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Myanmar nationals can grab the rights of citizens: Pankhin project

UNION MINISTER for Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing presided over a coordination meeting on granting cards based on the population for Myanmar ethnic nationals and in-law citizens yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister briefed them on the aim of the meeting regarding Pankhin project conducted by the ministry under the directives of the State Administration Council.

Every national and every person born of parents, both of whom are nationals, are inborn citizens. Therefore, the ministry always grants household lists and a certain card to citizen/associate citizen/ naturalized



The MoLIP Union Minister chairs the coordination meeting on the Pankhin project on 7 May 2021.

citizen under the law.

Although the officials keep conducting such operations, there are still people without

any household lists and cards. It found more than 4.6 million people without any cards were included on voter lists in the 2020

General Election.

According to the inspection, there are about 2 million people on the voter lists—some of the

people have CSC, but it stated blank numbers after (C) on the voter lists, ineligible voters and others without any cards. Therefore, the SAC Chairman gave instruction to grant CRC to every citizen to be able to cast a vote in the coming election. So the ministry drafted the Pankhin project.

The Union Minister also said it should carry out to grant the cards to more than 3.8 million people across the nation during the Pankhin project period. The ministry has drafted the exact numbers of people in the respective region/state, and so the officials of relevant ministries should cooperate in implementing the project.

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Fifty tonnes of coffee projected to export to France this month



Coffee beans are dried under the sun.

MYANMAR Coffee Association stated that over 50 tonnes of coffee produced in Hopong city, Shan State, under poppy substitute project are planned to ship to France this month.

Myanmar's coffee export has dropped by half last year on the

weak demand triggered by the coronavirus. Typically, Myanmar exports about 500-600 tonnes of coffee to external markets. The volume plummeted to 300 tonnes last year, said an official of the Myanmar Coffee Association.

The impacts of coronavirus

hurt the coffee industry as the lockdown, and physical distancing caused a reduction in consumption.

"Myanmar primarily produces Arabica coffee. Speciality coffee fetches as much as US\$4,500-10,000 per tonne. My-

anmar speciality coffee beans are highly demanded because of their high quality and organic production," said Chair U Myo Aye of the Myanmar Coffee Association.

"Myanmar's coffee has already earned a good reputation. It has penetrated markets in Asia such as Hong Kong and Singapore, and European countries and the US. It has a good potential in the global market," said an official from the Agriculture Department.

Myanmar's coffee has grabbed a market share in the US with the contribution of US-AID and WinRock International NGO. Efforts are being made to penetrate markets in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Canada. At present, the export volume of coffee is extremely low, tracking the negative impacts of the coronavirus.

In response to the COVID-19

in the coffee sector, innovative trade offer and a digital market are required to adapt to a new normal, coupled with client-oriented supply. Moreover, the coffee growers and producers need to increase quality to enter competitive markets. As a result of this, a government-backed loan is needed to help the stakeholders survive in the crisis.

There are 40,000 acres of highland coffee plantations and about 10,000 acres under lowland coffee in Myanmar, totalling 50,000 acres. Shan State is the leading producer of coffee beans.

Coffee beans are harvested between December and February. They are distributed and exported throughout the year after harvest time. Myanmar yearly exports around 400 tonnes of coffee. In 2019, it shipped about 500 tonnes of coffee to foreign markets.—KK/GNLM

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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.

Myanma Railways operates Yangon circular train in two shifts

ACCORDING to Myanma Railways, the Ministry of Transport and Communications has increased the numbers of operation of Yangon circular train starting 7 May.

"The train passengers increase on all trips like on the circular train and for long trips. Therefore, the officials increase the numbers of Yangon circular trains in two shifts—morning and evening. Almost all businesses in Yangon resumed in Yangon, and the upgrade of railways for circular trains is also completed, and

so there are no difficulties in such operation," said an official of MR.

The ticket fee is K100 and only K200 for a round trip.

"It is very convenient for running in two shifts. I go to work daily from Insein. And so, only the circular train is the most convenient transportation mode for me. It does not cost a lot and take much time," said commuter Ko Thet Lwin.

The MR conducted upgrading of the railway on 21 February 2018.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)/GNLM



Circular train seen at Yangon Railway Station



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 Nay Pyi Taw.

For the State to have good results

SOME personnel continue their absence due to the frightening of social punishment if they failed to participate in the CDM and face their lack of duty. Just appropriate action will be taken against those staff who did not lead the CDM under the rules and disciplines of service personnel, and they will not be dismissed from jobs. Telephone numbers have been released for dialling them to inform the authorities about threatening against staff to join CDM. Those who threaten the staff will be taken severe action. The Senior General warmly welcomes health and education personnel from CDM to return to their workplaces as quickly as possible for the State to have good results.

(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)

MIC greenlights 15 new investment proposals including US\$2.5 billion power generation project

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) held its 3/2021 meeting yesterday morning at the Office of the State Administration Council Office at office No 18 in Nay Pyi Taw. Member of the State Administration Council Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission Lieutenant-General Moe Myint Tun and members of the Myanmar Investment Commission participated in the meeting.

The meeting approved fifteen new projects for electricity generation, livestock, manufacturing and other services sectors, and it also approved the increase in capital



MIC Chair Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun presides over its 3/2021 meeting yesterday.

of two existing projects. The approved projects amounted to US\$2,783.822 million and K153.67 billion to create 2,473

job opportunities for the local labour.

In today's meeting, the project to generate electricity

from LNG with a large capital intensive investment amount of US\$2.5 billion is included in the approved projects. The

electricity generated by the power plant will be sold cent per cent at home, and it is expected to support the goal of 100% nationwide electrification from the National Grid by 2030.

By the end of April 2021, the countries with the largest investment out of 51 countries/regions investing in Myanmar were Singapore, China, and Thailand. The electric power sector leads the list of most invested sectors out of 12 business sectors with 26.57% of total investment. It was followed by the oil and gas sector, accounting for 25.72% and the manufacturing industry, accounting for 14.61%. — MNA

Myanmar nationals can grab the rights of citizens: Pankhin project

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The regional authorities also should help the people in giving their personal data like photo and blood types. It needs the recommendation of a township-level five-member committee in granting household lists and prioritized sectors based on

the climate and region.

The Union Minister also discussed the places to conduct the operation. It starts in the rainy season, and field study to be completed in the open season.

The officials should report to the relevant region/state administration councils in addition

to the officials of headquarters in a timely manner.

He then urged the staff to make concerted efforts in implementing the Pankhin project, which brings various chances for Myanmar nationals to grab the rights of citizens.

It also should follow the law,

procedures and instructions. The department staff need to serve their duties in addition to the responsibilities like granting household lists and cards.

Then, the region/state heads presented the work plans regarding the Pankhin project, and the Director-General for the

Department of National Registration and Citizenship U Aung Kyaw Soe clarified the operations of the Pankhin project in details.

Then, the Union Minister and Deputy Minister coordinated the discussion and concluded the meeting. — MNA

Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 190,000 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 190,236 outpatients and 59,110 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 8,876 major operations and 4,533 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 11,479 babies to date. Of those, 4,574 cases are done in the caesarean section and 6,905 cases in ordinary delivery.

Moreover, Lieutenant-General Thet Pon of Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and party

comforted the monks and locals who took treatments at the military hospital (500-bed) in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

Similarly, Commanders of respective Commands comforted and offered words of encouragement to the monks, officers and other ranks who had treatments at the military hospitals in Kholan Town, Kengtung Town, Shan State (South), military orthopaedic specialty hospital (500-Bed) in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region and military hospital in Toungoo, Bago Region and the Commanders provided them with foodstuff.

Next, the Commanders and parties looked around the hospitals and fulfilled the requirements. —MNA



MoRAC Union Minister pays homage to Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko paid homage to State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Candima Bhivamsa and the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee members Sayadaws at the Maha Nayaka Hall on Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill yesterday.

During his visit to Sayadaws, the Union Minister presented the successful holding of the 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida (written) test, government Dhamma Cariya and Pali Pathama Pyan exam.

He said the State Administration Council would follow the advice of the Venerable Sayadaws and make efforts to propagate Sasana.

The Union Minister then discussed the Pariyatti-Paripatti Sasana and the importance of



Union Minister U Ko Ko is supplicating the religious matters to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee members yesterday.

Pariyatti exams for the monks and people and successive holding of Pariyatti exams according to the words of former venerable Sayadaws.

The second session of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (first sub-committee) held on 28 April in which Chairman and Secretary Sayadaw of the

committee allowed to hold the 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida (written) test, 2021 government Dhamma Cariya and Pali Pathama Pyan tests and so the officials will make efforts to hold these exams successfully.

Moreover, the SAC conducted measures to reopen the pagodas across the nation starting 8

February.

The 60th Graduation Ceremony and 2021 religious titles conferring ceremony were held in accordance with the COVID-19 health rules. It also carried out the needed things to open day-long meditation centres during the Thingyan holidays. As the Sayadaws make efforts to pro-

tect the Sasana by learning the Pariyatti- Paripatti Buddhist literature, the government will keep providing the needed offer-tories in line with the words of Sayadaws.

The Union Minister and party then donated robes and K3.5 million to Sayadaws.

The Union Minister and party also inspected the renovation works on Maha Pasana Cave and preparations for 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida (written) exam.

The Union Minister attended the meeting held by the Pagoda Board of Trustees of Shwedagon pagoda. During the meeting, the Union Minister instructed the need to conduct renovation works on guest pavilions and religious halls on the pagoda platform to follow the COVID-19 health rules of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

He then stressed the necessary things to the pagoda board of trustee to hold Cetiayangana Examination on the pagoda. — MNA

Financial management refresher course held for technological and computer universities

THE Higher Education Sector (Technological Universities and Computer Studies) Financial Management Refresher Course was held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the course opening ceremony, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe said the financial sector would be the biggest problem in the ministry if there were no skilled workers. Although people work with good intentions, they can be fired and often face dismissal if they do not comply with the financial regulations.

He also added it is necessary for civil servants to free

from party politics, to coordinate the financial matters with the rectors and Pro-rectors and to effectively and efficiently spend the permitted fund in accordance with the financial regulations.

He also urged them to work together with each other unitedly to develop their universities, departments and the ministry.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint added effective financial management and anti-corruption.

The training was conducted in three subjects: Planning and Budgeting, Financial Management and Financial Rules and



The MoE financial management refresher course in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Regulations.

The ceremony was also attended by the Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Deputy Directors-General, trainee finance officers from the computer and technological universities, promoted Management/Finance Department and relevant officials. — MNA

Construction minister, Nay Pyi Taw council chairman inspect Sittoung bridge construction



UNION MINISTER for Construction U Shwe Lay and Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing inspected Mya Sein Yaung Myitta bridge's construction on Thaphanpin-Nyaungpintha road and Kyotpintha-Paunglaung bridge over the Sittoung River yesterday morning in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

During an inspection tour to the Mya Sein Yaung Myitta bridge, the Bridges Department Deputy Director-General explained that it would be easier and faster to travel to Shan and Kayah states and beneficial to the regions. The Union Minister instructed them to pay attention to the site's safety and quality. The Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman called for taking measures

to protect the nearby villages from river erosion and changes in river flow.

Afterwards, they arrived at the construction site of the Kyotpintha-Paunglaung bridge and inspected the construction works.

The Mya Sein Yaung Myitta bridge is 1,200 feet long and 20 feet wide. With a two-lane reinforced concrete type, the Department of Bridges, Bridge Task Force (6) constructs it with the Union capital fund. The Department of Rural Road Development is building the 600-foot-long and 20-foot-wide Kyotpintha-Paunglaung bridge over the Sittoung River with the capital fund of the Nay Pyi Taw Council. — IPRD/GNLM

University, institutes under MoALI to be reopened

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo met the academic and management members of the ministry’s relevant universities and training schools yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the impacts of COVID-19 in the learning sector, the gap between the rich and the poor and the opportunity to learn that directly reflect the development of the country and the duties of teachers in the education sector.

The meeting also focused on preparations for the reopening of university, college and insti-

tute under the ministry, security measures, researches for academic and learning, awareness programmes for farmers, communication with local and foreign universities in respective subjects, job opportunities for graduated youths, holding of exams, upgrade of libraries and internet access for the students in university compound.

The final year courses and PhD courses at the universities, colleges, and training schools under the ministry, which were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be reopened in May and June.—MNA



Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo holds talks with the MoALI teaching and management personnel to reopen the ministry’s universities and institutes yesterday.

Money from the accounts of banks will never be lost for any reason: CBM Deputy Governor

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council held the weekly press conference through videoconferencing yesterday afternoon.

First, Major Kaung Htet San of the Information Team explained that as **the Tatmadaw recognizes the media as the fourth estate by firmly granting the Union based on multiparty democracy and federalism, the media as the fourth pillar need to participate in the nation-building tasks with a constructive attitude.**

He continued clarifications that the universities, colleges and institutes reopened the final year courses, master’s studies and doctoral courses in line with the Covid-19 guidelines as of 5 May, and students are attending the classes. On 1 June, the basic education schools will be reopened. **The school enrolment week was set from 24 to 31 May to launch the academic matters.**



The weekly press conference of the SAC’s Information Team is held online 7 May 2021.

Myanmar implements the national education system in accord with the 2014 national education law, and it did not emerge in the time of the State Administration Council. National education cannot be changed for a government or a person. The education system and curriculums have been used for five years, included in the two terms of the governments. Using the education system as the military slavery education system is assaulting the students and teachers.

All the citizens need to look at the acts of those who undermine the health and education systems of the entire nationals, and those who put the whole nation into the victims under

the influence of doctrines in the long run and the citizens need to prevent their acts.

Service personnel are to serve the State duties which government takes over the State responsibilities. Tatmadaw and police members are civil service personnel discharging the responsibilities of State defence and the rule of law, and education staff and health staff are also civil service personnel. **In every country, health and education tasks are very important without halting in any situation.** Parents should enrol their children not to delay attending the schools while teachers should emphasize academic matters of the citizens.

Some medical doctors and health staff participated in CDM activities by breaking medical ethics and imposing pressures and coercion on others to join the CDM. So, they were absent at the assigned hospitals without serving the health tasks. The Tatmadaw admits patient people at the military hospitals and temporary emergency hospitals starting from 5 February to fulfil the needs.

Up to 6 May, the Tatmadaw hospitals and health centres gave **treatment to 187,924 outpatients and 58,592 inpatients, major operations to 8,766 patients and minor operations to 4,476 patients. Moreover, surgical operations were performed on 4,530 pregnant women. A total of 6,849 patients were given birth to babies, totalling 11,379 babies.**

With regard to drug eradication, 1.819 kilos of heroin, 50.016 kilos of raw opium, 27.85 kilos of opium, 2.75 kilos of marijuana, 8,506,949 stimulant tablets, 1,512 kilos of ICE and 446 kilos of other accessories were seized from 7 April to 4 May 2021. The seized drugs were valued at more than K13.641 billion of street price. From 1 January to 4 May, narcotic drugs worth K116.403 billion at the street price were seized.

Moreover, he continued opening Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital, meeting the international standard. **The patient people received medical treatment abroad for bad health, but they faced lan-**

guage and social barriers. In addition, the expenditure on medical treatment as well as travel charges was high. There are 1,115 hospitals of the government and 187 private sectors in the country. According to the census, 72 per cent of patients received medical treatment at private hospitals and clinics. So, the newly-inaugurated Moe Kaung hospital aims to provide healthcare services to the people at home.

The Myawady Media Centre was established to enable the international community to know the image of Myanmar and penetrate the business related to the media into the international community. The seven-storey Myawady Media Centre is formed with cinema, theatre, TV studios, other relevant studios, library and media training hall. He further explained efforts to enhance Myanmar motion picture arena and a plan to build an outdoor studio for the improvement of Myanmar’s motion picture and media arenas by practically implementing the mottos: **“Film is for the sake of the people”, “Uplifting the**

literature to improve the national”, and “musical capability to develop the nation”.

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Win Thaw explained the restriction for taking out the cash was announced to restore the stability of the banking system. People with worries take out their money, while some people do not entrust their money to the banks. So, the Central Bank of Myanmar announced a statement on 27 April to ease the said issues. According to the statement, people were allowed to entrust their money at the banks in new bank accounts as a special issue as of 3 May. They will be allowed to take out the money from the new accounts without limit. Those who entrusted money at the banks before 3 May will be allowed to take out the cash from their accounts under the original restrictions of the CBM. Such a process will be eased later. **The State Administration Council firmly manages the banking services, which plays a crucial role in the economic sector.** The CBM has no plan to dissolve any banks. The deputy governor pledged that **the money from the accounts of banks would never be lost for any reason. If the people cooperate in trustfully operating the banking system of the State, the difficulties the people are facing will be solved in a short time.**

Major Kaung Htet San replied to queries raised by the media. The video conferencing press conference was attended by reporters from local news agencies, daily newspapers, journals, local TV broadcasting stations and local-based foreign news agencies.—MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

6 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 Dawei and Taninthayi townships of Taninthayi 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-com-mission	List from Immi-gration depart-ment	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times hold-ing one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	104 polling stations in Dawei township of Taninthayi Region	134,723	86,729	15,638	1,127	14,460
2	97 polling stations in Taninthayi township ofTaninthayi Region	82,313	49,027	16,585	532	7,756

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Dawei and Taninthayi townships of Taninthayi 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 201 polling stations in these two townships took out 237,258 ballots and used 145,541 ballots. It left 84,924 ballots instead of 91,717 ballots. The difference was 11,263 ballots, and it found 4,470 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	Dawei	104	141,551	85,188	56,363	53,325	7,438	4,400
2	Taninthayi	97	95,707	60,353	35,354	31,599	3,825	70
	Total	201	237,258	145,541	91,717	84,924	11,263	4,470

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Dawei Township

5. According to the inspection, 104 polling stations in 18 Wards and 25 Village-tracts of Dawei Township in the Taninthayi Region took out 141,551 ballots and used 85,188 ballots. It left 53,325 ballots instead of 56,363. The extra/shortage 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	137,000	83,948	53,052	46,404	7,438	790
2	Township Advanced ballots	1,651	1,240	411	411		
3	Township Remaining ballots	2,900		2,900	6,510		3,610
Total		141,551	85,188	56,363	53,325	7,438	4,400

6. There were 7,438 missing ballots and 4,400 extra ballots at 104 polling stations in 18 Wards and 25 Village-tracts of Dawei Township. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remain-ing	Remaining on the Ground	Differ-ence	
						Missing	Extra
1	Sinseik Ward	9,050	5,478	3,572	3,472	100	
2	Hteinthit Ward	11,000	6,648	4,352	3,787	565	
3	Byawtawwa Ward	4,400	2,312	2,088	1,538	550	
4	Sanchi Ward	7,000	4,493	2,507	1,754	753	
5	Ohloke Ward	7,500	4,975	2,525	2,516	9	
6	Anoukmyotwin Ward	2,350	1,434	916	617	299	
7	Peinhnetaw Ward	6,100	4,192	1,908	1,622	286	
8	Talinehtein Ward	3,200	1,880	1,320	749	571	
9	Maungmeshaung Village-Tract	3,700	2,343	1,357	1,357		
10	Zahar Village-Tract	2,650	1,537	1,113	1,063	50	
11	Thapyaychaung Village-Tract	5,900	3,300	2,600	2,201	399	
12	Zalun Village-Tract	1,850	953	897	547	350	
13	Talaingtaung Village-Tract	1,800	1,180	620	620		
14	Thabyar Village-Tract	1,250	802	448	448		
15	Hamyingyi Village-Tract	1,350	762	588	1,038		450
16	Wagone Village-Tract	1,600	1,146	454	554		100
17	Myaekhanbaw Village-Tract	4,500	2,946	1,554	1,506	48	
18	Thinbawseik Ward	1,150	825	325	325		
19	Daungngu Ward	2,050	1,459	591	591		
20	Zayeit Ward	1,850	1,460	390	390		
21	Bonmaw Ward	3,750	2,038	1,712	1,062	650	
22	Kyetsapyin Ward	7,550	4,777	2,773	2,173	600	
23	Kanyone Ward	3,150	2,149	1,001	960	41	
24	Kyaukmaw Ward	4,600	3,075	1,525	1,525		
25	Kyaukyat Village-Tract	1,900	1,185	715	715		
26	Kudo Village-Tract	1,550	980	570	570		
27	Kanaingda Village-Tract	2,700	1,657	1,043	1,013	30	
28	Shinmokehti Village-Tract	3,000	1,905	1,095	1,095		
29	Yaungmaw Village-Tract	2,150	1,090	1,060	1,010	50	
30	Shanmatwin Village-Tract	2,250	1,324	926	926		
31	Pakayi Village-Tract	4,100	2,418	1,682	1,140	542	
32	Anyarphyar Village-Tract	1,600	1,059	541	541		
33	Pyarthachaung Village-Tract	2,950	1,382	1,568	1,328	240	
34	No (1) Ward	900	577	323	323		
35	No (2) Ward	900	568	332	332		
36	No (3) Ward	350	190	160	160		
37	Kyaukmetaung Village-Tract	1,250	735	515	465	50	
38	Heindar Village-Tract	4,850	2,967	1,883	778	1105	
39	Taungtonelone Village-Tract	1,950	1,306	644	884		240
40	Kalitgyi Village-Tract	250	156	94	94		
41	Phaungtawgyi Village-Tract	1,450	789	661	511	150	
42	Sinpyutine Village-Tract	950	499	451	451		
43	Amhyar Village-Tract	2,650	997	1,653	1,653		
	Ward/village -tract Total ballots	137,000	83,948	53,052	46,404	7,438	790
	Township Advanced ballots	1,651	1,240	411	411		
	Township Remaining ballots	2,900		2,900	6,510		3,610
	Township Total	141,551	85,188	56,363	53,325	7,438	4,400

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Taninthayi Township

7. According to the inspection, 97 polling stations in Dawei Township of Taninthayi Region took out 95,707 ballots for Pyithu Hluttaw Election and distributed 84,800 ballots forward/village-tract 220 ballots for township advance ballots and 10,687 ballots as township remaining (reserve). The extra/shortage 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	84,800	60,133	24,667	23,978	759	70
2	Township Advanced ballots	220	220				
3	Township Remaining ballots	10,687		10,687	7,621	3,066	
Total		95,707	60,353	35,354	31,599	3,825	70

FROM PAGE-6

8. According to the inspection, of the withdrawals of 84,800 ballots for 97 polling stations in Taninthayi Township, they used 60,133 ballots. The exact remaining must be 2,466 ballots, but it found only 23,978 remaining ballots. A total of 759 ballots were found missing at nine polling stations. It also found 70 extra illegal ballots at 4 polling stations.
9. The numbers of township advance ballots and the findings in the inspection were in conformity with 220. The township remaining ballots (reserve) must be 10,687, but it found only 7,621 ballots. Therefore, 3,066 ballots were missing.
10. Of 95,707 ballots withdrew for the entire Taninthayi Township of the Taninthayi Region, they used 60,353 ballots. It found 31,599 unused ballots.
11. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact re- maining	Remaining on the Ground	Differ- ence	
							Missing	Extra
1	Chaunggyi Ward	2	2,750	2,174	576	576		
2	Chaungnge Ward	2	2,050	1,514	536	546		10
3	Sinchayphone Village-Tract	7	4,300	3,032	1,268	1,068	200	
4	Asheymawtone Village-Tract	4	3,550	2,890	660	660		
5	Anoukmawtone Village-Tract	2	1,700	1,308	392	442		50
6	BanlamwatVillage-Tract	2	1,950	1,563	387	389		2
7	Zawe Village-Tract	4	2,650	2,095	555	555		
8	Pawa Village-Tract	6	5,250	3,956	1,294	1,294		
9	Thayaphone Village-Tract	2	1,600	1,268	332	327	5	
10	Lethit Village-Tract	2	2,400	1,879	521	521		
11	Banlaw Village-Tract	5	3,900	2,536	1,364	1,364		
12	Thakyet Village-Tract	6	4,650	3,124	1,526	1,526		
13	Nyaungpinkwin Village-Tract	8	8,850	5,995	2,855	2,814	41	

14	Kyauktalone Village-Tract	3	1,100	774	326	326		
15	Tamokechone Village-Tract	4	2,950	2,067	883	813	70	
16	Theinkhon Village-Tract	2	2,700	1,844	856	864		8
17	Chaunglamu Village-Tract	2	2,850	2,032	818	816	2	
18	No (9) Village-Tract	2	3,250	1,774	1,476	1,476		
19	Taku Village-Tract	11	9,100	7,072	2,028	2,028		
20	Thayabwin Village-Tract	7	5,850	4,027	1,823	1,822	1	
21	Kawmapyin Village-Tract	3	1,700	1,319	381	345	36	
22	Theindaw Village-Tract	5	3,050	2,456	594	592	2	
23	ThinbawU Village-Tract	4	2,750	1,113	1,637	1,637		
24	Myoma Ward,Mawtaung Town	1	2,700	1,637	1,063	1,063		
25	No (1) (2) Ward,Mawtaung Town	1	1,200	684	516	114	402	
Ward/village -tract Total ballots		97	84,800	60,133	24,667	23,978	759	70
Township Advanced ballots			220	220				
Township Remaining ballots			10,687		10,687	7,621	3,066	
Township Total		97	95,707	60,353	35,354	31,599	3,825	70

Union Election Commission

Plans are underway to stabilize rice prices to prevent domestic rice shortages

ACCORDING to the president of the Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Federation is making efforts to stabilize rice prices, prevent domestic rice shortages, and sell rice in the areas where rice is needed.

“Current priority is to stabilize rice prices for domestic consumption in order to ensure that there is no shortage of rice and transport, store and sell rice in the areas where rice is needed. We are coordinating with rice traders and private companies,” said MRF president U Ye Min Aung.

Regarding the increase in rice prices, he said the price of some types of rice went up during this period. The main reason for that is the difficulty in remittances from banks, which has led to a slight increase in commodity prices and transport disruptions.

Myanmar’s rice exports are currently declining, at about 40 per cent of average rice exports. They are expected to pick up again this summer, he added.

According to the rice feder-

ation, about 80 per cent of Myanmar’s rice is consumed domestically, and only 20 per cent is exported.

“Paddy prices are also declining. Rice mill owners and traders cannot afford to buy paddy as they have financial difficulties due to weak cash flow, leading to decreased price. We need cash flow to buy from the relevant traders and companies so that it does not fall below the base price set by the government,” he elaborated.

In Myanmar, monsoon paddy is planted in June, and the agricultural inputs needed for monsoon paddy cultivation need to be imported in a timely manner as in the current situation, it is necessary to take measures not to affect monsoon paddy cultivation as the price of agricultural inputs may increase, the MRF president stressed.

Fertilizers and agricultural inputs are imported domestically due to low domestic production. Importing should be done



According to the rice federation, about 80 per cent of Myanmar’s rice is consumed domestically, and only 20 per cent is exported.

from now on since the monsoon paddy production is related to the country’s food security. He pointed out that the government and its associations should work together to make farming more manageable and regular during the monsoon season. —Lin Latt/ GNLM

Daily Newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper, www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

Non-fishery season sets time for regeneration of fish at seas

As part of efforts to raise aquaculture, the government set the period of the three-month non-fishery season from May to July this year instead of the period from June to August set in previous years.

It aims to conserve not only fingerlings but also pregnant fish and their environs at the seas with the creation of a chance for them to hatch. The Department of Fisheries set the non-fishery season for the regeneration of various species of fish.

According to the restrictions, all fishermen and fishing entrepreneurs need to totally avoid the fishery tasks from May to July at the seas. It is because the pregnant fish before the hatching period needs conservation for further regeneration, and the fingerlings need an adequate time for adaptation to their environs as their habitats.

That is why all fishermen and fishing entrepreneurs need to follow the prescribed disciplines, without fail, to improve the fishery sector.

Thanks to the non-fishery season, fish deposits in the seas have a chance to live in their environs naturally. Consequently, they can successfully lay eggs for regeneration. Hence, offshore fishing trawlers need to halt operations at the seas.

All the fishermen conscientiously return to the shores when the non-fishery season falls. If not, the authorities will take action against those who returned to the shores after 1 May because they might be seemed to continue fishing at the seas illegally.

Vessel monitoring systems have been installed at all fishing trawlers not to break the disciplines of non-fishery season. Such kind of disciplines should be restricted. As such, offshore fishing trawlers need to suspend their work process, but fishermen can do onshore fishery tasks in Taninthayi Region.

The Department of Fisheries adopted its future plans, including food security, production of safety fishery products and improvement of the production of value-added fisheries products.

For the sake of the country and the people, authorities concerned and relevant bodies should enforce restricted disciplines for the non-fishery season while pouring out the utmost efforts in order to extend the wing of the marine product market with the exportation of the value-added marine products.

That is why all fishermen and fishing entrepreneurs need to follow the prescribed disciplines, without fail, to improve the fishery sector.

■ ■ ■

The WTO waiver battle over Covid jab IP rights

Pakistan, Indonesia, Morocco and Egypt can produce Covid-19 jabs if patents are waived

SUDDEN US backing for a global waiver on patent protections for Covid-19 vaccines offers hope to poor nations struggling for doses — but the big pharma industry thinks the notion misguided.

Some countries see the temporary intellectual property rights waiver as a shortcut to ending the coronavirus pandemic. But the pharmaceutical industry thinks an IP waiver will not help produce a single dose more this year, and could actually hamper the rush for vaccines by diverting scarce resources to newcomers.

There will undoubtedly be months of negotiations ahead before a consensus can be found at the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

The big idea

The IP plan was filed at the WTO by India and South Africa on October 2 last year and garnered support from a host of developing countries which — correctly — anticipated being left behind in the vaccination race.

The original text proposed a temporary exemption from certain obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), so that any country can produce vaccines without worrying about patents.

The waiver would also cov-

er “industrial designs, copyright and protection of undisclosed information”, and would last “until widespread vaccination is in place globally, and the majority of the world’s population has developed immunity”.

The WTO’s General Council, its highest-level decision-making body, debated the issue earlier on Wednesday before Washington’s dramatic about-turn. India and South Africa pledged to present an amended text, and had indicated they could be open to some compromise, said the WTO. Spokesman Keith Rockwell said the debates had been “very constructive” — more so than in previous sessions — even if the 164 member states remain divided. WTO members are expected to meet to discuss the text revisions by the end of May, ahead of a formal TRIPS Council meeting on June 8 and 9.

All those in favour

More than 80 countries support the proposal, including Argentina, Bangladesh, the DR Congo, Kenya, Nigeria and Venezuela.

Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco and Pakistan are among a host of countries that have indicated they have production capacity available if the patents are waived. A number of NGOs including the medical charity Doctors Without Borders back the waiver, saying



An artist gives finishing touches to a mural depicting frontline workers carrying a Covid-19 vaccine in Kolkata, India, on January 2. PHOTO: AFP

it would facilitate timely access to affordable medical products for all countries in need.

The idea also has the support of World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who hailed the US move as a “monumental moment” in the pandemic fight. “Ultimately, the solution to the vaccine crisis is for the countries and companies that control the global supply to share... technology, know-how and to waive intellectual property rights,” he said Wednesday.

All those against

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations is strongly against the proposal. “A waiver is the simple but the wrong answer to what is a complex problem,” the IFPMA big pharma lobby group said, branding the US volte-face “disappointing”. “Waiving patents of Covid-19 vaccines will not increase production nor provide practical solutions.”

The IFPMA believes the real challenge in scaling up production is eliminating trade barriers, and addressing the supply chain bottlenecks and scarcity of raw materials — and reckons introducing

new manufacturers will not help.

Big players also suggest that vaccine confidence could be undermined by a free-for-all on production. Wealthy nations that are home to major pharmaceutical firms, like Switzerland and Britain, have long opposed the IP waiver idea.

The European Union, also a major pharma hub, has until now been opposed, but following the US announcement, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said Thursday that Brussels was at least ready to discuss the idea.

Opponents of the waiver underline the vast financial investment made by laboratories to develop vaccines in record time, and believe they are best placed to produce them on the global scale required.

They fear investment could dry up if companies cannot see a return.

They also say the existing WTO IP rules already contain provision for so-called compulsory licences, intended specifically for emergency situations.

Compulsory licences give companies other than the patent holder authorisation to make a product, subject to certain procedures and conditions being respected. Around 275 manufacturing deals, including on technology transfer among staunch competitors, have helped the industry go from zero towards their target of 10 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses this year.

AIDS drugs template

In the late 1990s, antiretroviral drugs revolutionized the treatment of HIV/AIDS. However, the cost of such treatments was beyond the reach of most sufferers. It was not until the early 2000s that several agreements were signed to facilitate the manufacture and distribution of generic antiretroviral drugs at low prices for poor countries.

SOURCE: AFP

Big Pharma says vaccine patent waiver sets dangerous precedent

WAIVING patent protections for Covid-19 vaccines is fiercely opposed by Big Pharma because they say it would set a precedent that could threaten future innovations, and insist the move would not speed up production.

Here are some of the consequences waiving the patent protection on novel coronavirus vaccines could have.

No immediate impact

The vaccine makers say patents are not the key factor impeding faster production.

“Handing needy countries a recipe book without the ingredients, safeguards, and sizable workforce needed will not help people waiting for the vaccine,” said Michelle McMurry-Heath, head of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), an industry lobbying group.

Mastering the messenger RNA (mRNA) technology, which is the basis of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, buying equipment, conducting clinical

trials, and setting up large-scale manufacturing — all of this takes time.

“This is not happening in six, 12 or 18 months,” Moderna CEO



The number of deaths related to Covid-19 has passed 400,000 in Brazil, the second-highest in the world, as the country continues to struggle with its vaccination programme. PHOTO: AFP

Stephane Bancel said Thursday. Vaccine production also is hampered by customs barriers and shortages of certain ingredients.

Moderna in October promised not to defend Covid-19 vaccine patents it holds, while Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca have pledged to sell the vaccine at cost.

Waiving the patents “doesn’t mean that countries like India could just speed up manufacturing hundreds of millions of doses,” so it is “not going to hurt them materially in the months ahead,” says Ian Gendler of the Value Line research firm.

The move may not even serve as a public relations boon for the companies that often face criticism for high drug prices.

“They’re not doing it voluntarily,” said Farasat Bokhari, a

health economist specializing in competition at Britain’s University of East Anglia.

“If the governments force them to do it, they would just be seen as having been dragged” along.

‘Slippery slope’

Ron Cohen, head of New York-based biotech firm Acorda Therapeutics, warned that President Joe Biden is taking “the first step down a dangerous, slippery slope” by backing the patent waiver.

“How will new vaccines come,” he asked on Twitter. Alzheimer’s is a global crisis, as is cancer. “Which will be next to have patents broken when this precedent is set?” he asked.

Experts said the broader system of intellectual property protections is not fundamentally threatened.

But waiving patents for Covid-19 vaccines “sets the path and the precedent for removing it for other public emergencies in the future as well,” Bokhari said — because it would remove the “incentives ... for firms to invest next time.”

Solving the problem

For Damien Conover, a pharmaceutical sector analyst at Morningstar, the patent waiver is “more optics” for the Biden administration, which “is showing support with the developing world, rather than really having a major impact.”

Biden was under intense pressure from world leaders, which deplored the slow distribution of vaccines around the world even as 57 per cent of American adults have received at least one dose.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

1. The following persons are confirmed by the State Administration Council as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Aung Myint	Director-General Strategic Studies and Training Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(b) U Min Thu	Managing Director Myanmar Gems Enterprise Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
(c) Professor Dr Ko Ko	Rector University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Human Resource for Health Ministry of Health and Sports
(d) U Ye Min Zaw	Director-General Department of Buildings Ministry of Construction

2. The State Administration Council has appointed Professor Dr Aye Aye Oo, Pro-Rector (Administration) of the University of Medicines (Magway) under the Department of Human Resources for Health as the Rector of the same university on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

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သတင်းစာပတ်ပြည့်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြော်ငြာ

The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်စုံသတင်းစာများ

မာယုပတ်စုလိုခြင်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် အောက်အမူများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်-

➢ သတင်းနှင့်စာမူဖော်ပြချက်များ (ရန်ကုန်)၊ အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ

ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၄၁၁၁၈၊ ၀၆-၄၄၀၁၁၆၂

➢ အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာသတင်းစာတိုက် (ဆယ့်ရှစ်လမ်းမြို့နယ်)

ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၆၀၁၇၇၊ ၀၆-၄၂၁၀၆၈၆၇

➢ မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက် (ရန်ကုန်)

ဖုန်း-၀၁-၆၅၄၄၄၄၇၊ ၀၆-၄၄၈၀၄၂၁၄

➢ အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာသတင်းစာတိုက် (ရန်ကုန်)

ဖုန်း-၀၁-၆၅၄၄၄၄၇၊ ၀၆-၄၄၈၀၄၂၁၄

➢ The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကုန်)

ဖုန်း-၀၁-၆၅၄၄၄၄၇၊ ၀၆-၄၄၈၀၄၂၁၄

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မန္တလေး)

ဖုန်း-၀၂-၄၄၁၂၇၂၇၊ ၀၂-၄၄၁၂၇၂၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မုံရွာ)

ဖုန်း-၀၇၁-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇၊ ၀၇၁-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မော်လမြိုင်)

ဖုန်း-၀၇၇-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇၊ ၀၇၇-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (စစ်တွေ)

ဖုန်း-၀၇၄-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇၊ ၀၇၄-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တောင်ကြီး)

ဖုန်း-၀၈၁-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မကွေး)

ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (ကရင်)

ဖုန်း-၀၈၄-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (ကလေး)

ဖုန်း-၀၇၄-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မြစ်ကြီးနား)

ဖုန်း-၀၇၄-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (လားရှိုး)

ဖုန်း-၀၈၂-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

➢ ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (ဖိုတ်)

ဖုန်း-၀၇၇-၂၀၂၇၃၇၇

၁၃ လုပ်ငန်းများအောင်မြင်စွာ

အချိန်အမျှမျှသည့် ခြွန်စာအလင်း

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT MYANMAR

သတင်းစာပတ်ပြည့်သူများ

Bomb attacks occur at education office, schools and universities across the country



TERRORISTS have committed acts of sabotage such as bomb attacks at education offices, basic education high schools and universities that are preparing to provide annual education.

On 6 May, a bomb attack happened in the staff housing of the University of Medicine in Mandalay; Yazadirit housing in Yangon; in front of the

Central provost unit in Mingaladon and in Hayman village in Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw. Yesterday, terrorists attacked with a grenade in Lethit village in Myingyan Township; Thazi ward in Bhamo Township; the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank, ward administration offices, No (2) Basic Education High School, in Kayan Township, office of

the Director of Rural Development in Kayan Township; Office of the Labour, Immigration and Population Department and the township legal office in Pyigyitagun Township; between 64th and 65th streets, 30th and 31st streets and at the regional officer's office of Myanmar Insurance on 63rd street between 34th and 35th streets in Chanayethaz-



Thein Moe Naing (injured).



an Township; at the Township Development office in Myittha Township, Mandalay Region; at the Township Police Station in ChaungU Township, Sagaing Region; ward administration office in the ward (2) and the Township Education Office in Kawkareik Township in Kayin State. Similarly, security forces had to deactivate the home-

made mines set up at the public places and university compounds and the township education offices in Shwebo, Mawlamyine, Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory, Tamway, Thakayta townships on 6 May. It is reported that investigations are underway to identify and take actions against the perpetrators under the law. — 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

Security forces arrest owners of weapons to be used in terrorist attacks

SECURITY forces have been arresting owners of the weapons and equipment to be used in terrorist attacks across the country.

On 6 May, two men were arrested together with two homemade guns, six knives and materials used in riots in Delpote village, Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region. One man was also arrested with one air gun, two bows, seven arrows and bullets, shells, homemade mines and related equipment in Nirlun village in Haka Township, Chin State. Another person was also detained with one knife in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region.

Similarly, a total of five men were arrested with four homemade guns, one homemade gas gun, one smoke bomb and materials used in riots in Shwepyitha ward in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region yesterday morning.

The security forces also found and confiscated 61 plastic shields, 45 iron shields, 7 shields and 6 fibre helmet from the warehouse beside the Mahamyatmuni chamber in Myeik.

It is reported that actions will be taken against the owners of the weapons to be used in terrorist attacks and those who transport them under the law. — MNA

One injured in terrorist attack with homemade mine in Bilin



Zarni Tun(injured).

A homemade mine.

A man was injured in an explosion while planting a homemade mine on 6 May in Bilin Township, Mon State.

The incident took place at around 2:45 pm at the passenger lounge on Myothit road in Bogyoke Aung San ward in Taungzun town, Bilin Township.

According to the report, the security forces searched and found Zar Ni Tun, 23, son of U Win Myint, wounded in his left eye, hands and abdomen, with a piece of a plastic bottle wrapped in red tape and scraps of metal.

While the injured person was being taken to the hospital,

security forces confiscated two 3.7 volt batteries, one lighter, one phone charger and one Bluetooth earphone. He is being charged for allegedly planting a homemade mine while carrying out a terrorist attack on the passenger lounge. — MNA

Violent people set fire to state-owned buildings

THE rioters committed arson attack and threw fire bottles into state-owned buildings in some townships.

The unscrupulous persons set the first floor of Ot-tara (two-storey) building of Co-operative University on fire in Thanlyin Township of Yangon Region on 6 May. The security forces and fire brigade members extinguished the fire. The ceiling and six old chairs in the classroom were destroyed.

Similarly, the two men (under scrutiny) riding a motorcycle threw fire bottles into Myanma Economic Bank in



Potan Ward of Sagaing Township in the Sagaing region. The security members rushed to the scene and found that the

fire bottle exploded in the bush near the front of the bank building. There were no injuries and damages to the building.

Moreover, the terrorists (under scrutiny) set the tires on fire in the front and rare doors of Myanma Economic bank in Monywa Taung Ward of Monywa Township in Sagaing Region yesterday morning. The security forces and fire brigade members put out the fire. Two rare wooden doors of the bank and wires were damaged in the fire.

The security members investigate to take action against those committing such terrorist attacks under the law. — MNA



Ravages are seen in the aftermath of an arson attack with tires on Myanma Economic Bank (Monywa).

Mandalay-Bhamo ferry boat attacked by armed terrorists

THE “Paut Tan” Mandalay-Bhamo ferry boat was shot, and two crew members injured on 6 May.

The armed terrorists attacked the ferry boat carrying ten passengers and 199 tonnes of goods from Katha between Thayargone and Kyaukgyi villages. The armed attack took 15 minutes, causing injuries to the two crew members.

The boat was driven to Shwegu and arrived at 11:15 pm. The injured personnel were given medical treatment, and no passenger was reportedly injured.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications has planned to assign the police as an escort on board the vessel. The public is requested to report any suspicious situations promptly. — 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 Nway Aye Lei Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Hospital Nay Pyi Taw	Bilin Town, Mon State	505-a	
2	Dr Hnin Hay Marn Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Hospital Nay Pyi Taw	Ahlon Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Dr Yu Yu Khaing (Assistant Surgeon)	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialty Hospital Nay Pyi Taw	Mayangon Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Dr Htar Ni Win Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Children's Specialty Hospital Nay Pyi Taw	Magway Town, Magway Region	505-a	
5	Dr Aung Tun Oo (Assistant Surgeon)	Tatkon Hospital	Aungmyethazan, Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
6	Dr Hsu Myat Htar Wai (Assistant Surgeon)	Tatkon Hospital	Madaya Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
7	Dr Khin Zaw (Medical Superintendent)	Tachilek Hospital	Tachilek Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
8	Dr Kyaw Maung Maung (Specialist)	Tachilek Hospital	Aungmyethazan, Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
9	Dr Than Zaw (Specialist)	Tachilek Hospital	Sinpaungwel Township, Magway Region	505-a	
10	Dr Aye Mya Naing (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	

Among them, Dr Kyaw Maung Maung (Specialist), Dr Than Zaw (Specialist) and Dr Aye Mya Naing (Assistant Surgeon) of Kengtung Hospital participated in CDM activities without performing medical treatments at assigned hospitals but gave medical treatments at private hospitals/clinics according to the documentary photos.

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

Files opened against education 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	Dr Kyi Thwin	Rector, Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, Meiktila Town	Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
2	U Kyaw Wai Phyo	Assistant Lecturer, Monywa University of Economics, Monywa Town	Monywa Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
3	U Chit Tun Naing	Assistant Education Officer, Office of the Township Education Officer, Ywangan Town	Ywangan Town, Shan State(South)	505-a	
4	U Kyaw Kyaw Oo	Assistant Supervisor, Office of the Township Education Officer, Aunglan Town	Aunglan Town, Magway Region	505-a	
5	U Thein Zaw Shwe	Headmaster, BEHS 2, Toungoo Town	Toungoo Town, Bago Region	505-a	
6	U Wai Lin Maung	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Kyatpyin), Mogok Town	Mogok Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
7	Daw Khine Nwe Oo	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (Chinpitkhon), Kawlin Township	Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
8	Daw Sabei	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEMS 1, Minhla Town	Minhla Township, Magway Region	505-a	
9	U Win Nyunt Khine	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (Taungthalebin), Kyaukdaga Township,	Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region	505-a	
10	Daw Htar Htar (a) Khine Thin Mon	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS, Myawady Town	Myawady Town, Kayin State	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

Japan Airlines logs \$2.6 billion loss over pandemic

JAPAN Airlines posted an annual net loss of \$2.6 billion Friday but did not release a forecast for the current financial year, citing uncertainty around the coronavirus pandemic.

The carrier, Japan's second-largest by market share, suffered a net loss of 286.7 billion yen for the year through March -- its first full-year result in the red since it relisted on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in 2012.

"There has been no indication of passenger demand recovery yet" due to restrictions on international travel and tougher immigration measures, JAL said.

"Our situation has been severe throughout this fiscal year."



Japan's airlines had expected a bumper year in 2020, when the Tokyo Olympics were due to be held. PHOTO: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU /AFP

The company last week revised its projection for 2020-21 net loss to 287 billion yen from a 300 billion yen forecast in February.

JAL said it had decided not to release an

outlook for the year ending March 2022, warning "it is difficult to foresee the recovery of demand while the global spread of Covid-19 shows no sign of slowdown". Sales plunged 65.3 per cent compared to

the previous year to 481.2 billion yen. Last month, Japan's top airline ANA reported its worst ever annual loss of 404.6 billion yen, which was smaller than the firm's earlier projection.—AFP ■

Microsoft pledges to store European cloud data in Europe



US tech giant Microsoft on Thursday pledged to store all European cloud-based client data in Europe amid unease on the continent over the reach of US legislation on personal data collection. PHOTO: AFP

US tech giant Microsoft on Thursday pledged to store all European cloud-based client data in Europe amid unease on the continent over the reach of US legislation on per-

sonal data collection. Microsoft's European clients have long been concerned over the legal status of data they store with US companies in the cloud and the ex-

tent to which they could be scrutinized by US authorities. Those worries came to a head last July when the European Court of Justice struck down the EU-US Privacy Shield, a framework allowing firms to transfer personal data to the US in compliance with Brussels' General Data Protection Regulation.

The court found the mechanism did not adequately protect EU data from US authorities over which Europe has neither control nor right of redress. In a blog post on Thursday, Microsoft pres-

ident Brad Smith said: "If you are a commercial or public sector customer in the EU, we will go beyond our existing data storage commitments and enable you to process and store all your data in the EU."

In other words, "we will not need to move your data outside the EU." He said the commitment — dubbed the EU Data Boundary for the Microsoft Cloud — would apply across all of Microsoft's core cloud services — Azure, Microsoft 365, and Dynamics 365 and would take effect by the end of next year. —AFP ■

Rental cars becoming scarce and expensive for US travellers

TALK about sticker shock: The \$600 price tag for Joe Pohlen to rent a car for two days was twice as expensive as his plane ticket.

The Michigan businessman was stunned, but the experience is becoming more common for US travellers, an unexpected consequence of the pandemic.

Not only have prices

skyrocketed, it can be hard to just find a car at all.

Pohlen told AFP that Hertz was the only agency that had a vehicle available during a brief trip to the East Coast.

And though he chose "the cheapest possible option," the bill came to \$601.59 for a vehicle rented in Maryland and returned in Pennsylvania two days

later.

Business and tourist travel came to a screeching halt in March 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the United States, prompting car rental companies to sell off their fleets and stop buying new cars.

Avis in February said it had reduced its fleet by a third.

But now that mass vaccinations have allowed travellers to get back on the road, the companies are struggling to meet the surge in reservations. Starting in March, demand increased in areas such as Florida, Arizona and around Utah ski resorts, Avis chief Joseph Ferraro said on a conference call Tuesday. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

PayPal earnings soar on e-commerce boom

PAYPAL on Wednesday reported record quarterly profit as the online financial transactions service benefited from an e-commerce trend boosted by the pandemic.

PayPal said it made a profit of \$1.1 billion (€0.91bn) in the recently ended quarter, compared with \$84 million in the same period last year.

"Our strong first quarter results demonstrate sustained momentum in our business as the world shifts into the digital economy," PayPal chief executive Dan Schulman said in an earnings release.

PayPal handled some 4.4 billion payment transactions in the quarter, with a total value of \$285 billion, the Silicon Valley-based company said.

Revenue in what the company said was its best first-quarter financial performance ever was \$6.03 billion, up 31 per cent from the same period last year.

PayPal-owned mobile payments service Venmo last month began letting users in the United States buy, hold or sell cryptocurrency using its app.

The expansion into the hot digital money trend came on the heels of PayPal allowing people in the United States to use cryptocurrency to make purchases from millions of merchants that use the financial platform for online transactions. —AFP ■

US state sues Publicis subsidiary over role in opioid crisis

THE state of Massachusetts sued a subsidiary of the French public relations firm Publicis on Thursday for its role promoting opioids in what became a major US health crisis.

That subsidiary, Publicis Health, is accused of helping Purdue Pharma urge doctors to prescribe its highly addictive painkiller OxyContin.

The lawsuit alleges that Publicis "engaged in myriad unfair and deceptive strategies that influenced OxyContin prescribing across the nation," a statement by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey's office said.

Those strategies were carried out through dozens of contracts between 2010 and 2019, worth more than \$50 million, it stated. Tactics included combatting doctors' "hesitancy" to prescribe the medication, and persuading them to prescribe OxyContin over lower-dose, short-acting opioids, thus increasing the risk of addiction.

Massachusetts is asking that Publicis Health pay "compensatory damages" of an unspecified amount for having "created a public nuisance". —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1100)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1100)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE**

Australia borders could be shut until late 2022: minister



Foreign visitors currently need special permission to enter Australia. **PHOTO: AFP**

AUSTRALIA is likely to remain shut to visitors until late 2022, the country's trade and tourism minister said Friday, as another global coronavirus surge smashed hopes of a quick

reopening.

Minister Dan Tehan said a wave of cases on the Indian sub-continent showed Australia's near blanket ban on arrivals was still essential to keep the country Covid-free.

Since March 20, 2020, Australians have been barred from travelling overseas and a hard-to-get individual exemption is needed for foreign visitors to enter the country.

It is "very hard to determine" when borders could reopen, Tehan told Sky News, "the best guess would be in the middle to the second half of next year".

Before the pandemic, around one million short-term visitors entered the country each month. That figure is now around 7,000.

Anyone who does enter must undergo 14 days strict hotel quarantine.

A recently established travel bubble with New Zealand has had mixed success, being paused for cities where the virus jumped from quarantine facilities before being contained.

Australia has recorded 29,886 cases since the pandemic began. A large proportion were detected in hotel quarantine.

Vaccination rollout has

been slow, with just 2.5 million vaccines administered in a country of 25 million people, each needing two doses.

The prospect of the country being closed for almost three years will come as a hammer blow to the US\$40-billion-a-year tourism industry.

"The hope would be that we might be able to see a few more bubbles set up and we'd be able to see more travel undertaken, but we're in a pandemic," he said.

"It's going to very much depend on how we are able to deal with the global pandemic."

—AFP ■

US expected to see hiring surge as vaccines resurrect ailing economy

THE US government is set to release data Friday that could show huge numbers of workers found new jobs last month, the latest sign Covid-19 vaccines are breathing new life into the economy more than a year after the pandemic caused its worst collapse in a generation.

Analysts are forecasting the Labour Department's April employment report will show the economy added one million positions and the unemployment rate dropped to 5.8 per cent.

Those figures were unthinkable just months ago when hundreds of thousands of people were filing new applications for unemployment benefits each week. It would be the biggest gain since August of last year, which marked the end of the first wave of hiring helped by massive government aid.

"The labour market rebound likely retained its mo-

mentum in April as companies continued to hire in response to easing business restrictions and strengthening consumer demand," Oxford Economics said in an analysis, though they cautioned the rehiring may not be as strong as expected.

Good news came on Thursday when the Labour Department reported that initial claims for jobless aid fell last week to 498,000, seasonally adjusted, a new pandemic low. And payroll services firm ADP on Wednesday reported the private sector added 742,000 new jobs last month, less than expected but nonetheless an improvement on the 565,000 gain in March.

Yet the pandemic is not over and the Labour Department said nearly 16.2 million people continued to receive some form of unemployment benefits as of mid-April. —AFP ■

China's exports top forecasts, imports growth best in 10 years

CHINESE exports grew at a forecast-busting rate last month, data showed Friday, while imports surged at their strongest in a decade as the global economy bounces back from the pandemic crisis and domestic consumption recovers.

With vaccines being rolled out around the world -- particularly in the key US market -- and economically painful lockdowns being eased, demand for China's goods has picked up this year, having fallen off a cliff in 2020.

Shipments abroad soared 32.3 percent on-year in April -- smashing the 24.1 per cent expected in a Bloomberg survey -- thanks to a sharp rise in demand for electronics and medical masks.

The impressive figures are attributable to last year's very



Chinese exports have been boosted as global demand picks up with major markets emerging from lockdowns. **PHOTO: AFP**

low base of comparison owing to the pandemic.

But they still show that the global recovery is underway, led by the United States where the economy is scorching along on the back of vast government spending and central bank lar-

gesse.

"The stimulus in developed economies, especially in the US, sustained their demand for Chinese manufactured products," Nomura chief China economist Lu Ting told AFP.

—AFP ■

US service sector sees long-awaited relief as economy reopens

AFTER a year of layoffs and uncertainty, data released on Wednesday showed the US service sector adding jobs and expanding in April, as the world's largest economy bounces back from the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Payroll services firm ADP reported the private sector added 742,000 jobs last month, the overwhelming majority of which were in the services sector and in particular leisure and hospitality, one of the industries worst-affected by business restrictions meant to stop the virus.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said its index of service sector activity was at 62.7 per cent in April, well into expansionary territory

but slightly lower than the month before as firms navigated supply chains that had grown overwhelmed by demand as major economies reopen.

The data bodes well for the United States, which is expected to see rapid growth this year as Covid-19 vaccinations allow businesses to return to normal after the pandemic caused widespread layoffs and business closures in 2020.

"The labor market is recovering and job growth is set to accelerate over coming months as the economy continues to move closer to a broader reopening," Rubeela Farooqi of High Frequency Economics said of the ADP data. —AFP ■



Businesses across the United States are reopening and rehiring workers as states roll back restrictions meant to stop Covid-19. **PHOTO: AFP**

Taliban capture key Afghan dam as fighting escalates

THE Taliban have captured Afghanistan's second-biggest dam after months of fierce fighting in their former bastion of Kandahar; the insurgents and officials said yesterday.

Dahla Dam, which provides irrigation to farmers via a network of canals as well as drinking water for the provincial capital, was now under Taliban control, local officials told AFP.

"We have seized the Dahla Dam in Arghandab," Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP. Haji Gulbuddin, governor of an adjacent district, confirmed the dam "is now in the control of the Taliban."

The dam's capture comes af-

ter clashes erupted in neighbouring Helmand province this week, just days after the US military formally began withdrawing its remaining troops from Afghanistan.

Dahla was built by the United States nearly 70 years ago to provide water for irrigating land in about seven districts of Kandahar.

In neighbouring Helmand, thousands of people have fled their homes in the face of a massive Taliban offensive against government forces.

US warplanes have been providing air support for the Afghan forces despite the drawdown of foreign troops. —AFP ■



The Taliban have captured Afghanistan's second-biggest dam after months of fierce fighting in their former bastion of Kandahar, the insurgents and officials said on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Western allies urge Libya to start election preparations

FRANCE, Germany, Italy, the United States and Britain urged Libya to start preparations to meet a December deadline for holding elections, which it is hoped will help the country exit a decade of crisis.

Libya's interim government, which came into being in March through a UN-backed inter-Libyan dialogue, is mandated to lead the country to elections on December 24, but formal preparations have not yet started.

"In addition to the political and security arrangements, the technical and logistical preparations will be critical," a joint statement from the western allies' embassies in Libya read, calling on the authorities to "agree the constitutional and legal basis for these elections by July 1". —AFP ■

Colombia calls for dialogue with protest leaders

COLOMBIA'S government on Thursday invited protest leaders to a dialogue in an attempt to calm tensions following more than a week of deadly demonstrations against President Ivan Duque.

At least 24 people have died in clashes between protesters and security forces while hundreds more have been injured.

Thousands of Colombians including indigenous people, unions and students have taken to the streets to express anger over the government's policies on health, education and inequality.

They have also denounced what they see as a heavy-handed and lethal response from security forces.

"We have to listen to all sectors of the country but the country also has to listen to the government," presidential advisor Miguel Ceballos told Blu Radio. "That includes those marching but also those not marching." —AFP

Death toll in Indonesian power plant landslide rises to 10



The death toll from a landslide at a hydroelectric dam project on Indonesia's Sumatra island has risen to 10, an official said Thursday, as authorities called off a week-long search for victims. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE death toll from a landslide at a hydroelectric dam project on Indonesia's Sumatra island has risen to 10, an official said Thursday, as authorities called off a week-long search for victims.

A landslide triggered by heavy rains struck the Chinese-backed Batang Toru hydropower plant on Thursday last week, burying an estimated 13 people.

Employees were checking on the area over concerns that heavy rains could trigger landslides when the disaster struck.

At least two children are among the victims. The body of a Chinese employee of the plant was identified on Wednesday.

Another Chinese employee narrowly escaped as he fled the scene.

Local disaster mitigation agency head Hotmatua Rambe told AFP the search for the vic-

tims had ended after unearthing 10 bodies. Three victims remain missing.

The Batang Toru hydropower project — part of China's trillion-dollar Belt and Road infrastructure project — has raised opposition as it is built in an area of rainforest that is the only known habitat of the endangered Tapanuli orangutan.

Fatal landslides and flash floods are common across the country during the rainy season.

Last month, more than 200 people were killed in a cluster of far-eastern islands and neighbouring Timor Leste as Tropical Cyclone Seroja turned small communities into wastelands of mud and uprooted trees.

Indonesia's disaster agency estimates 125 million people — nearly half of the country's population — live in areas at risk of landslides. —AFP ■

Former Maldives president wounded in 'assassination attempt'

FORMER Maldives president and current parliamentary speaker Mohamed Nasheed was recovering in hospital Friday after an assassination attempt left him with shrapnel wounds.

The Indian Ocean archipelago's first democratically elected leader was hurt when a device attached to a motorcycle was detonated as he got into a car late Thursday, an official said. "Nasheed escaped an assassination attempt," a Maldivian government official told AFP. "He is injured, but his condition is stable." Images on social media showed a destroyed motorbike at the scene of the attack.

Armed police units and security forces cordoned off the area in the capital Male where the attack took place, and the Maldivian parliament, which was in recess, called an emergency meeting following

the attack. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, a close ally of Nasheed, said an investigation was under way as officials rushed to denounce the targeted attack on the country's second most powerful figure.

"Strongly condemn the attack on Speaker of Parliament, President Mohamed Nasheed this evening. Cowardly attacks like these have no place in our society," Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid said in a tweet. "My thoughts and prayers are with President Nasheed and others injured in this attack, as well as their families," he tweeted.

A family member said Nasheed had sustained several wounds.

"They have put him under anaesthesia. There is a deeper cut on one of his arms," the family member told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. —AFP ■



Armed police units and security forces cordoned off the area where the attack took place. **PHOTO: AFP**

ONE Championship: DANGAL Fights to be launched on 15 May



PHOTO: ONE Championship

ACCORDING to an official announcement of the One, a special event of the ONE Championship named "DANGAL" featuring bouts of world-class fighters will be held at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore at 6:30 PM on

15 May Championship.

There will be a total of six fights: four men's fights plus two women's bouts.

In the main card of the event or Men's Heavyweight World Championship, Brandon Vera of

the Philippines will fight against Arjan Bhullar of India.

In the co-main event or Men's Muay Thai Bantamweight fight, Tawanchai of Thailand will take on Sean Clancy of Ireland. In the Women's Atomweight Mixed Martial Arts Fight, Bi Nguyen of Viet Nam will face Ritu Phogat of India. In the Women's MMA Catchweight fight, Ayaka Miura of Japan will meet Rayane Bastos of Brazil. In the Men's MMA Catchweight bout, Gurdarshan Mangat of Canada will take on Roshan Mainam of India.

Next, in another men's MMA Catchweight bout, Antony Do, the United States will fight against Liang Hui of China.

The ONE Championship Fights will be broadcast live free on ONE Super Application and ONE

Championship YouTube Channel. The first two fights will also be streamed live on the ONE Championship Facebook page, officials stated. —GNLM ■

Crunch time for La Liga's title race as contenders go head to head

GERARD Pique said in any normal season this weekend would decide La Liga's champion but even he admitted this time there are no guarantees.

On Saturday afternoon, Barcelona face Atletico Madrid at Camp Nou and on Sunday, Real Madrid play Sevilla at Valdebebas, Spain's frenzied title race coming to a head in a criss-cross of first against third and second versus fourth. When it is all over, there will be three games left and Atletico could be five points clear or Real Madrid and Barca may be first and second, level on points, with Atletico just a single point behind.

Sevilla, presumed to have dropped out of the running after their surprise defeat by Athletic Bilbao on Monday, immediately have a chance to force their way back.

In terms of the table, only an Atletico victory might feel definitive, and even then only if it is followed by Sevilla winning away at Real Madrid, the two most unlikely results combining to leave Atletico's chasers needing an incredible swing in the final three games.

Any other scenario will ensure the race is still open on Monday and if form is anything to go by, there will more surprises to come. —AFP ■

Inter entering 'new cycle': Lukaku

INTER Milan, who ended the record reign of nine consecutive titles of Italian champions Juventus, can start "a new cycle", says star striker Romelu Lukaku in an interview published on Friday.

Inter sealed the 'Scudetto' for the 19th time after nearest rivals Atalanta were held 1-1 at Sassuolo last weekend.

It was their first title since 2010 when Jose Mourinho's team also won the Italian Cup and the Champions League.

"In my head, I am convinced that I am in a team that can do great things," the 27-year-old Belgian international told Corriere della Sera. "We can still win and grow, start a new cycle."

The former Chelsea, Everton and Manchester United striker joined Inter in 2019 after the arrival of coach Antonio Conte.

Lukaku is convinced that Conte will stay at the club in spite of the club's financial difficulties, which are to be met

with budget cuts from imposed by Chinese owner Suning, and the redtop gossip linking the coach with a return to England at Tottenham Hotspur.

"He (Conte) too is really happy, he is well," said Lukaku.

"He has a team that follows him and is at his service, both in training and in matches. We have everything to start a new cycle. "Playing for Inter, in Serie A, has always been a dream. Today I am with the coach who, for me, is the strongest.

"On the pitch, there are never any surprises, we are prepared for all situations. Lukaku has scored 21 goals so far this Serie A campaign, second only to Cristiano Ronaldo who has 27 for Juventus.

The Belgian was in hot water in January after an on-field spat with AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic but he remains complimentary about the Swedish legend describing him "a great player, (who) has won wherever he has been". —AFP ■



Romelu Lukaku has scored 21 goals in Serie A for Inter Milan this season. PHOTO: AFP

Mayweather looking to entertain - for 'crazy' payday

FLOYD Mayweather has untold riches, private jets, yachts and mansions yet the desire to entertain remains.

The 44-year-old, undefeated former welterweight world champion is preparing to make a return to the ring next month with an exhibition fight against Internet personality star Logan Paul at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium on June 6.

Mayweather should in theory have no need to don gloves again after a boxing career which by one estimate saw him



Mayweather should in theory have no need to don gloves again after a boxing career which by one estimate saw him earn more than \$1 billion. PHOTO: AFP

earn more than \$1 billion.

But he told reporters on Thursday that he is not content to sit back and let his retirement years roll on by.

The prospect of a lucrative payday against Paul -- a 26-year-old novice who has fought just twice, both against a fellow YouTube celebrity -- proved irresistible.

Details for the fight remain shrouded in mystery. As yet it is not known how many rounds the contest will feature, or what gloves the Paul and Mayweather

will use.

Mayweather sees the event as an opportunity to make "crazy" money, even if his claims of a potential nine-figure purse are plainly fanciful. "I'm retired from boxing," Mayweather told AFP. "My record is 50-0. But I just want to have fun and to go out and make nine figures. I think I am a smart businessman.

"There's a lot of champions who have got legacy, but no currency. It's great that I'm able to go out there and make a crazy payday. —AFP ■