glazers out”.

Large numbers of supporters had also gathered outside the stadium and there were clashes with police as they moved in to disperse the crowd.

“Following discussion between the police, the Premier League, Trafford Council and the clubs, our match against Liverpool has been postponed due to safety and security consider-

ations around the protest today,” United said in a statement.

“Our fans are passionate about Manchester United and we completely acknowledge the right to free expression and peaceful protest.

“However, we regret the disruption to the team and actions which put other fans, staff and the police in danger. We thank the police for their support and will assist them in any subsequent investigations.”

The match had been due to start at 1630 local time (1530GMT), but had been delayed by over an hour before the decision to call the match off was confirmed. —AFP ■



Supporters protest against Manchester United’s owners, inside English Premier League club Manchester United’s Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, north west England on 2 May 2021, ahead of their English Premier League fixture against Liverpool. Manchester United were one of six Premier League teams to sign up to the breakaway European Super League tournament. But just 48 hours later the Super League collapsed as United and the rest of the English clubs pulled out. **PHOTO: AFP**