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Myanmar Press Council must stand on right track without accepting influence of political doctrines: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC Management Committee meeting 6/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 May 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the 6/2021 meeting of the Management Committee of the State Administration Council at the meeting hall of the Council Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on occasion, the Senior General said universities closed for more than one year reopened in line with COVID-19 health guidelines on 5 May due to a less infection rate of COVID-19 than that of neighbouring countries. The country needs educated persons for its development. Experienced teachers need to teach the students. Threats and destructive acts of some persons not to attend the schools are amounting to destroy the country. Political opportunists do not wish increasing number of educated persons in the country and commit naughty acts making troubles to the people. Today's education subjects are in line with the national education policies by the previous governments. Students, teachers, parents, and administrative bodies should strive for ensuring the smooth learning of students. The council is aiming for the smooth process of academic matters.

It is necessary to have technologies suitable for the present era as now is the information technology age. Moreover, all need to have legal and economic knowledge useful in society. Among various subjects at universities, law and economic subjects are much valuable for the practical fields. As such, arrangements are being made to enable the students to have better knowledge of the law and economic subjects in respective regions and states.

As some 70 per cent of the country' population residing in rural areas are engaged in agriculture and livestock tasks, it is necessary to enhance agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. They should try to have knowledge about agriculture and livestock techniques to develop these businesses. Hence, the education system will contribute much to the development of the country. The education system must be realized to provide training to them for having the skillfulness in respective subjects to be applied directly. Qualified youths must be settled in the right places.

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There are many projects such as State-owned projects, joint venture projects in mutual cooperation with the State and private-owned projects regarding land management. It is necessary to scrutinize some land

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 180,000 outpatients

Tatmadaw medics are providing treatments to locals in Toungoo.

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 187,924 outpatients and 3,787 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 8,766 major operations and 4,476 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 11,379 babies to date. Of those, 4,530 cases are done in the caesarean section and 6,849 cases in ordinary delivery.

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

Military medical corps provide healthcare in township hospitals

TATMADAW medical teams comprising Tatmadaw doctors, specialists and nurses have provided necessary medical treatments to the patients in military hospitals and public hospitals.

Tatmadaw medical teams continued providing the following healthcare services -- surgery, dental and oral healthcare, osteoporosis, obstetrics and, gynaecology, otorhinolaryngology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in healthcare services difficulties in Thazi Township Hospital, Hanza station hospital, Yinmabin station hospital, Nyaungyan station Hospital, Pintale station hospital in Wantwin Township, Tagaung station hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Madaya hospital, Singaing hospital in Kyaukse township, Yintaw station hospital in Pyawbwe township, Myittha Township Hospital, Kume station hospital, Welaung station hospital in Taungtha Township and Kyaukpadaung Township Hospital yesterday.

Officials from respective commands also inspected the hospitals' medical services. They comforted the patients by providing food aids and necessary things.

Locals are reportedly satisfied with the medical support of Tatmadaw. — MNA

29 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 May, total figure rises to 142,903

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,903 after 29 new cases** were reported on 6 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **132,000** have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

Issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards

THE Senior General stressed the need to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens and ethnic nationals within the period of the Pankhin project. It was scrutinized that a total of 4.6 million voters cast votes in the previous election without holding the citizenship scrutiny cards. Priority must be given to the issuance of CSC to eligible voter citizens to cast votes in the forthcoming election.

(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)

Myanmar Press Council must stand on ...

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plots which are not applied for the projects not to cause loss to the State. Relevant departments need to supervise the land users to do their projects in line with the agreements from the contracts. The Senior General stressed the need to avoid the acts of using the farmlands in other ways as much as possible. It is necessary to consider the land policy deeply. As the area of deforestation is larger and larger to cause climate change, it is necessary to prevent deforestation.

The Senior General stressed the need to choose the saplings suitable for the regions during proper nursery period for cultivation to have thriving. All the saplings must be grown to thrive for greening all the forests. Mangrove forests must be conserved and regrown at the beach areas where natural disasters may fall. All should strive for the thriving of trees while supervising the cutting of trees. Firewood plantations must be grown in townships and villages for the use of firewood. It is necessary to implement the solar power generation projects of renewable energy for electrifying the areas without electricity. Enhancement of living standard depends on electrification, which can narrow the gap between the urban and rural areas. So, they should consider the plan for the people to cut their costs in consuming the electricity.

With respect to spending the finance, the Senior General stressed the need to efficiently spend the money on regional development tasks and departmental projects and report back the expenditures. As the closure of factories brings loss to the State, arrangements must be made to reoperate the factories. All the people need to take pride in using necessary quality foodstuffs and personal goods produced at home. It is necessary to protect domestic productions and make arrangements for local producers not to face loss. Encouragement must be given to operating local businesses to succeed, and they have to prudently consider the investment measures.

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With regard to the export of goods, the Senior General urged all to seek ways and means for exporting the agricultural and livestock products. Efforts should be made to sufficiently produce fertilizers meeting set standards and neem pesticide with the least content of chemicals, farm machinery and parts at home. Likewise, relevant committees must conduct research on pedigree animals' production and quality feedstuffs for livestock breeding tasks to develop the local economy.

The Senior General highlighted the sports sector to give encouragements to athletes to raise their qualification. On the other hand, sports grounds and gymnasiums must be maintained, and the training must be conducted to athletes through better techniques. It is necessary to strive to construct modern stadiums, gymnasiums and swimming pools in regions and states. The ministries need to hold sports competitions. Encouragement will be given to improve further the sport's standard of Myanmar in the coming SEA Games.

In the security sector, riots happened after 3 February. Now, the situations are stable. As some departmental officials who did not participate in the CDM activities imposed threats to service personnel like teachers and health staff, those officials must be exposed to be dismissed from the service term, and severe action must be taken against them. It is necessary to take effective action against those who set fire to and exploded the schools, departmental offices and other buildings under the law. Those rioters and destructionists are destroying the country, and all need to prevent their acts through united strength.

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Union Ministers discussed their respective sectors.

Then, the Senior General said that some media one-sidedly express and broadcast the incorrect issues. The Ministry of Information needs to release the necessary laws in coordination with the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union. Fine arts must be for the State but politics and any person. The Myanmar Press Council must stand on the right track without accepting the influence of political doctrines. The national cultural characters must be preserved.

The Senior General stressed the need to arrange the correct prices for agricultural products. The Ministry of Commerce needs to arrange the G to G system for border trade measures. Dryers must be built for crops to produce the finished products. Raw materials must be supplied to factories for persistent running to be able to give a guarantee for agricultural products. As such, the income of the State will not decline, and the State economy will boom.

In the education sector, teachers need to dutifully serve the State duties with responsibilities for teaching students. Deterrent action will be taken against anyone who undermines the administrative machinery of the State. Education staff similar to health staff will be arranged to have assistance depending on the status of their degrees.

Service personnel must be qualified for their degrees. They must attend respective training courses at Central Institutes of Civil Service in Phaungyi and Zeebingyi. These institutes give training to all service personnel to abide by disciplines, and the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports must continue discussions for reopening of training schools.
—MNA

MoRAC discusses application to UNESCO to recognize MraukU as World Heritage Site

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko presided over a coordination meeting on the MraukU cultural heritage area for application to include on world heritage lists yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said 48 heritage sites of the country are preserved under the law in order not to lose the ancient cultural heritages, and MraukU cultural heritage site is a national-level heritage site.

The country boasts of 10 cultural heritages and seven natural heritage sites.

So the officials applied for these 17 heritage sites to be on UNESCO's list.

He then highlighted the ancient cultural heritages listed on World Heritage Sites, Maha Lawka Marazein pagoda, Yaza Kumar stone inscription, King Bayint Naung bell inscription and documents awarded as Memory of the World while Ananda Chandra Inscription as Memory of Asia-Pacific.

He then discussed that the MraukU cultural heritage site is a special place for the entire Rakhine people. It is also a heritage site that reflects the whole community's socio-economy, culture, religion, politics, and artworks, he affirmed.

Union Minister U Ko Ko chairs the coordination meeting on the MraukU cultural heritage area yesterday.

The Union Minister added that people could study MraukU city structure, farmland, religious buildings, city wall, and traditional construction system for kings, including pagodas and spirit shrines. The ancient buildings constructed with sandstones can only be seen in MraukU. The ministry made efforts for MraukU with full of material/non-material culture, to be on the World Heritage list in 2015-2016. The Nomination Dossier (Draft) was submitted to World Heritage Committee in September 2019.

He then said that there would be significant achievement as the advisory teams, work committees, sub-committee, government, regional authorities, region cultural conservation teams, and residents cooperated in conducting the necessary processes to apply for the world heritage list.

It should protect the cultural heritage sites together with the government and public. The heritage sites can bring dignity and economic growth to the region. It also needs to carry out the measures not to affect the interests of the local populace. It can get international technology aids and funds and improve the interests of locals.

Then, Director-General for Department of Archaeology and National Museum U Kyaw Lwin Oo clarified the completions for submitting the world heritage list and ongoing processes.

At the same time, other department heads explained the documents regarding the MraukU cultural heritage site and the draft of the comprehensive management framework for MraukU.

The Union Minister stressed the need to emphasize community peace while efforts are being made for the MraukU region to be on the world heritage list and conduct the ground survey by cooperating with the local and foreign experts, including locals.

He then urged all the people to cooperate with the officials to ensure peace in Rakhine State and concluded the meeting. — MNA

Deputy attorney-general attends 13th ASEAN political-security community coordination conference

Deputy Attorney-General U San Lwin joins the online ASEAN political-security community coordination conference yesterday.

THE 13th ASEAN Political-Security Community Coordination conference was held through videoconferencing yesterday morning in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Current Chairman of the ASLOM (ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting) Deputy Attorney-General U San Lwin attended the conference and discussed the activities of ASLOM.

He said cooperation among ASEAN countries is being enhanced to improve the legal framework. ASLOM and the ASEAN Law Association (ALA) are cooperating with each other.

He continued the process of joining third non-ASEAN countries is currently being negotiated as the Mutual Legal Assistant Treaty (MLAT) in criminal matters has been incorporated into Annex 1 to the ASEAN Charter. He also added that ASLOM is advising on implementing the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN's response to Emergencies and Disasters and on issues such as the protection of children's rights.

The conference also discussed implementing the APSC Blueprint 2025, the status of the development of the ASEAN Post-2025 Vision, and the Timor-Leste application as a new ASEAN member.

The conference was also attended by Director-General Dr Thi Thi Myint of the Union Attorney-General Office and legal officers. — MNA

Delegation of UAG Office joins 40th session of UNCITRAL Working Group III

A delegation of the Union Attorney-General Office attended the 40th session of UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) Working Group III held in Vienna of Austria via videoconferencing yesterday.

Working Group III implemented the Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform project in 2017. The draft version of complaints between investors and state, settlement and decision, insurance for court expenses, fund of third-person/organization and definition on stipulations of agreements must be submitted to UNCITRAL Commission.

The member countries also discussed the work plans to finalize the project in 2025.

The Deputy Directors-General and Directors of the UAG Office also virtually joined the meeting. — MNA

The UAG delegation attends the 40th session of UNCITRAL Working Group III via videoconferencing yesterday.

Renovation carried out at historic Bagaya monastery in Inwa

THIS year, K18 million is alotted for the renovation work to the damaged floors and steps along the passages of Bagaya monastery in Inwa, Mandalay Region, according to the Department of Archeology and National Museum (Mandalay Branch).

Renovation works started with a fund of K10 million in the 2019-2020FY, and 40 per cent of the works finished in the 2020-2021FY.

The Department of Archeology and National Museum maintains intact cultural heritage in all archaeological sites and adapts it to modern living standards.

Bagaya monastery is one of the most visited by local and foreign tourists. It is an ancient building with high historical and cultural value.

Bagaya monastery is one of the most visited by local and foreign tourists. It is an ancient building with high historical and cultural value.

"We are maintaining the monastery for its sustainability as it has high historical and cultural value. Renovations are underway with teak wood, as it is a wooden monastery built with teak wood," said Deputy Director of the Department U Nay Naing Tun.

Bagaya monastery was built in 1144 ME during the reign of King Bodawpaya by Minister Nay Myo Kyaw Htin. It was constructed with 267 teak posts – the biggest one is nine feet in diameter and sixty feet in height as the highest.

Bagaya monastery was built in 1144 ME during the reign of King Bodawpaya by Minister Nay Myo Kyaw Htin. It was constructed with 267 teak posts – the biggest one is nine feet in diameter and sixty feet in height as the highest. It is a monastery filled with many works of Myanmar architectural heritage from the Konbaung period. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Mang Wein checkpoint closed for over one month because of COVID-19

THE Mang Wein checkpoint has been closed for over one month because of COVID-19, and it has not been planned to reopen yet, according to the Muse 105th-mile Trade Zone, the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

The Mang Wein checkpoint has been closed starting from 30 March because the COVID-19 outbreak is ongoing in Ruili and Kyalgaung areas, major bilateral trading points between Myanmar and China.

With the declining number of COVID-19 positive patients in the Kyalgaung area, the lockdown restriction imposed on the Kyalgaung area has been lifted starting from 4 May. But, the observation is still going on for another three more months.

As a result, the Manwain checkpoint has not been planned to reopen.

In addition, in coordination with the Shweli Foreign Relations Department, the Mang Wein checkpoint has not been reopened yet, and it will be reopened only after having the detailed plan, according to the Muse 105th-Mile Trade Zone of the Trade Department.

Therefore, the relevant traders will be informed if China has an official notification to reopen the gate.

Main export items such as rice and broken rice, pulses, aquatic products, onion and chilli to China through Mang Wein checkpoint are 100 per cent suspended, said Vice-Chair U Min Thein of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

In the first wave of COVID-19, there is minor damage as China permits the passage of cargo trucks under the driver changing system but suspended the passing of travellers. Now, China does not allow entry even though trucks can affect 100 per cent, said U Min Thein.

The five border crossings linking China to Myanmar are Muse in northern Shan State, Lwejel in Kachin State, Chinshwehaw in northeastern Shan State, Kampaiti in Kachin State and Kengtung in eastern Shan State, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Among them, Muse border sees an enormous volume and value of border trade with an estimated value of more than US$2.53 billion this FY between 1 October and 16 April, a decrease of over $35.3 million compared with the last year's figures of US$3.35 billion, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. — NN/GNLM

Security measures conducted to ensure community peace

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 night and community peace in respective regions and states and keep serving security measures the whole day. — MNA

Tatmadaw, police and fire brigade members take security measures at night in Toungoo Town, Bago Region.

Announcement of Union Election Commission

5 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 Myothit and Myaing townships of Magway Region.

2. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	169 polling stations in Myothit township of Magway Region	136,696	117,752	5,578	4,138	19,698
2	249 polling stations in Myaing township of Magway Region	211,804	194,683	10,070	1,843	26,284

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

4. According to the inspection, a total of 418 polling stations in these two townships took out 397,508 ballots and used 262,596 ballots. It left 125,388 ballots instead of 134,912 ballots. The difference was 12,799 ballots and it found 3,275 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	Myothit	169	156,976	100,143	56,833	52,447	4,386	
2	Myaing	249	240,532	162,453	78,079	72,941	8,413	3,275
	Total	418	397,508	262,596	134,912	125,388	12,799	3,275

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Myothit Township

5. According to the inspection, 169 polling stations in 5 Wards and 47 Village-tracts of Myothit Township in Magway Region took out 156,976 ballots and used 100,143 ballots. It left 52,447 ballots instead of 56,833. 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	149,250	99,722	49,528	45,142	4,386	
2	Township Advanced ballots	926	421	505	505		
3	Township Remaining ballots	6,800		6,800	6,800		
Total		156,976	100,143	56,833	52,447	4,386	

6. According to the inspection, 4,386 were found missing at 169 polling stations in 52 ward/village-tracts of Myothit Township. The remaining ballots at the township election sub-commission were 6,800.

7. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Pharagyi Ward	1	1,550	1,515	35	35		
2	Kwetthit Ward	1	2,350	1,640	710	710		
3	Zay Ward	1	800	530	270	270		
4	Lepyin Ward	1	1,500	1,063	437	437		
5	Minn Ward	1	1,150	765	385	385		
6	Einema Village-tract	1	2,700	1,193	1,507	107	1400	
7	Kwinmagyi Village-tract	2	1,450	939	511	511		
8	Eineme Village-tract	1	1,200	850	350	350		
9	Palinpyargyi Village-tract	3	3,200	2,465	735	735		
10	Magyikonegyi Village-tract	4	4,950	3,334	1,616	1,616		
11	Kine Village-tract	2	1,900	1,236	664	664		
12	Tepinsan Village-tract	2	2,100	1,279	821	721	100	
13	Magyihtoo Village-tract	6	3,750	2,404	1,346	1,174	172	
14	Talokepin Village-tract	4	3,000	2,231	769	769		
15	Magyicho Village-tract	3	3,950	2,804	1,146	1,096	50	
16	Inywagyi Village-tract	4	4,700	3,391	1,309	1,309		
17	Sitha Village-tract	2	1,250	732	518	418	100	
18	Laytinesin Village-tract	8	9,250	6,080	3,170	2,920	250	
19	Htaukshatan Village-tract	4	3,650	2,490	1,160	1,160		
20	Nwahla Village-tract	3	3,050	1,796	1,254	1,154	100	
21	Tatkone Village-tract	3	3,150	2,124	1,026	1,026		
22	Sinpyuchi Village-tract	3	2,050	1,257	793	593	200	
23	Lule Village-tract	4	3,950	2,570	1,380	1,380		
24	Yaypyae Village-tract	4	3,350	2,148	1,202	1,202		
25	Nyaungzin Village-tract	4	2,000	1,386	614	614		
26	Gwaycho Village-tract	3	2,050	1,221	829	779	50	
27	Kanswel Village-tract	3	1,600	1,129	471	471		
28	Gwaygone Village-tract	3	1,850	1,319	531	481	50	
29	Dantthalun Village-tract	5	6,450	4,288	2,162	2,162		
30	Shwepan Village-tract	3	3,250	1,941	1,309	1,199	110	
31	Bawt Village-tract	1	650	430	220	220		
32	Zilone Village-tract	2	1,400	792	608	508	100	
33	Myaypyintha Village-tract	6	6,400	4,344	2,056	1,956	100	
34	Palingyi Village-tract	6	3,800	2,543	1,257	1,257		
35	Hpalantine Village-tract	4	3,400	2,598	802	802		
36	Suetatgyi Village-tract	5	5,500	3,548	1,952	1,702	250	
37	Yonetaw Village-tract	2	1,950	1,343	607	607		
38	Manawgone Village-tract	2	1,000	691	309	309		
39	Thaphangone Village-tract	3	1,750	1,061	689	689		
40	Sele Village-tract	7	4,050	2,787	1,263	1,103	160	
41	Sitthalin Village-tract	5	3,400	2,322	1,078	1,076	2	
42	Linle Village-tract	4	2,900	1,920	980	980		
43	Wagyieine Village-tract	3	3,800	2,598	1,202	1,104	98	
44	Ningyane Village-tract	3	3,300	2,321	979	335	644	
45	Myolulin Village-tract	6	3,900	2,550	1,350	1,350		
46	ChaukGyar Village-tract	2	1,900	1,193	707	457	250	
47	Paykone Village-tract	4	2,150	1,367	783	783		
48	Nabekone Village-tract	3	1,650	1,223	427	377	50	
49	Patekone Village-tract	4	3,300	1,928	1,372	1,272	100	
50	Htantapin Village-tract	5	3,450	2,439	1,011	1,011		
51	Nyaunggine Village-tract	2	1,800	1,159	641	641		
52	Myatlaykone Village-tract	1	650	445	205	155	50	
	Ward/village -tract Total ballots	169	149,250	99,722	49,528	45,142	4,386	
	Township Advanced ballots		926	421	505	505		
	Township Remaining ballots		6,800		6,800	6,800		
	Township Total	169	156,976	100,143	56,833	52,447	4,386	

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Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Myaing Township

8. According to the inspection, 249 polling stations in Myaing Township of Magway Region took out 240,532 ballots and used 162,453 ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective poll stations. It found 8,413 missing ballots. It also found the use of 3,275 extra ballots which were not granted by UEC. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	225750	161,392	64,358	59,165	8,396	3,203
2	Township Advanced ballots	1078	1,061	17		17	
3	Township Remaining ballots	13704		13,704	13,776		72
Total		240532	162,453	78,079	72,941	8,413	3,275

9. Of 84 wards/village-tracts in Myaing Township, it found the use of extra ballots at 6 village-tracts and also found missing ballots at 45 village-tracts. The officials did not follow the stipulations of Hluttaw Election Law 66(h) for poll heads. A total of 35 ballot books of Kyi Kan, Chaung Sone, Than Bo Gyi, Shwe Lin Swal, Ba Hin, Pay Pin Tike, Thee Tone, Kyan Seint, Chaing Zaunt and Myo Tin including unknown village-tracts were returned to the township election sub-commission separately.

10. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	No (1) Ward	2	2,600	1,948	652	651	1	
2	No (2) Ward	1	1,700	1,280	420	420		
3	No (3) Ward	3	2,950	1,833	1,117	767	350	
4	Kanni Village-tract	3	2,700	1,933	767	567	200	
5	Kwantaw Village-tract	2	1,950	1,271	679	679		
6	Kyaukkan Village-tract	3	3,600	2,553	1,047	1,047		
7	Kyauktaung Village-tract	1	1,450	869	581	581		
8	Kyekan Village-tract	4	4,700	3,322	1,378	1,330	48	
9	Kyetmauk Village-tract	3	2,050	1,417	633	539	94	
10	Chaungsone Village-tract	4	6,100	4,195	1,905	1,855	50	
11	Gwaypinle Village-tract	4	2,500	1,638	862	912		50
12	Htayaung Village-tract	6	4,350	2,638	1,712	1,312	400	
13	Taungkine Village-tract	1	1,250	883	367	367		
14	Tegyi Village-tract	2	2,950	1,828	1,122	1,122		
15	Taungboh Village-tract	3	2,550	1,647	903	603	300	
16	Htanaungwin Village-tract	2	1,450	951	499	449	50	
17	Htanbonetaw Village-tract	1	1,300	648	652	352	300	
18	Panswa Village-tract	2	2,150	1,657	493	493		
19	Paukpyin Village-tract	1	800	661	139	139		
20	Paungde Village-tract	3	2,900	2,317	583	583		
21	Phythee Village-tract	4	4,450	3,433	1,017	1,017		
22	Bantboe Village-tract	3	2,300	1,708	592	690		98
23	Phonegyikan Village-tract	5	4,700	2,870	1,830	1,670	160	
24	Mangyikan Village-tract	6	7,200	4,916	2,284	1,194	1,090	
25	Minthakya Village-tract	1	1,300	1,110	190	190		
26	Shwelinswel Village-tract	3	3,150	2,227	923	673	250	
27	Ywashae Village-tract	4	4,450	2,893	1,557	1,357	200	
28	Ywathitphya Village-tract	2	2,500	1,866	634	634		
29	Linkataw Village-tract	6	3,800	2,687	1,113	1,113		
30	Letsekan Village-tract	5	4,200	3,318	882	982		100
31	Letyetma Village-tract	5	5,150	3,814	1,336	1,286	50	
32	Hlekhoke Village-tract	3	1,250	851	399	399		
33	Thaminchauk Village-tract	2	2,500	1,351	1,149	1,139	10	
34	Thanbogyi Village-tract	4	3,750	2,732	1,018	718	300	
35	ThadwutVillage-tract	4	3,900	3,170	730	675	55	
36	Alekan Village-tract	4	2,700	1,891	809	809		
37	Innyaung Village-tract	2	1,050	742	308	308		
38	Ohbo Village-tract	3	2,700	1,872	828	878		50
39	Konlat Village-tract	4	2,600	1,806	794	744	50	
40	Kanyakaung Village-tract	1	600	376	224	224		
41	Kantein Village-tract	3	2,100	1,479	621	621		
42	Kyauksauk Village-tract	4	2,350	1,703	647	647		
43	Kaingtawma Village-tract	5	3,850	2,665	1,185	1,035	150	
44	Kyanseint Village-tract	1	850	683	167	167		
45	Chaisauk Village-tract	3	1,550	1,161	389	289	100	
46	Gyokekone Village-tract	2	1,800	1,165	635	385	250	
47	Sabay Village-tract	2	1,050	756	294	294		
48	Sinsein Village-tract	4	4,100	2,952	1,148	898	250	
49	Sinswel Village-tract	2	3,500	2,843	657	636	21	
50	Suewin Village-tract	6	4,900	3,926	974	1070		96
51	Seikchay Village-tract	3	2,400	1,934	466	569		103
52	Seiksin Village-tract	4	3,650	2,563	1,087	987	100	
53	Nyaungywa Village-tract	4	4,900	3,344	1,556	1,306	250	
54	Nyaungtwin Village-tract	2	1,950	1,593	357	257	100	
55	Taungsone Village-tract	4	4,150	2,959	1,191	1,191		
56	Twinma Village-tract	3	3,500	2,603	897	1,147		250
57	Htanbutaw Village-tract	2	900	570	330	282	48	
58	Daungoh Village-tract	4	1,800	1,164	636	636		
59	Dahatchauk Village-tract	2	2,050	1,545	505	505		
60	Hnawpin Village-tract	2	2,550	1,660	890	219	671	
61	Hnansikan Village-tract	4	4,000	2,605	1,395	1,395		
62	Paypintike Village-tract	3	1,700	1,157	543	393	150	
63	Pikethin Village-tract	1	1,400	1,157	243	243		
64	Phaungkwe Village-tract	3	2,000	1,272	728	478	250	
65	Bahin Village-tract	8	7,400	6,103	1,297	1,041	256	
66	Magyisu Village-tract	3	2,150	1,591	559	449	110	
67	Mohninemyauk Village-tract	3	2,400	1,835	565	565		
68	Myotin Village-tract	2	1,950	1,453	497	97	400	
69	Myotha Village-tract	2	1,300	907	393	363	30	
70	Myayyint Village-tract	2	1,750	1,196	554	544	10	
71	Myosoe Village-tract	1	1,400	1,020	380	280	100	
72	Ywatanshae Village-tract	3	2,750	1,706	1,044	844	200	
73	Wetkya Village-tract	3	2,250	1,767	483	383	100	
74	Wettaung Village-tract	4	4,450	3,273	1,177	1,123	54	
75	Wetpoke Village-tract	3	3,050	2,036	1,014	616	398	
76	Thayetkwa Village-tract	1	650	678	-28	678		706
77	Theetone Village-tract	5	3,650	3,029	621	621		
78	Thinpaungkan Village-tract	1	700	533	167	167		
79	Thanatpingonwe Village-tract	3	1,600	1,200	400	350	50	
80	Thitgyitaw Village-tract	2	1,100	648	452	262	190	
81	VThetkekan illage-tract	3	2,150	1,604	546	546		
82	Thinma Village-tract	2	2,250	1,718	532	382	150	
83	Ohyin Village-tract	2	2,550	1,799	751	701	50	
84	Einema Village-tract	1	1,000	715	285	285		
	Ward/Village-tract separately handover ballots					1,750		1,750
	Ward/village -tract ballots	249	225,750	161,392	64,358	59,165	8,396	3,203
	Township Advanced ballots		1,078	1,061	17		17	
	Township Remaining ballots		13,704		13,704	13,776		72
	Township Total	249	240,532	162,453	78,079	72,941	8,413	3,275

Union Election Commission

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Efficiently use fuel as national cause by saving income

FUEL plays a crucial role in operating industries, generating electricity and directly and indirectly running the daily life of the people.

Myanmar produces various kinds of fuel, particularly petroleum and diesel, using crude oil from many oilfields across the nation, but the products are insufficient for domestic consumption.

Hence, businesspersons are allowed to import fuel abroad for distribution.

Hundreds of thousand tonnes of diesel and petroleum are imported from customer countries on a monthly basis under the government's permit to be able to meet the local demand. As part of arranging the systematic distribution, the authorized bodies supervise the sales and distribution of the fuel to the people as well as vehicles.

That is why all the entire people, including the authorities and businesspersons, should take care of the efficient use of fuel as a national cause by saving income with efforts to overcome Covid-19 challenges.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar imports 200,000 tonnes of petroleum and 400,000 diesel tonnes per month, depending on the local demand. Most of them come from Singapore.

In April this year, many fuel tankers from Singapore arrived at international ports in Yangon City.

The Myanmar Port Authority stated that six fuel tankers carrying fuel arranging from 10,000 tonnes to 20,500 tonnes of diesel docked the international ports on 1 April.

Further fuel tankers with a load of more than tens of thousands of tonnes also arrived at the ports one after another in April.

The tankers carrying imported fuels arriving at Yangon's international ports aim to meet the domestic demand of energy in order to ensure the secure and smooth transport and swift flow of trade and commodity.

In fact, it is an indirect contribution towards the running of the daily life of the entire people.

As a result of this effort, all country sectors can be operated in a smooth process.

As such, businesspersons import the fuel from Asian countries, but they face difficulties in the hiking of US dollar value in the exchange of money and worry over the fuel demand during the Covid-19 period.

That is why all the entire people, including the authorities and businesspersons, should take care of the efficient use of fuel as a national cause by saving income with efforts to overcome Covid-19 challenges.

■ ■ ■

South Asia: 'Real possibility' health systems will be strained to a breaking point, UNICEF warns

Impacts of the deadly new surge in COVID-19 cases across South Asia are unlike anything the region has seen before, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said, warning of a "real possibility" that health systems there will be strained to a breaking point, leading to evn more loss of life.

IN a statement on Tuesday, George Laryea-Adjei, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, called for "urgent action and steadfast leadership" to stop the catastrophe.

"Governments must do everything within their power to stop the devastation, and partners that are able to send assistance must do so immediately. The international community must step up without delay. This is not just a moral imperative", he said.

Mr. Laryea-Adjei also reiterated the importance of individual responsibility.

"Every decision we make has the potential to alter the course of this surge – and to either safeguard or endanger the lives of those around us. We may be exhausted, but the virus is not", he stressed.

He also reminded everyone to ensure they wear masks, wash hands thoroughly with soap, keep physical distances, and to get vaccinated if they have the opportunity to do so.

Sharp rises across the region

Countries across the region are witnessing rises in infections, with India accounting for over 90 per cent of both cases and deaths in the region, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). India also accounted for 46 per cent of global cases and 25 per cent of global deaths reported in the past week, WHO added.

Neighbouring countries Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka also reported increasing caseloads.

The situation is particularly alarming in Nepal, where cases recorded a 137 per cent rise this week, reaching the highest levels since the pandemic started last year, severely straining its fragile health system and resulting in shortage of hospital beds, intensive care units and critical medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE) and oxygen concentrators.

The Nepalese Government last week announced a lockdown in many locations across the country, including in Kathmandu valley, and suspended domestic flights to stymie the spread of coronavirus.

Pakistan is also experiencing a major surge in COVID-19 and the number of cases increased rapidly in recent weeks, with daily cases reaching a seven-day average of 5,500 cases per day, up from an average of 1,100 cases per day in February.

According to a humanitarian bulletin from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), healthcare system has been impacted in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with hospitals reporting shortages of available beds, oxygen, and other essential supplies.

Very low levels of vaccinations

The UNICEF official also warned that the very low levels of vaccination in the region could magnify the likelihood of the virus spiralling "even further out of control".

Workers monitor as a tanker gets refilled with medical oxygen for hospitals and medical facilities treating COVID-19 patients. Oxygen, critical for treatment of people with COVID-19, has been in short supply in India. **PHOTO: UN NEWS**

According to UNICEF, in almost all countries in the region, with the exception of Maldives and Bhutan, fewer than 1 in 10 people have been vaccinated.

"Now more than ever, we must ensure vaccines equitably reach all populations. Manufacturing must be ramped up, technology transferred, and doses equitably shared. None of us are safe until all of us are safe", said Mr Laryea-Adjei.

Source : UN News

Pfizer/BioNTech jab confirmed to protect 95% in largest study yet

The largest real-world study yet of the Pfizer/BioNTec vaccine on Thursday confirmed that the jab provided more than 95 per cent protection against Covid-19, but found that the level dropped significantly when people received just one of the two prescribed doses.

The authors of the research from Israel's national vaccination campaign said it showed real-world proof that the pandemic could be ended by rapid, global vaccination programmes. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE authors of the research from Israel's national vaccination campaign said it showed real-world proof that the pandemic could be ended by rapid, global vaccination programmes.

An analysis of public health data from Israel -- one of the countries with the highest proportion of fully-vaccinated adults -- showed the vaccine was extremely effective in protecting even elderly individuals at a time when the more infectious English variant was dominant, according to the results published in the Lancet medical journal.

By the start of April, nearly 5 million people in Israel had received two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech jab, more than 70 per cent of the population.

The study found that two doses conveyed 95.3 per cent protection against infection and 96.7 protection against death seven days after the second dose.

After 14 days, that protection increased to 96.5 per cent and 98 per cent, respectively.

But the protection was considerably lower when people received just a single vaccine dose.

Between seven and 14 days after the first dose, protection against infection was found to be 57.7 per cent, and protection against death 77 per cent.

The authors said that one dose may provide a shorter window of protection, especially in an environment where new viral variants emerge.

"Importantly, the study shows that two doses of the vaccine significantly increase levels of immunity and protection," said Jonathan Ball, professor of Molecular Virology at the University of Nottingham, who was not involved in the research. "This is why it is important that people get both doses."

During the analysis period, there were 232,268 confirmed Covid-19 infections, and nearly 95 per cent of samples tested were found to be the English B117 variant. There were 4,481 severe infections and 1,113 deaths.

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

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Explosion occurs during homemade mine making in Bahan

AN explosion occurred during homemade mine making at around 10 pm in the Team PT gym located in Bogyoke park on Natmauk Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, on 5 May.

Thaw Htoo Naing (a) Pho Thaw, son of U Aung Soe, owner of the gym, who was making the mine, was injured and taken to North Okkalapa General Hospital in North Okkalapa Township at around 11 pm.

When members of the security forces searched the car, they found a homemade mine made of a PVC pipe in the vehicle, which was used to transport him to the hospital. They arrested Myat Htoo Naing (a) Kaung Sithu, Han Htoo Naing and May Yadana Hlaing, who took him to the hospital.

During the search in the gym, materials used in homemade mine making, including one CZ79 Compact 9mm pistol and its magazine, 11 bullets, 53 detonators, 7 gas masks and 10 goggles, 27 PVC pipes (1 inch in diameter and about 8 inches in length), 9 cans of glue, 2 bags of firework pieces, 150 packs of caps, 7 bamboo clips (with battery), 50 ticals of ammonium nitrate, 50 ticals of sulfur, one piece of ammunition, two cans of gunpowder, 3 hammers, nine bank saving books, 11 ATM cards and nine passports and others were confiscated. It is reported that those arrested together with explosive materials to be used in terrorist acts will be taken effective action in accordance with the law. — MNA

Thaw Htoo Naing (a) Pho Thaw

Myat Htoo Naing (a) Kaung Sithu

Han Htoo Naing

May Yadana Hlaing

Two men injured in accidental explosion of handmade bomb in Mon State

TWO men were injured in an accidental explosion of a handmade bomb in Thanbyuzayat Township of Mon State on 5 May.

According to an investigation, security forces went to the yard located at No (1) street of Yan Aung May Ward that belongs to Kyi Soe (aka) Ko Phyo, who lives in Yu Ma Wa street of Yan Aung Myay Ward. The blast occurred in his yard, and he was arrested.

The suspect, including Thet Oo and Kyaw Thet Tun, created handmade bombs used in riots in his yard. It accidentally exploded. Thet Oo and Kyaw Thet Tun ran away with injuries after the accident.

Two men were injured in an accidental explosion of a handmade bomb in Thanbyuzayat Township of Mon State on 5 May.

The security forces arrested Thet Oo near Mya Mar Lar village in Thanbyuzayat Township. The suspect was taken to the hospital for medical treatment.

According to the law, the suspects Kyi Soe (aka) Ko Pyo and Thet Oo will face legal actions. The security forces will investigate to arrest the remaining suspect Kyaw Thet Tun. — MNA

Terrorists attack boat carrying security members in Kani Township

THE armed terrorists attacked the boat carrying security members in Kani Township of Sagaing Region, and two members were injured in the attacks.

On 6 May, the security members conducted a patrol in Chindwin River between Yay Thar Ywar Thit and Ke Htaunt villages in the Kani township of Sagaing. Meanwhile, the boat stranded on the sandbank of the river, and about 30 terrorists attacked the security members from Mobine Hill with guns and handmade bombs. Two security members got injuries during the attack.

The officials conduct investigations to arrest the armed terrorists who attacked the security members. — MNA

Security forces arrest owners of weapons, equipment used in riots

SECURITY forces have been identifying and arresting owners of weapons and equipment used in riots across the country.

On 5 May, 7 shields from the well in the compound owned by U Aung Moe in Mawlamyinegyun town in Ayeyawady Region was found and confiscated.

Yesterday morning, two people were arrested together with homemade guns and related equipment in their houses in Depok village, Ingapu township, Ayeyawady Region.

While security forces were patrolling in Kyaukhtu town, Saw Township, Magway Region, three men riding two motorbikes coming from Kyaukhtu town were stopped for a search. Four homemade guns were seized from them.

Similarly, in the afternoon, security forces had to deactivate a mine set up in Shwesin Sakyar bus that departed from Yangon to Myeik when the bus was under regular search at Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint.

Security forces also seized five homemade guns used in riots under the bridge on Anawyatha road in No (1) ward, Thongwa town, Yangon Region, yesterday afternoon. Similarly, one rioter was detained with 2 guns and 5 homemade mines near Chaungma village, Kani Township, Sagaing Region.

It is reported that those who owned and trafficked the weapons and equipment used in riots will be taken effective action under the law. —MNA

Arrestees are seen along with seized weapons.

A mine set up in Shwesin Sakyar bus that departed from Yangon to Myeik is deactivated by security forces.

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

Exports outperform import in Mawtaung border trade amid COVID third wave

EXPORTS surpassed imports through the Mawtaung land border between Myanmar and Thailand amidst the third wave of the coronavirus in Thailand that shares a border with Myanmar's Taninthayi Region, said an official from the Mawtaung border checkpoint.

Myanmar yearly exports fishery products to Thailand through the Mawtaung land border of the Taninthayi Region. In contrast, building materials and consumer goods are imported by Thailand.

Myanmar yearly exports fishery products to Thailand through the Mawtaung land border of the Taninthayi Region. In contrast, building materials and consumer goods are imported by Thailand.

"The border trade went back to normal. Myanmar commonly sends squid and other fishery products, ginger and agro-products. Meanwhile, consumer goods and construction materials are flowing into the country from Thailand. Yet, exports surpassed imports in the Mawtaung border," said an official in charge of Mawtaung post.

Regardless of the third wave of the COVID-19, trade returned to normal. Myanmar shipped over US$8 million worth of goods to Thailand in seven months (Oct-April) of the current financial year 2020-2021 via Mawtaung border and carried out $1.5 million worth of imports, the Mawtaung border post's data showed.

Mawtaung is about 123 miles away from Myeik city, Taninthayi Region. Despite its positive potentials in border trade, the crossing is not available for all seasons. Thailand considers it just as a special temporary post. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM

More growers in Kya-in-Seikkyi Tsp eye lucrative elephant foot yam this year

THE number of elephant foot yam growers in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township of Kawkareik District, Kayin State, has grown year over year on the back of strong demand.

The yam grows naturally in the wild, and people used to find the yams. Now, it is largely cultivated in the township as it raised cash.

The yams are systematically cultivated on the farm. It fetches a good price and helps earn annual income for the local people. The yams are mostly grown two or three feet apart with the use of natural fertilizer in the township.

The local people eye the yam as it can be easily cultivated, and it is a cash crop. There are over 1,090 acres of elephant foot yam cultivation in the township. A basket of elephant foot yam stands at about K90,000-100,000 this year.

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the price of fresh yams reached the maximum of K2,300 per viss (a viss equals 1.6kg). This year, it fell to K1,600-1,700 per viss.

There are currently about ten factories for drying elephant foot yams in Myanmar. Myanmar's elephant foot yams are primarily purchased by China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Japan offers higher prices than China for the yams.

Elephant foot yam production has become a lucrative business. Therefore, value-adding technology is crucial for boosting elephant foot yam production and expanding its market, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

According to the association, Myanmar is mainly exporting raw yam, and value-added products made from yam will help the market grow in the long term. Myanmar is only producing semi-processed yam at present.

Elephant foot yams are the main product of Chin State, where they are cultivated on over 8,800 acres of land. The Kanpetlet, Mindat, and Matupi townships produce about 1 million visses (a viss is equal to 1.6 kg) of elephant foot yams. Elephant foot yams can be planted across the country. In addition to Chin State, yams are being grown in Kayin, Mon, and Shan states, and Taninthayi and Bago regions.

Yams produced in Chin State are getting a higher price than those from other regions. They have better quality and taste, said traders.

Myanmar exported 4,200 tonnes of elephant foot yams in the 2014-2015 financial year, 1,300 tonnes in the 2015-2016FY, and 20,000 tonnes in the 2016-2017FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. — Myo Min Oo, KK/GNLM

Elephant foot yam production has become a lucrative business. Therefore, value-adding technology is crucial for boosting elephant foot yam production and expanding its market.

Cultivation of summer green gram succeeds selling for K40,000 per basket

The department grew over 300 acres of green gram, which is selling for K42,000 per basket in the early yielding season this year, an increase of over K3,000 per basket compared to that of the last year.

THE farmers from the NyaungU district grew over 300 acres of summer green gram using river water, and the cultivation has succeeded.

In the early harvest season, the successful green gram fetches K42,000 per basket. According to the growers, the price of green gram has risen this year more than that of last year.

Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation grew a total of 593 acres of summer crops this year using river water, including 225 acres of summer paddy, 368 acres of summer green gram and banana.

The department grew over 300 acres of green gram, which is selling for K42,000 per basket in the early yielding season this year, an increase of over K3,000 per basket compared to that of the last year," said U Kyaw San, a green gram grower.

The summer green gram started sowing in mid-February. After planting for 45 days, the green gram started to sprout and blossom. After two months, it began to yield to be sold at the Pakokku brokerage. Each acre of a green gram could produce 20 baskets.

The cultivation cost of summer green gram is K3,000 per acre. In contrast, the production of summer paddy costs K9,000 per acre, said U Tun Zaw, the person in charge of the river water supply.

Now, the green gram is sold for K42,000 per basket in the early harvest season. So, it could not reach below K39,000 per basket in an abundantly yielding season. According to the green gram growers, this is a good year for the summer green gram growers who are making a profit. — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM

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

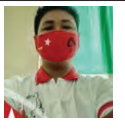
THE following teachers have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and education staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative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

Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	U Tint Naing Win	Deputy Township Education Officer, Office of the Township Education Officer, Tangyan Town	Myaung Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
2	Daw Cho Cho Win	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Htithein Yway), Taunggyi Town	Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
3	Daw San San Aye	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS 21 Pobbathiri Township	Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
4	Daw Khin Win Sint	Junior Assistant Teacher, Basic Education Post-Primary School (Shwegin), Lewe Township	Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
5	Daw Phyo Phyo Ei	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEMS (Satain), Bokpyin Township	Bokpyin Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
6	Daw Ei Thandar Ko	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Htithein Yway) Taunggyi Town	Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
7	Daw Kyawt Kyawt Lwin	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS, Phayathonzu Town	Phayathonzu Town, Kayin State	505-a	
8	U Yan Naing Tun	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (Kyauktaing), Chauk Township	Chauk Township, Magway Region	505-a	
9	U Pyi Thein Khaing	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (Nyaungthonbin), Toungoo Town,	Toungoo Town, Bago Region	505-a	
10	Daw Darly Myat Htwe	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEHS 1, Mogok Town	Mogok Town, Mandalay 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 Mya San Aye (Specialist)	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Hospital Nay Pyi Taw	Aungmyaethazan Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
2	Dr Min Thu Naing (Assistant Surgeon)	Children's Specialty Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw	Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
3	Dr Hline Myat Thin (Assistant Surgeon)	Children's Specialty Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Dr May Sabei Win (Assistant Surgeon)	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Hospital Nay Pyi Taw	Mawlamyine Town, Mon State	505-a	
5	Dr Soe Zar Ni Khine (Assistant Surgeon)	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw	Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
6	Dr Su Yi Mon (Assistant Surgeon)	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw	North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
7	Dr Chaw Su Nyein (Assistant Surgeon)	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw	Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	Dr Tint Tint Kyi (Specialist)	Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-Bed)	Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
9	Dr Thandar Su Hlaing (Specialist)	Mogok Hospital	Mogok Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
10	Dr Aung Pyae Thu (Specialist)	Mogok Hospital	Mogok Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	

Among them, Dr Tint Tint Kyi (Specialist) of Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-Bed), Dr Thandar Su Hlaing (Specialist) and Dr Aung Pyae Thu of Mogok Hospital participated in CDM activities without performing medical treatments at assigned hospitals but gave medical treatments at private hospitals/clinics according to the documentary photos.

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those medical doctors charged, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those medical doctors, and work licences of the private hospitals/clinics which allowed them to give medical treatments will be closed. Deterrent action will be taken against owners of these hospitals/ clinics under the law. Action will be taken against any health staff under the law for taking charges of providing healthcare services to the people and giving assistance to private hospitals/clinics with participation in CDM activities without discharging assigned duty. Severe action will be taken against owners of private hospitals/clinics which admit those medical doctors and health staff for supporting the CDM participants. —MNA

US backs plan to waive Covid-19 vaccine patents

Demonstrators in Washington hold a rally to 'Free the Vaccine,' calling on the US to commit to sharing vaccine formulas with the world to help ensure that every nation has access. PHOTO: AFP

US President Joe Biden's administration on Wednesday announced support for a global waiver on patent protections for Covid-19 vaccines, offering hope to poor nations that have struggled to access the life-saving doses.

India, where the death toll hit a new daily record amid fears the peak is still to come, has been leading the fight within the World Trade Organization (WTO) to allow more drugmakers to manufacture the vaccines -- a move pharma giants oppose.

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said that while intellectual property rights for businesses are important, Washington "supports the waiver of those protections for Covid-19 vaccines" in order to end the pandemic.

"This is a global health crisis, and the extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic call for extraordinary measures," she said in a statement.

Biden had been under intense pressure to waive protections for vaccine manufacturers, especially amid criticism that rich nations were hoarding shots.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the World Health Organization (WHO), called the US decision "historic" and said it marked "a monumental moment in the fight against COVID19".

Tai cautioned however that negotiations "will take time given the consensus-based nature" of the WTO.

With supplies for Americans secured, the Biden administration will continue efforts "to expand vaccine manufacturing and distribution," and will work to "increase the raw materials needed to produce those vaccines."

For months the WTO has been facing calls to temporarily remove the intellectual property protections on Covid-19 vaccines, known as a TRIPS waiver in reference to the agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property.

But that notion has been fiercely opposed by pharmaceutical giants and their host countries, which insist the patents are not the main roadblocks to scaling up production, and warned the move could hamper innovation.

"A waiver is the simple but the wrong answer to what is a complex problem," the Geneva-based International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations lobby group said, describing the US move as "disappointing." —AFP ■

China-EU investment deal 'important' despite 'difficulties': Merkel

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday she remained convinced that the EU-China investment deal was an "important undertaking" even as strained relations complicate the agreement's ratification.

"Despite all the difficulties that will surely arise with the ratification, it is a very important undertaking," Merkel said in a speech to her conservative CDU/CSU alliance.

The massive investment pact laid the foundations for "mutually beneficial" trade, she said, citing more reciprocity on market access, compliance with international labour standards and the brand protection of regional products as some of the deal's advantages.

To the surprise of many, the European Union and China in late December approved a major investment pact, wrapping up seven years of painstaking negotiations thanks to a final push by Germany.

The pact has been defended as a much-needed opening to China's economy for European companies, but is sure to face a difficult ratification amongst the 27 member states as well as the European Parliament. Ties between the EU and China are at a low point after an angry exchange of tit-for-tat sanctions over human rights concerns.

EU Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis told AFP on Tuesday that the efforts to win EU approval for the deal were effectively on ice. —AFP ■

Workers checking aluminum pistons for vehicle engines on a production line at a machine manufacturing factory in Binzhou, in eastern China's Shandong province. **PHOTO: AFP**

UK sends Navy ships to Jersey as French fishing row escalates

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday sent two Navy patrol vessels to Jersey over concerns that French fishermen could blockade its main port in an escalating post-Brexit row.

France warned Tuesday it was weighing its response after the UK imposed rules governing access for French fishing boats near the Channel Islands, and said it could involve the electricity supply via underwater cables.

French fishermen also plan to converge on the island's main port St Helier on Thursday, although authorities have said they do not intend to block access. But Johnson announced on Wednesday that he was sending two patrol vessels "as a precautionary measure", adding that a blockade "would be completely unjustified."

Jersey, a self-governing British Crown dependency off the coast of France, has said it will require boats to submit further details before the licences can be granted, and pleaded for patience. **PHOTO: AFP**

British MP Tobias Ellwood accused France of "shameful behaviour," saying "it would be wise to dispatch" a Royal Navy vessel.

French maritime minister Annick Girardin accused Jersey, the largest Channel Island, of dragging its feet over the issuing of licences to French vessels under the terms of Britain's post-Brexit trade deal with Brussels. —AFP ■

China suspends economic accord with Australia

CHINA said on Thursday it had suspended an economic agreement with Australia, in an apparent tit-for-tat response to Canberra's scrapping a Belt and Road infrastructure pact and threat to undo a deal leasing Darwin Port to a Chinese company.

The China-Australia Strategic Economic Dialogue deal has been pulled "based on the current attitude" of the Australian government, China's National Development and Reform Commission said in a statement, blaming some officials of "ideological discrimination." Beijing will "indefinitely suspend all activities under the framework" of the agreement, the statement said.

The Australian dollar sank 0.6 per cent soon after the news.

The Australian government has previously described the deal -- designed to boost trade between both sides and introduce large Chinese investors -- as one of the "premier bilateral economic meetings with China". But relations between the two have plunged into the deep freeze.

Last month, Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government scrapped a Belt and Road deal between Beijing and the state of Victoria — part of China's massive infrastructure initiative across Asia and the world.

And this week Australia said a Chinese company's controversial 99-year-lease on Darwin Port was also under review and could be scrapped. —AFP ■

Scotland independence debate dominates UK polls

BRITAIN holds its first local and regional elections since Brexit and the coronavirus pandemic on Thursday, with Scotland the main focus due to calls for a new independence referendum that could reshape the country.

Voting begins at 7:00 am (0600 GMT) for local councils in England, regional mayors, including in London, and for the devolved legislatures in Wales and Scotland. Polls on what has been dubbed "Super Thursday" close at 10:00 pm, with most results expected from Friday, over the weekend and into early next week. Most attention is being paid to the vote for the Scottish Parliament as the ruling Scottish National Party (SNP) wants a new independence referendum when the pandemic subsides.

The SNP's leader, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, is seeking a parliamentary majority after boosting her popularity with strong public engagement during the pandemic. She stressed in a televised debate on Tuesday: "Getting through this crisis is my priority."

The SNP has capitalized on widespread disillusion with the UK parliament in London to become the dominant political force in Scotland but currently forms a minority government.

In Glasgow, Lorna McClure, a 60-year-old cleaner, said she was "all for Nicola Sturgeon". "I think she is really good for Scotland and I want independence," she told AFP.

Most attention is being paid to the vote for the Scottish Parliament as the ruling Scottish National Party (SNP) wants a new independence referendum. **PHOTO: AFP**

But Raghav Jay, a 35-year-old MBA student said: "I think I would rather if Scotland stayed within the UK. So I'd prefer a party which is going to support that." —AFP ■

Israel opposition leader Lapid gets chance to form government

Israel's opposition leader Yair Lapid received a mandate to form a government Wednesday, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's failed effort following the nation's fourth inconclusive vote in less than two years. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAEL'S opposition leader Yair Lapid received a mandate to form a government Wednesday, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's failed effort following the nation's fourth inconclusive vote in less than two years.

President Reuven Rivlin made the announcement after consultations with party leaders to determine if any lawmaker had a path to clinch a coalition and end an unprecedented era of political gridlock.

Rivlin noted that Lapid, a centrist former television anchor, might seek a deal in which another lawmaker serves first as prime minister, as part of a compromise rotational coalition.

"I will do everything to ensure that an Israeli unity government will be formed as soon as possible so we can get to work for the people of Israel," Lapid said in a statement after the announcement.

Lapid had previously confirmed that he offered such an arrangement to Naftali Bennett, leader of the religious nationalist Yamina party.

Rivlin said he believed Lapid "could form a government that has the confidence of the Knesset (Israel's parliament), despite there being many difficulties."

Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party finished first in the March 23 election, helping the divisive premier earn a 28-day mandate to negotiate a government. —AFP ■

Saudi walks diplomatic high wire on Iran, Yemen

AFTER years of proxy warfare, Saudi Arabia's secret talks with arch-rival Iran signal a high-wire diplomatic act as it scrambles to rein in Tehran-backed Yemeni rebels, although prospects of a breakthrough look remote.

A Saudi delegation led by intelligence chief Khalid bin Ali al-Humaidan met Iranian officials in Baghdad on April 9, and the kingdom is expected to hold further talks this month, according to multiple sources including a Western official familiar with the process.

The dialogue, facilitated by Iraq, marks the first significant effort to defuse tensions since the regional powers cut ties in 2016 after Iranian protesters, infuriated over the kingdom's execution of a Shiite cleric, attacked Saudi diplomatic missions.

Riyadh is now seeking Tehran's support to wind down its costly six-year military engagement in neighbouring Yemen, where Huthi rebels have launched a campaign to seize the last northern government stronghold of Marib, and stepped up missile and drones strikes on the kingdom.

In parallel with efforts in Baghdad, an American delegation led by US special envoy Tim Lenderking and Senator Chris Murphy met during the past week with UN envoy Martin Griffiths in Oman as part of a diplomatic push for a ceasefire in Yemen.

"There is a direct link between Saudi-Iran talks and what is happening in Muscat given the leverage the Iranians have over the Huthis," Ahmed Nagi, a scholar at Carnegie Middle East Center, told AFP.

"The key question here is — could this round of negotiations put an end to Yemen's protracted war or lead to just a temporary ceasefire?" —AFP ■

Damage to a home and debris on the roof of a building in Saudi Arabi's capital Riyadh in the aftermath of a missile attack claimed by Yemen's Huthi rebels in February 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

S.Africa's ANC party suspends top official in graft scandal

SOUTH Africa's governing ANC party has suspended its secretary general, Elias "Ace" Magashule, over graft charges in a move seen as a political victory for President Cyril Ramaphosa in the divided party.

But a defiant Magashule, who is the first top party official to be temporarily forced out under a new policy aimed at turning the page on a litany of graft scandals, said he was not going anywhere.

Instead, he said he was suspending Ramaphosa from his position as ANC president.

Magashule, 61, was given a 30-day ultimatum on March 30 to step aside after being charged with embezzling public funds while he was premier of the Free State province.

He ignored the deadline and refused to resign voluntarily, forcing the party to suspend him. —AFP ■

Israeli air strikes hit southern Syria: state media

ISRAEL carried out air strikes overnight in the southern Syrian province of Quneitra, Syrian state media and a war monitor said Thursday, though there were no reports of casualties.

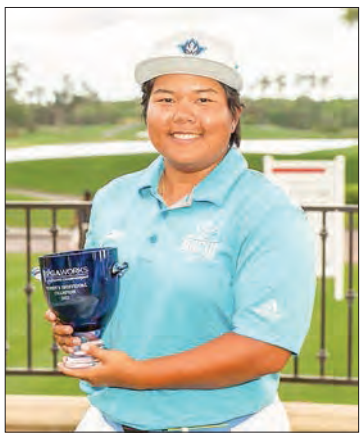
The strikes came a day after one civilian was killed and six others injured in similar attacks in the northwestern region of Latakia, a bastion of President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite minority.

Official news agency SANA said there had been "an Israeli attack led by a helicopter in one of Quneitra's zones" not far from the border with Israel.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported there had been "Israeli strikes".

The Britain-based war monitor, which relies on an extensive network of sources on the ground, said the strikes targeted the Syrian Army's 90th Brigade and regime military positions in north Quneitra, near the Israel-occupied Golan Heights.—AFP ■

Phoo Pwint Yati Khaing wins golf championship in USA



Myanmar female golfer Phoo Pwint Yati Khaing seen with the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship trophy. **PHOTO: MYANMAR GOLF FEDERATION**

MYANMAR female golfer Phoo Pwint Yati Khaing won the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship Women's Individual championship, held in Florida, the United States. Phoo Pwint Yati Khaing scored 75 shots on the first round of the competition, 67 shots on the second round, and 76 shots on the third round. Thus she has scored 218 strokes in three round to win the championship.

The tournament was held at two golf courses, the first and third rounds at TPC Sawgrass Stadium and the second round at Valley Courses. Golf players from invited universities in the United States from PGA WORKS Collegiate competed in the golf tourney. With the win, she was allowed to enter the Symetra Tour directory without competing in the qualifiers.

Phoo Pwint Yati Khaing, a member of the Myanmar national golf team, is a student at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) in the United States, and in 2019, she won the CAA Women's Golf Championship. -- Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Chelsea's Werner relieved by Champions League redemption

Timo Werner heads in the opening goal for Chelsea at home to Real Madrid on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

TIMO Werner admitted he was relieved to redeem himself with a goal against Real Madrid which helped put Chelsea into the Champions League final against Premier League rivals Manchester City.

Having missed a sitter when the semi-final first leg finished in a 1-1 draw in Madrid, Werner made amends in the return on Wednesday with the opening goal in a 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge which put the Blues into the final with a 3-1 win on aggregate.

"We were the dominant team for two games. That's why I'm glad I was able to make up for my mistake like this," Werner told Sky.

"A childhood dream for everyone in the dressing room has come true."

After a season blighted by a litany of high-profile misses, Werner was widely criticised after the first leg when his close-range effort was saved in Madrid.

"In the first leg I was the fool because I didn't get the ball in from five metres," the Germany striker added.

"I put this one away from five metres, even though it was a bit easier as there was no goalkeeper.

"It would have been bad if I hadn't finished that one either."

He gave Chelsea the first-half lead when Kai Havertz's chip rebounded off the bar, presenting Werner with an easy header into an empty net just short of the line. The 25-year-old's 12th goal for Chelsea was only his second in his last 18 games since signing from RB Leipzig for £45 million ($62 million) last year.

Chelsea booked their place in the Istanbul final on May 29 when Mason Mount tapped in their second goal five minutes from the final whistle. —AFP ■

Man City's Sterling abused online after social media boycott

MANCHESTER City forward Raheem Sterling has been racially abused on Instagram less than 48 hours after the Premier League's social media boycott ended.

Sterling suffered the abuse following City's Champions League semi-final second leg victory against Paris St Germain on Tuesday.

A spokesperson for Facebook, which owns Instagram, said: "The racist abuse sent to Raheem Sterling is unacceptable and we do not want it on Instagram.

"We have removed the comment and taken action against the account that posted it.

"As part of our ongoing work in this space, we'll soon be rolling out new tools to help prevent people seeing abusive messages from strangers.

"No single thing will fix this challenge overnight but we're committed to doing what we can to keep our community safe from abuse."

Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling has been racially abused on Instagram less than 48 hours after the Premier League's social media boycott ended. **PHOTO: AFP**

Premier League clubs and players stayed off social media over the weekend in protest at the barrage of abuse suffered by top-flight stars in recent years.

Sterling has been the target of abuse on social media on several occasions in the past.

A study commissioned by the Professional Footballers' Association published last October looked at social media posts directed towards 44 players during the 'Project Restart' period of last season.

It found more than 3,000 explicitly abusive messages were directed at those players publicly via Twitter, with 50 per cent of those messages aimed at just three players — Sterling, Crystal Palace's Wilfried Zaha and Wycombe's Adebayo Akinfenwa.

Sterling said at the time: "I don't know how many times I need to say this, but football and the social media platforms need to step up, show real leadership and take proper action in tackling online abuse. —AFP ■

Flick favourite to be Germany's next coach with Bierhoff's backing

OUTGOING Bayern Munich trainer Hansi Flick is the hot favourite to become Germany's next head coach after receiving the backing of Oliver Bierhoff, who will ultimately decide Joachim Loew's replacement, in a podcast Wednesday. Flick, Loew's assistant coach when Germany won the 2014 World Cup, has told Bayern he wants to leave at the end of the season despite winning seven titles in the last 18 months. Loew will step down after 15 years in charge of Germany after the Euro 2020 finals and last week the German FA (DFB) said they want to speak to Flick about taking over.

In a podcast by German daily Bild on Wednesday, Bierhoff, director of the Germany team, replied "you could say that" when asked if Flick is his favourite to replace Loew.

Bierhoff worked alongside Flick as team manager in Loew's coaching staff which masterminded Germany's World Cup triumph in Brazil seven years ago.

"Now the way is clear to talk to him. We know each other very well and you don't have to be a great expert to say that Hansi would make an excellent national team coach," Bierhoff added. "Hansi Flick knows the (German Football) Association. He is someone who creates atmosphere and brings people together."

Bierhoff, 53, said the focus is on the Germans doing well at the European championships, from June 11-July 11, after their 6-0 thrashing by Spain last November, then a shock 2-1 home defeat to North Macedonia in March. —AFP ■