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State Administration Council donates COVID-19 protective equipment to India

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Alms donated to Ovadacariya Sayadaws, monks sitting for 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination

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Efforts must be made for construction of locomotives, carriages and wagons to improve technologies: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is making an inspection tour around the Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory on 18 May 2021.

Efforts must be made for running of current trains at 100-kilometre speed per hour in minimum, said State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting the Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory of Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Amarapura of Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San, Myanma Railways Managing Director U Ba Myint and General Man-

ager U Tin Maung Than of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Department reported on background history, duties and functions of Myanma Railways, the appointment of employees at factories and departments, running of trains and plans of running more trains, construction of new carriages and wagons and upgrade of rail tracks.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General said that the 140 years old Myanma Railways, which is the second long-lasting service organization in Southeast Asia after India, has much experience in rail transport. The Senior General stressed the need

to prioritize the strengthening of rail tracks. Bad conditions of railways may cause damage to

carriages and delay transport. As such, maintenance of the railways needs to meet the set

standard for long term existence.

The railway networks must be combined with a communication network. Local engineers should undertake maintenance and construction of locomotives and carriages and maintenance and extension of railways to improve technologies. Efforts must be made to construct locomotives, carriages and wagons to improve technologies, and a future plan must be drawn for building the electric trains. It is necessary to emphasize the right times of trains for departure and arrival for the convenience of passengers.

... the 140 years old Myanma Railways, which is the second long-lasting service organization in Southeast Asia after India, has much experience in rail transport.

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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.

State Administration Council donates COVID-19 protective equipment to India



The COVID-19 protective devices donated to India by SAC are seen loading on board.

TWO special flights departed for India from Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon international airports yesterday in order to transport the COVID-19 protective equipment donated by the State Administration Council during the high incidence of COVID-19 in India.

A total of 500,000 surgical masks (3000's), 20,000 goggles, 50,000 face shields (1000's), 100,000 pairs of examination gloves, 100 5L oxygen concentrators and 20 power air-purifying respirator system (PAPR) were handed over to Mr Arun

Tureel, Head of the International Desk from Indian Red Cross Society at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi of India.

Myanmar has provided humanitarian aid to neighbouring country India in response to the

high incidence of COVID-19 infection and deaths from the disease recently in the country.

A total of 25 Indian nationals who stranded in Myanmar went back home by those flights, and a total of 128 Myanmar nationals were brought back from India.

The returnees from India were given initial medical check-ups at the Yangon International Airport. They will be in quarantine at quarantine centres according to the regulations.—MNA

Need to implement the SME and cooperative sectors

NEED to implement the SME and cooperative sectors for doing the primary businesses of the State. Regions and states need to encourage SME and manufacturing. The cooperative system must directly sell products to benefit the manufacturers.

(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 11 May 2021)

Efforts must be made for construction of locomotives, carriages and wagons to improve technologies: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General and party viewed the construction of passenger carriages in the New Passenger Carriage Factory compound.

The Senior General and party took a special carriage of the train from Myitnge railway station in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region to Ywahtaung railway station in Sagaing of Sagaing Region.

Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory was established in 1905, and it launched manufacturing of carriages in 1947. Currently, the factory carries out major repairs and servicing of locomotives, carriages and wagons. As of 2018, the new passenger carriage factory has been producing the airbag bogie carriages. —MNA



The Senior General is viewing a new passenger carriage.



The Senior General and party seen riding on a special carriage of Myitnge-Ywahtaung train.

34 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 May, total figure rises to 143,131

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 143,131 after 34 new cases were reported on 18 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,135 have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

Protecting the State and the people not to face events that should not happen means defending the State: Senior General

The Tatmadaw, temporarily taking responsibilities for the State duties according to the law for ensuring the firm path of multiparty democracy the people have chosen, needs to shoulder the assigned tasks conscientiously. When reviewing current situations, it is necessary to maintain all measures which should not be happened for the State, and all should be loyal to the State and the Tatmadaw, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with Tatmadaw members and their families of Mandalay Station from Central Command yesterday afternoon.

In his address, the Senior General said the State Admin-



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Tatmadaw members and their families of Mandalay Station from Central Command on 18 May 2021.



The Senior General presents foodstuffs to the Central Command Commander.



The wife of the Senior General gives cash assistance to the wife of the Central Command Commander.

istration Council was formed to carry out sector-wise development of the country with plans to ensure genuine democracy as well as the disciplined and strong democracy. While the council is implementing the five-point road map, the Union Election Commission prioritizes the issuance of the findings on the voter lists. For the time being, preventive measures of COVID-19 and vaccination tasks are being undertaken.

Efforts are being made to soonest reopen the schools closed in the outbreak of COVID-19. But, unscrupulous persons set fire to and explode the schools and impose coercion to teachers and students not to attend the schools. As arrangements are being made for enabling school-age children across

the nation to learn education, destructive acts can be seen as wrongdoings of those with bad mentality.

Public service personnel need to separately keep their duty and obligation and their personal emotions by staying away from party politics. At a time when the health sector of the State especially needs the strength of the health staff, the absence of some health staff in workplaces means breaking the ethics of health staff.

Tatmadaw members must be loyal to themselves, their military units, the Tatmadaw and the State so as to serve the State's interests. Protecting the State and the people not to face the events that should not happen means defending the State. As peace and development require

Public service personnel need to separately keep their duty and obligation and their personal emotions by staying away from party politics.

the political peace and stability and security trend, the Tatmadaw is striving to restore perpetual peace.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs to the commander, while the wife of the Senior General gave a cash award to the wife of the Central Command Com-

mander for the Station Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

The Senior General and party visited the cannon museum, the tomb of King Mindon, the coin casting factory and the Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace in the ancient heritage area of Mandalay.

The Senior General instructed officials to systematically erect the signboards at the tomb of King Mindon, maintain the coil casting factory in original style with systematic maintenance, and systematically preserve the buildings the Golden Palace.

Aiming at enabling the people to observe ancient heritage cannons in a single place, the cannon museum in the compound of Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace was inaugurated on 28 August 2020 in accord with the guidance of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. The museum, built at the cost of more than K350 million, puts 30 cannons and accessories on display. On an opening day, the museum was handed over to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum. — MNA

SAC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Council members and officials, yesterday morning paid homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay.

The Senior General offered flowers, water, oil lights and gold foils to the Maha Muni Buddha Image after paying homage. They then signed the visitors' book and presented cash donations for all-round renovation. The chairman of the image board of trustees accepted the cash donation and returned a certificate of honour.



systematic writing norms in Myanmar language in expressing the display of historical records.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party went to Sitagu International Vipassana Academy on Sagaing Hill of Sagaing Region. They paid homage to Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies and Sitagu Hospitals Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika, Agga Maha Pandita, Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara, Joint Shwegyin Sangharaja Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara.

The Senior General, his wife and party took the Five Precepts from the venerable Sayadaw, and shared merits



The Senior General and party viewed renovation of the posts and ceiling in the precinct of the image. They visited the bronze statue museum and the historical arts showroom. The Senior General instructed the board of trustees and officials to keep historical works systematically, maintain Tri Pitakat treatises inscribed on palm leaves and other invaluable Buddhological records, copy and store the historical records systematically by developing programmes and take care of gained. The Senior General and party offered alms to the venerable Sayadaws, who returned Dhamma gifts.—MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

17 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 in Myaungmya, Einme, Wakema, Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun townships of the Ayeyawady Region.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 1,051,829 eligible voters in these five townships of the Ayeyawady Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 991,194 eligible voters who turned 18 in November 2020. As the voter lists mentioned 199,853 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 10,279 persons were repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 117,598 persons two times.
3. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township							
Sr	Township	Total polling station	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 CSC
1	Myaungmya	300	225,903	206,712	31,753	2,158	26,336
2	Einme	162	151,592	141,208	21,148	1,293	17,656
3	Wakema	333	227,946	214,337	34,835	3,148	29,108
4	Labutta	263	226,750	221,962	67,475	1,846	21,158
5	Mawlamyinegyun	322	219,638	206,975	44,642	1,834	23,340
	Total	1,380	1,051,829	991,194	199,853	10,279	117,598

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Myaungmya, Einme, Wakema, Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun townships of Ayeyawady Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
5. According to the inspection, a total of 1,380 polling stations in these five townships took out 1,178,915 ballots and used 758,589 ballots. It left 384,975 ballots instead of 420,326 ballots. The difference was 55,737 ballots, and it found 20,386 extra ballots. The excess/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township								
Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myaungmya	300	248,994	169,667	79,327	73,759	11,080	5,512
2	Einme	162	167,514	114,529	52,985	50,642	3,851	1,508
3	Wakema	333	261,413	165,799	95,614	85,715	14,295	4,396
4	Labutta	263	251,223	145,210	106,013	94,096	18,355	6,438
5	Mawlamyinegyun	322	249,771	163,384	86,387	80,763	8,156	2,532
	Total	1,380	1,178,915	758,589	420,326	384,975	55,737	20,386

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these five townships of Ayeyarwady Region, the numbers of eligible voters are more 60,635 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens who turned 18 in November 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).
7. There are 199,853 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI “Preparation of Voting Roll” stated, “Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time.” But, there were 10,279 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 117,598 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these five townships of the Ayeyawady Region.
8. Findings in these five townships were as follows:

(a) There were 777,281 voters, and they used 758,589 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 18,692less than the numbers of voters.

(b) It found 55,737 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots.

(c)It found 20,386 extra ballots at some polling stations.

(d) The officials did not follow the Hluttaw Election Law section 66 (h), and they returned the ballot receipts/remaining ballots separately to the township election sub-commission after the election.

(e) It did not find voters’ names, voting numbers, polling station No, Ward/village-tracts, signatures or fingerprints on the ballot receipts.

(f) Some of the ward/village-tract election commission failed to return the ballot receipts and extra ballots under the law.

(g) Junior assistant teacher Daw Moe Myat Thuzar, who served at the polling station in Yay Twin Gone Village-tract of Mawlamyinegyun Township, cast her vote twice in her native town called Mal Taline Village-tract and at her husband’s native town called See Pwar Chaung Village-tract. Therefore, she was charged under Hluttaw Election Law section 59 (g) at Kyaikpi police station of Mawlamyinegyun Township.

(h) The non-identity voters were on the voter lists, and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any national identity cards.

(i) They conducted measures that violate the law when they started collecting advance ballot.

(j) They released the COVID-19-related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.
9. It found voting frauds in Myaungmya, Einme, Wakema, Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun townships of Ayeyawady Region. The excess/shortage ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Announcement of Union Election Commission
18 May 2021



1. Regarding Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in Pathein, Kangyidaunt, Ngaputaw, Thabaung, Kyaunggon, Yekyi and Kyonpyaw townships of Ayeyawady Region.

2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 1,242,148 eligible voters in these seven townships of the Ayeyawady Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 1,113,767 eligible voters who turned 18. As the voter lists mentioned 162,310 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 15,039 persons were repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 152,316 persons two times.

3. Findings in respective townships were as follows:
Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	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 CSC
1	Pathein	200	277,964	224,148	30,473	5,012	38,406
2	Kangyidaunt,	139	135,757	133,206	17,958	995	13,186
3	Ngaputaw	252	235,428	214,636	55,987	2,885	26,306
4	Thabaung	203	116,758	110,914	8,987	1,784	17,110
5	Kyaunggon	125	128,273	119,131	11,659	1,296	16,856
6	Yekyi	119	157,765	140,274	19,165	1,261	16,684
7	Kyonpyaw	233	190,203	171,458	18,081	1,806	23,768
	Total	1,271	1,242,148	1,113,767	162,310	15,039	152,316

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Pathein, Kangyidaunt, Ngaputaw, Thabaung, Kyaunggon, Yekyi and Kyonpyaw townships of Ayeyawady Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.

5. According to the inspection, a total of 1,271 polling stations in these seven townships took out 1,372,372 ballots and used 935,018 ballots. It left 420,229 ballots instead of 437,354 ballots. The difference was 33,108 ballots, and it found 15,983 extra ballots. The excess/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Pathein	200	292,158	204,426	8,7732	82,817	14,198	9,283
2	Kangyidaunt,	139	148,127	109,467	38,660	37,926	941	207
3	Ngaputaw	252	256,063	166,486	89,577	87,853	3,909	2,185
4	Thabaung	203	136,303	89,908	46,395	45,473	2,113	1,191
5	Kyaunggon	125	145,919	102,823	43,096	40,923	3,885	1,712
6	Yekyi	119	174,789	118,290	56,499	53,105	3,537	143
7	Kyonpyaw	233	219,013	143,618	75,395	72,132	4,525	1,262
	Total	1,271	1,372,372	935,018	437,354	420,229	33,108	15,983

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships of Ayeyawady Region, the numbers of eligible voters are more 128,381 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens who turned 18 in November 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).

7. There are 162,310 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI, “Preparation of Voting Roll” stated, “Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time.” But, there were 15,039 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 152,316 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of the Ayeyawady Region.

8. Findings in these seven townships were as follows:

(a) There were 946,233 voters, and they used 935,018 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 11,215 less than the numbers of voters.

(b) It found 33,108 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots.

(c) It found 15,983 extra ballots at some polling stations.

(d) The officials did not follow the Hluttaw Election Law section 66 (h). They returned the ballot receipts/remaining ballots separately to the township election sub-commission after the election.

(e) It did not found the names of voters, voting numbers, polling station number, Ward/village-tracts, signatures or fingerprints on the ballot receipts.

(f) Some of the ward/village-tract election commission failed to return the ballot receipts and extra ballots in accordance with the law, and so it found a shortage of ballots.

(g) The non-identity voters were on the voter lists, and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any national identity cards.

(h) They conducted measures that violate the law when they started collecting advance ballot.

(i) They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.

9. It found voting frauds in Pathein, Kangyidaunt, Ngaputaw, Thabaung, Kyaunggon, Yekyi and Kyonpyaw townships of Ayeyawady Region. The excess/shortage ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Good service personnel, essential strength of the country

EVERY country is constituted with three branches of State strengths, namely the government, the people and the service personnel.

They all have to take responsibilities for their positions. The government has to manage the whole country with prosperity in all sectors. The people must reside in the country peacefully by following the laws and disciplines adopted by the government. The

The service personnel loyal to the State and the people will never die in the people's hearts. Their souls will be alive together with the nation and the nationals forever.

who do not tremble in all measures, those who have skills to decide the difficult problems clearly, those who can tour the whole nation, those who strive for the interests of the head and the State and those who are loyal to the head, the State and the nationals.

So, service personnel should assess these points for their lives whether they can serve the interests of the State and the people or not. The personnel don't have to do anything against the State and the people in any way.

The service personnel loyal to the State and the people will never die in the people's hearts. Their souls will be alive together with the nation and the nationals forever.



service personnel have to discharge duties for regulating the laws and disciplines adopted by the government so that the people live in the country peacefully.

As the service personnel need to operate the State's administrative machinery with the rule of law, they are dubbed as the eyes and ears of the country.

Everybody can understand that the public service personnel is an essential force for the State. It is important for those personnel to dutifully and faithfully serve the public interests in line with the laws, rules, regulations and disciplines.

Ancient Myanmar treatises compiled by venerable Buddhist monks and laymen described 14 kinds of good service personnel. They are those who constantly safeguard the head, those who heartily admire the head for his performances, those who understand the interests of the head, those who do not abandon the head in dangers, those who bravely serve the assigned duty, those who are noble in lineage, those who strive for prosperity of the State and the people, those who remind the head for all issues, those who stand as comrades of the head in every issue, those

Share excess COVID-19 vaccines now, UNICEF chief says ahead of G7 summit

The deadly increase in COVID-19 cases in India could potentially occur elsewhere if vulnerable countries do not have access to vaccines, the head of the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, warned on Monday in a bid to get richer nations to share their excess doses.

Henrietta Fore, the agency's Executive Director, issued the statement from New York as G7 leaders gear up for their summit next month in the United Kingdom, and as vaccine producer India continues to confront the rapid surge.

Heed the warning
UNICEF is a partner in COVAX, the global vaccine equity mechanism, which is set to deliver its 65 millionth dose this week. However, Ms Fore said "it should have been at least its 170 millionth."

The shortfall will be closer to 190 million doses by the time the G7 meet, she added, and as a deadly second wave of COVID-19 will likely continue to sweep across India and many of its neighbours.

"We have issued repeated warnings of the risks of letting down our guard and leaving low- and middle-income countries without equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics. We are concerned that the



A health worker inoculates a dose of a COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine to a Buddhist monk sitting in front of a portrait of Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck (top C) during the first day of vaccination in Bhutan, at Lungtenzampa Middle Secondary school in Thimphu on March 27, 2021. PHOTO: UPASANA DAHAL/AFP

deadly spike in India is a precursor to what will happen if those warnings remain unheeded," she said.

India crisis 'not unique'
Although tragic, Ms Fore said the situation in India "is not

unique". Countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Argentina and Brazil have seen an explosion in cases, and health systems are struggling. She also pointed to the threat of the emergence

of more deadly or contagious variants if the virus continues to spread unchecked.

While COVAX represents a pathway out of the pandemic, it is undersupplied, in part due to

the crisis in India. The country is a leader in vaccine production, but the situation at home has led to a severe reduction in supplies for the solidarity scheme.

"Soaring domestic demand has meant that 140 million doses intended for distribution to low- and middle-income countries through the end of May cannot be accessed by COVAX. Another 50 million doses are likely to be missed in June," she said.

"This, added to vaccine nationalism, limited production capacity and lack of funding, is why the roll-out of COVID vaccines is so behind schedule."

Share your doses
Ms Fore said G7 leaders will be meeting in June "with a potential emergency stop-gap measure readily available."

New data analysis indicates that the bloc, together with European Union countries, could donate around 153 million vaccine doses if they shared just 20 per cent of their available supply

over June, July and August. Governments would still be able to vaccinate their populations.

"While some G7 members have greater supplies than others, and some have further advanced domestic rollouts, an immediate collective commitment to pool excess supplies and share the burden of responsibility could buttress vulnerable countries against becoming the next global hotspot," Ms Fore said.

The UNICEF chief stated that "the global vaccination race" will only be won when countries fully fund and supply COVAX, while also supporting vaccine production through Intellectual Property licensing and technology transfers.

"These measures are critical, but they won't change anything overnight," she said. "Sharing immediately available excess doses is a minimum, essential and emergency stop-gap measure, and it is needed right now."

SOURCE: UNICEF

Pfizer, Moderna vaccines effective against Indian variants: study

The Pfizer and Moderna Covid vaccines should remain highly effective against two coronavirus variants first identified in India, according to new research carried out by US scientists.

THE lab-based study was carried out by the NYU Grossman School of Medicine and NYU Langone Centre and is considered preliminary because it has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

"What we found is that the vaccine's antibodies are a little bit weaker against the variants, but not enough that we think it would have much of an effect on the protective ability of the vaccines," senior author Nathaniel "Ned" Landau told AFP on Monday.

The researchers first took blood from people who were vaccinated with either of the two shots, which are predominant in the United States and have been given to more than 150 million Americans.

They then exposed these samples in a lab to engineered pseudovirus particles that con-

tained mutations in the "spike" region of the coronavirus, which were particular to either the B.1.617 or B.1.618 variants, first found in India.

Finally, that mixture was exposed to lab-grown cells, to see how many would become infected.

The engineered pseudovirus particles contained an enzyme called luciferase, which fireflies use to light up. Adding it to the pseudovirus makes it possible to tell how many cells are infected, based on light measurements.

Overall, for B.1.617 they found an almost four-fold reduction in the amount of neutralizing antibodies -- Y-shaped proteins the immune system creates to stop pathogens from invading cells. For B.1.618, the reduction was around three-fold.

"In other words, some of the antibodies now don't work any-

more against the variants, but you still have a lot of antibodies that do work against the variants," said Landau.

"There's enough that do work that we believe that the vaccines will be highly protective," he added, because the overall levels remain well above those found in samples taken from people who recovered from infection with earlier unmutated virus.

But this kind of lab investigation cannot predict what the real world efficacy might look like -- that will have to be investigated through other studies.

The coronavirus is known to latch on to a particular receptor on human cells called ACE2, which it uses to force its entry.

Landau's team showed the Indian variants were able to bind more tightly to this receptor, like other variants of concern. This

might be linked to its increased transmissibility compared to the original strain. "Our results lend confidence that current vaccines will provide protection against

variants identified to date," the team concluded.

However, they do not preclude the possibility that newer variants that are more resistant



India's huge coronavirus vaccination drive is behind schedule, hampered by technical glitches and safety fears. PHOTO: AFP

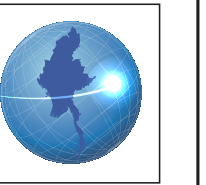
Public information

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

Trademark Caution

The Global New Light of Myanmar



09 251 022 355

သတင်းစာ ဗဟုလိပ်ပါ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာစာပေပြည့်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြေးမုံ၊
The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်းခွဲသတင်းစာများ
ဗဟုလိပ်လုပ်ငန်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့်
အခက်အခဲများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့
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| ➢ သတင်းနှင့်စာပေလုပ်ငန်း(ရုံးချုပ်)၊ နေပြည်တော်။ | ➢ ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(စစ်တွေ) |
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| ➢ မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကုန်) | ➢ ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(မကွေး) |
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| ➢ The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကုန်) | ➢ ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(ကလေး) |
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Alms donated to Ovadacariya Sayadaws, monks sitting for 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination

STATE Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and family offered alms (day meal) to the monks sitting for the 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination on the Kaba Aye Hill yesterday.

The alms donation ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and wife, Deputy Minister U Tun Ohn, the Permanent Secretary and other officials.

The congregation then took the sermons delivered by Ovadacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sudhammacara Bhivamsa (Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita), Vice Chair of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovi-



da selection team and shared merits. Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and wife offered the fast meal donated by the SAC Chair-

man and wife to the Sayadaws in the morning. The Union Minister then paid homage to 77 monks who sat for 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.

The 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination will be held between 17 and 21 May at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill

and a total of 171 monks sit for the exam. The Union Minister also visited the National Museum (Yangon), and the curator clarified the processes. He then met the museum staff and explained the International Museum Day and the duties of staff to be well-versed in knowledge regarding the materials displayed at the museums in offering services for the public. The staff also should keep learning by communicating with the local and foreign experts. He then stressed the need to organize a special event in the international community to display the precious materials of the country, communicate with the officials concerned to share the culture with the new generations like students and youths and hold the paper reading session regarding the museum. — MNA

Union Minister Dr Pwint San addresses ministry's weekly meeting

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San addressed the weekly meeting of his ministry on trade promotion, consumer protection, copyright law enforcement and the situation of domestic goods flow held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Officials from respective departments discussed matters pertaining to trade activities at border trade points, the establishment of the Consumer Call Centre to help consumers report any problems according to the Consumer Protection Law, export of more basic farming products, copyright issues, participation of Myanmar businesspeople to Dubai Expo 2020 held

in Dubai, and the implementation of a policy framework for the development of oilseeds and edible oils. The Union Minister urged them to immediately implement the activities to get the right price of basic farming products and export quality agricultural products from the country. He instructed to ensure compliance with the law, rules, and regulations to carry out activities and coordinate as necessary. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, the Deputy Permanent Secretary and Deputy Directors-General. — MNA



Coordination meeting on 2021 monsoon tree-planting event held



UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi presided over a meeting on 2021 monsoon tree-planting

processes yesterday. During the meeting, the Union Minister said that a total of 36.26 million quality seedlings would be planted in the

2021 monsoon. Moreover, the Forest Department will plant 33,134,111 seedlings for environmental greening, while the Dry Zone Greening Department

plants 2,682,375 seedlings and Myanma Timber Enterprise plants 446,301 seedlings. The Forest Department will also plant 68,218 plans on both sides of the road, and the Dry Zone Greening Department will grow 266,175 plants. The Highways Department will provide the appropriate seedlings and techniques depending on the regions. Then, Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay said there are more deforestations due to climate changes, and

so it should choose the proper seedlings depending on the regions. The ministry will ask for help from the Forest Department to grow about 129,000 trees. The needed suggestions will be sought for the survival of trees and long-term green development processes. The Directors-General and Deputy Directors-General of relevant departments respectively discussed the processes. The attendees to the meeting coordinated the discussion. — MNA

Farming arrangements needed for cotton farmers

THE agriculturalists should make arrangements for agricultural researches to be conducted on the market demand basis. They should also apply those researches in order to find solutions for the farmers, said Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo during a meeting held on 16 May.

They should support the private seed production industry for sufficient quality seeds. Only after they succeed, the department should produce seeds, and the seed farmers make commercial seeds. The department concerned will discuss the needed techniques in

the long run.

The country has more than 390,000 acres of cotton cultivation. The Shwe Taung and Loon Kyaw farms produce quality cotton, and Ngwe Chi-6, Ngwe Chi -9, Ngwe Chi-11, Shwe Taung-8 and Shwe Taung-10 strains are more convenient for the farmers.

The officials conduct researches on cotton, agricultural method, plant nutrition, germs and the market.

The government also provides training to grow cotton with fertilizer, including techniques, seed production, and fertilizer management. —MNA



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine receives officials from MNHRC

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine received the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and officials of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting discussed mat-

ters pertaining to the cooperation with the Asia-Pacific and South East Asia Human Rights Associations as a member, further collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to ensure that there is no violation of human rights of

the vulnerable groups, assistance for children, women, aged people, persons with disability, displaced persons, temporary detention of the detainees who are under 18 at the Thanlyin Youth Training School of the Ministry, coordination among the Yangon Region

Administration Council, Union Supreme Court and the Ministry for the detainees awaiting trial to expedite the necessary litigation as the COVID-19 disease causes delays in trial for them, collaboration between the Social Welfare Department and the commission

for the public awareness campaigns regarding the human rights, implementation on the suggestion of the commission after the inspection to the youth training schools and the latest development of the drafted law and rules. — MNA

Isinglass, salted, dried fish exports earn more tax revenue for the country



THE country exports the isinglass and salted dried fish to the Asian countries. Suppose the raw materials are imported to produce the value-added export quality products. In that case, it can raise the county's revenue when it is out of raw materials.

When the fish are rare in

the ocean, the salted, dried fish are imported from the neighbouring countries to produce isinglass as value-added products. Then, they are officially exported to the foreign market, so it earns two types of incomes for the country from export and import sectors.

"When the fish become rare, it should import the isinglass and salted dried fish. The business people can operate their business in the long run. Although the materials are imported via Thailand, the country does not receive any taxes. It should officially import from

foreign countries. If so, the country will get tax from raw material imports and finished product exports. We run this business as it makes profits for us. We need just the official import permit. The processes were convenient until 2017. But later, the fish became rare, and it caused difficulties in finished products production sectors. We need plenty of raw materials," said the Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish, and Fish Sauce Entrepreneurs Association.

Entrepreneurs want the government's support

Malaysia, Bangladesh and China buy the most marketable isinglass and salted dried fish. The exports of isinglass and salted, dried fish made profits for the marine workers and entrepreneurs until ten years ago.

When the marine resources become rare, the isinglass and salted, dried fish is imported. The country earns foreign income from the export of isin-

glass. Currently, that operation has been suspended for over three years. So the business people want the government to resume the processes with a solid market.

Revenue for the country

If the salted, dried fish and isinglass are officially imported rather than importing via Thailand as raw materials, it can earn revenue for the country. Moreover, it can also produce other marine products in addition to value-added products.

Although the domestic fish paste and dried fish prices are stable during this period, the prices of other products bought in dollars are not stable.

The demand for raw material disrupts the exports of salted, dried fish and isinglass. As the industry has normal supply and demand, if there are official raw material export permits, it can earn more revenue for the country yearly through value-added marine products. — Nyein Thu/GNLM

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

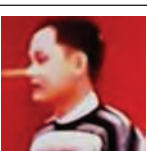
THE following nurses have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and health staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative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

Sr	Name	Occupation	Addresst	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Than Than Htaik (Senior Nurse)	Pyinmana Hos-pital	Danubyu Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
2	Daw Nyein Ei Khine (Senior Nurse)	Lewe Hospital	Dimawhso Town, Kayah State	505-a	
3	Daw Thae Nu Htwe (Senior Nurse)	Bhamo Hospital	Bhamo Town, Kachin State	505-a	
4	Daw San San Lwin (Senior Nurse)	Taunggyi Sao San Htun Hospital	Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
5	Daw Yin Myo Swe (Senior Nurse)	Thayawady Dis- trict Hospital	Thayawady Town, Bago Region	505-a	
6	Daw Aye Pwint Thu (Senior Nurse)	Taninthayi Hos- pital	Taninthayi Town, Tanin- thayi Region	505-a	
7	Daw Kaythi Aye (Nurse)	Mohnyin District Hospital	Mohnyin Town, Kachin State	505-a	
8	Daw Nang San Kham (Nurse)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung General Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
9	Daw L Nar Htun (Nurse)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung General Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
10	Daw Nway Nway Theint (Nurse)	Kawlin Hospital	Kawlin Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those nurses charged, people are urged to inform near by police stations about those persons and action will be taken against the the persons who admitted them, under the law. —MNA

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

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

Sr	Name	Occupation	Addresst	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	U Zaw Win	Headmaster, BEHS –Branch (Kyetyet- twin), Launglon Township	Launglon Town- ship, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
2	U Wai Yan Soe	Headmaster, BEPS (Chaungphyargyi), Launglon Township	Launglon Town- ship, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
3	U Wai Yan Aung	Headmaster, BEPS (Phaungdawkan), Taikkyi Township	Taikkyi Town- ship, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Daw Kyu Kyu Zet	Headmistress, BEPS (Thitpin- seik), Thongwa Township	Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
5	Daw Wai Phyo Oo	Headmistress, BEPS (Shwetaung- wynesu) Phayathonzu Town	Phayathonzu Town, Kayin State	505-a	
6	U Myo Zaw Oo	Headmaster, BEHS-Branch (Katan), Kyunsu Township	Mudon Township, Mon State	505-a	
7	U Saw Myo Ko Ko	Tutor , Government Technical High School (Maubin), Maubin Town	Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
8	Daw Po Ei San	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-1, Htantabin Town- ship	Hlinethaya Township, Yan- gon Region	505-a	
9	U Myo Ko	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-2 Lewe Town	Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area		
10	U Arkar Soe	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (Phatnyan), Lewe Township	Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	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, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff. —MNA

One ward administrator shot to death in Lanmadaw, Yangon



THE administrator of the No (3) ward, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region, was shot to death yesterday morning. He was shot to his head by a terrorist in front of the building number (61), 8th street while he was on the way to the office to investigate the

explosion at the ward administration office. While the members of the security forces are carrying out the necessary investigation at the scene, one homemade bomb exploded inside a Myanmar Net cable box which was installed at a

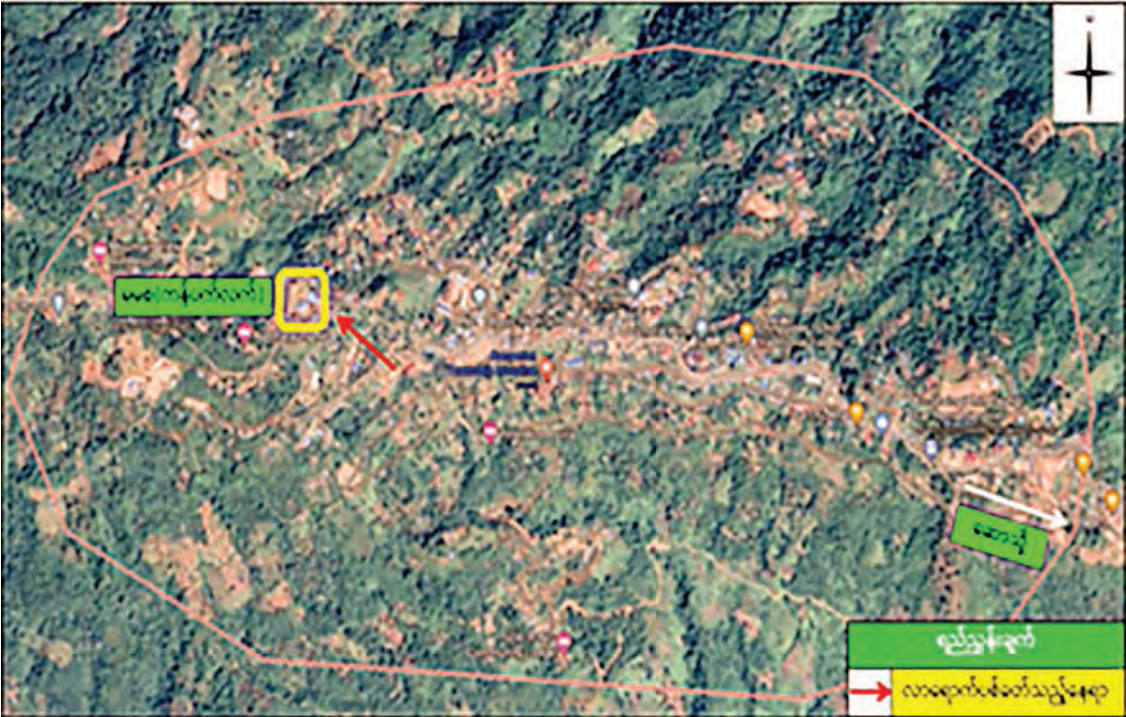
7-foot-high pole at the corner of Anawyahtar road and Kaing Tan road, injuring 7 of them. It is reported that members of the security forces are continuing to search for and arrest the perpetrators of the violence. — MNA

Armed insurgent groups attack security forces in Chin state

ARMED insurgent groups attacked the security forces and their camps in firearms in some townships in Chin State on 17 May. About 30 insurgents attacked the security force mem-

bers at the combined checkpoint in Haka, and about 15 insurgents attacked the local Battalion in Haka with firearms. When the security forces fired back, they retreated to Lauklong village. Similarly, the township po-

lice station in Myoma (2) ward in Kanpetlet was also attacked at 7:50 pm on the same day. It is reported that no security force member was injured during the incidents. —MNA



Township education office hit by arson attack

THE Township Education Office was destroyed by a mob's arson attack on 17 May in Paukkaung Township, Bago Region. The incident happened at 4:25 am, and members of the security forces and fire brigade extinguished the fire. The fire destroyed the building, office furniture, papers and documents. It is reported that the office security man and his wife found the fire after hearing the bottle crash in the back of the office while they were sleeping. Investigations are underway to identify and arrest the mob under the law. —MNA



Weapons, related materials used in riots confiscated in Mandalay, Yangon regions



SECURITY forces confiscated weapons and related materials to be used in terrorist attacks in Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Region, Hmawby and North Okkalapa townships in Yangon Region on 17 May. Two homemade guns made of plastic pipes, one homemade air gun made of plastic pipes, and related materials were confiscated. Seven men (one from Kyaukse and six from North Okkalapa) were arrested together with them. It is reported that plans are underway to take action against the owners of the weapons and equipment and those who stored them under the law. — MNA

Brunei imposes int'l travel ban to 4 more countries

THE Brunei government on Monday announced the temporary suspension of entry for foreign nationals from four more South Asian countries over COVID-19 concerns.

Brunei has earlier imposed a travel ban on India.

According to a press release from Brunei's Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the temporary suspension on traveling to and from India, imposed on April 27, will be extended until June 13 and will cover four more countries, namely Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The PMO said the suspension applies to entry travels of all foreign nationals departing from or through any airport in



This file photo shows Brunei's national flags flown along a street in Bandar Seri Begawan.

PHOTO: AFP

the region except for diplomatic passport holders and armed forces members. It also applies to transits through Brunei for all foreign nationals departing from the region.

It also suspended trav-

els from Brunei to India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh for any reason or business matters except diplomatic passport holders and armed forces members.

The PMO said the

suspension also applies to foreign nationals who have been granted pre-approvals to enter Brunei from the above five countries via pre-authorized flights, which have therefore been suspended. — Xinhua ■

Hong Kong Disneyland posts record net loss due to pandemic



Hong Kong Disneyland Resort on Monday posted a record HK\$2.7 billion (US\$347 million) net loss for its fiscal year ending September 2020, its worst since it opened in 2005, amid a series of closures due to the coronavirus pandemic.

PHOTO: KYODO

HONG Kong Disneyland Resort on Monday posted a record HK\$2.7 billion (US\$347 million) net loss for its fiscal year ending September 2020, its worst since it opened in 2005, amid a series of closures due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Having been closed for about five months from late January last year and about two months from mid-July due to the pandemic, or nearly 60 per cent of the fiscal year, rev-

enue was down 76 per cent to HK\$1.4 billion.

Visitor numbers decreased by 73 per cent to 1.7 million, while hotel guests were also down sharply with average hotel occupancy at only 15 per cent, a 59 percentage point drop.

According to Hong Kong media, it was the sixth straight year without a profit, though management expressed optimism about the resort's future. — Kyodo News ■

Crown Resorts rejects Blackstone takeover bid

TROUBLED Australian casino operator Crown Resorts rejected a takeover bid from US private equity giant Blackstone on Monday, saying the offer "undervalues" the gaming group.

The casino operator, which is subject to multiple inquiries into allegations of money laundering and ties to organized crime, said the bid of more than Aus\$8 billion (US\$6.2 billion) was not in the best interests of shareholders.



The entrance to the Crown Casino in Melbourne. PHOTO: AFP/ WILLIAM WEST

Crown said it was still studying a separate merger proposal by rival Australian

casino operator Star Entertainment Group.

Blackstone launched

its bid in March, just weeks after regulators refused to grant Crown a licence to run its flagship casino in a gleaming 75-storey Sydney tower, owing to suspected links to organised crime.

Authorities acted on the recommendations of a public inquiry, which reported Crown had been "facilitating" money laundering through so-called "high roller" gambling junkets linked to Chinese triads and other organized criminal groups. — AFP ■

NEWS

IN

BRIEF

Scrutiny increases of Gates after Microsoft affair surfaces

BILL Gates's tenure at Microsoft has come under fresh scrutiny amid revelations that the tech giant probed the billionaire founder's intimate relationship with a staffer before he left the board of directors.

The latest news, days after Gates and his wife Melinda announced their divorce, could have major repercussions for the tech founder who has cultivated an image as one of the world's most dedicated philanthropists.

Recent reports suggested a streak of questionable behaviour by the 65-year-old Gates, one of the most prominent members of the US business elite who has been the target of conspiracy theorists over his funding of the development of Covid-19 vaccines.

Microsoft confirmed reports over the weekend that its board began an investigation with an outside law firm of an affair with an employee.

"Microsoft received a concern in the latter half of 2019 that Bill Gates sought to initiate an intimate relationship with a company employee in the year 2000," a company spokesperson said. — AFP ■

Itochu accelerates ammonia fuel supply chain project in Singapore

MAJOR Japanese trading house Itochu Corp. is speeding up the joint development of an ammonia fuel supply chain in Singapore by adding three new partners to the project.

Itochu announced Monday that it and its energy trading arm Itochu Enx Co. have reached agreement with Japanese shipping company Mitsui O.S. K. Lines Ltd., Total Marine Fuels Private Ltd., a local unit of French oil and gas firm Total SA, and Pavilion Energy Singapore Pte. Ltd. on the project.

The move follows the conclusion of a deal with Vopak Terminals Singapore Pte. Ltd., a Singaporean subsidiary of major Dutch tank storage firm Royal Vopak N.V., in June last year to carry out the project to promote ammonia as an environmentally friendly new marine fuel in the city-state.

The Tokyo-based trader said it and its expanded partners aim to formally launch the project around 2025.

Specifically, Itochu said it will promote the development of off-shore facilities such as floating storage units and safety guidelines for ammonia bunkering in Singapore with its other partners. It will also establish domestic and overseas partnerships with shippers, shipping firms and ammonia producers. — Kyodo News ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY. NO. (224N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY. NO. (224N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-5-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

US military chief warns Israel-Palestinian conflict destabilizing ‘beyond Gaza’

THE United States’ top military officer has warned the conflict between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas is creating instability beyond Gaza, saying it is “in no one’s interest to continue fighting”.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, speaking to journalists while flying to Brussels for a NATO meeting, urged both sides in the conflict to de-escalate, echoing comments from President Joe Biden, who has said he backs a ceasefire.

“There is a significant amount of casualties and I just think that that level of violence is destabilizing beyond the limited area of Gaza,” Milley said late Wednesday, responding to a question about possible Iranian support for Hamas.

More than 200 Palestinians, including 61 children, have been killed since hostilities flared



The security crisis risks precipitating a humanitarian disaster, with the UN saying nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been displaced. **PHOTO: AFP**

between the Jewish state and armed Palestinian groups in the Gaza Strip last week, according to local authorities. Ten people have died in rocket strikes launched at Israel. On Monday, Washington blocked a draft UN resolution calling for a halt to the violence

for the third time, although in a call with the Israeli prime minister, Biden said he backed a truce.

“No one is denying the right of Israel to defend itself,” Milley told reporters. “But having said that, the level of violence that is there is at such a level

that it is in no one’s interest to continue fighting... Civilians are being killed. Children are being killed.” The violence between Hamas and Israel, which escalated after being sparked by unrest in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, is the worst since 2014. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Record 2,700 migrants reach Spain’s Ceuta enclave in one day

At least 2,700 migrants, some 1,000 of them minors, reached Spain’s North African enclave of Ceuta on Monday, Spanish officials said, a record in a single day.

A spokesman for the Spanish government delegation in Ceuta said the numbers arriving Monday were unprecedented, adding that the migrants had reached the enclave by swimming or walking at low tide from beaches in neighbouring Morocco. None of the migrants have been hospitalised and “they are doing well”, he added. — AFP ■

Wrongfully convicted US brothers to receive \$84 mn

TWO African-American half-brothers who spent 31 years in prison in the southern US state of North Carolina for a crime they did not commit have been awarded \$84 million, their lawyer said Monday. “This is the largest jury verdict ever returned in a wrongful conviction case in the history of the United States,” Des Hogan told AFP. Henry Lee McCollum and his half-brother Leon Brown, both of whom are intellectually disabled, were convicted of the 1983 rape and murder of an 11-year-old girl. They were respectively 19 and 15 years old at the time of their arrest and claimed to have been forced to sign confessions. — AFP ■

127 missing after vessel sinks in Covid-stricken India cyclone



Waves lashed Mumbai’s shoreline. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOME 127 people were missing Tuesday after a vessel adrift off Mumbai’s coast sank during Cyclone Tauktae, the Indian navy said as two ships and helicopters were deployed to assist in the

search. The vessel was carrying 273 people when it started drifting on Monday as strong winds battered India’s western coast, sending huge waves crashing

onto its shores and turning roads into rivers. The cyclone interrupted the vaccine programme the country urgently needs to get its spiralling Covid-19 outbreak under control.

Cyclone Tauktae battered swathes of the vast nation, sending huge waves crashing onto its shores, turning streets into rivers and forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee.

The colossal swirling system -- the biggest to hit the region in decades -- claimed lives in Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat as savage winds swept through flimsy homes and uprooted trees and electricity pylons. Mumbai authorities closed the airport and urged people to stay indoors, shifting about 600

Covid-19 patients in field hospitals “to safer locations”, while sea levels swelled as high as three metres (10 feet) near the seaside town of Diu.

Tauktae made landfall in Gujarat on Monday as an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm packing gusts of up to 185 kilometres (115 miles) per hour, the Indian Meteorological Department said. It had been downgraded to a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm by Tuesday morning.

Covid catastrophe

The deadly weather system has exacerbated India’s embattled response to a coronavirus surge that is killing at least 4,000 people daily, and pushing the health system to breaking point. — AFP ■

Left-leaning body to draft new constitution for a new Chile

CHILEANS leaned left but turned their backs on traditional political parties in electing a 155-member body to rewrite the country’s conservative, dictatorship-era constitution.

A new constitution was a key demand of 2019 protests that left several dozen dead but gave rise this weekend to what has been labelled Chile’s most important election since returning to democracy 31 years ago.

Chile’s existing Magna Carta limits the role of the state and

bolsters private enterprise. It is blamed by many for the deep-rooted gulf between rich and poor, but hailed by others, mainly on the right, for the country’s many decades of economic growth. Fewer than half of the country’s 14.9 million eligible voters turned out on Saturday and Sunday to elect a “constitutional convention” that will now be tasked with drawing up a new founding law for a new Chile. Of those who did, almost half opted for independent candidates, most of them left-leaning,

in a symbolic vote interpreted as a rebuke of the ruling right and traditional political parties. It showed, said Chile’s President Sebastian Pinera, that his government and established parties were not “attuned to the demands and aspirations of citizens.” With 99.9 per cent of the vote counted by Monday morning, candidates representing traditional parties were in the minority, with over 46 per cent of votes having gone to independents -- the biggest single block. — AFP ■



Among the elected independents are Giovanna Grandon, known as ‘Aunt Pikachu’ for dressing up as the Pokemon at anti-government protests. **PHOTO: AFP**

ASEAN teams to take part in FIFA Futsal World Cup

TWO ASEAN teams: Thailand and Viet Nam, will compete in the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021, which is slated to be held from 12 September to 3 October 2021 in Lithuania.

ASEAN Futsal top side

Thailand will take on Iraq in the play match. In contrast, another ASEAN Futsal star, Viet Nam, will take on Lebanon in the other playoff tie of the Futsal World Cup.

“With COVID-19 still not

showing signs of slowing down, the cancellation of the AFC Futsal Championship has forced the AFC to look at other ways in determining five teams that will represent Asia at Lithuania 2021.

As such, after going through the criteria which have been set, Japan, Iran, and Uzbekistan have already been assured of their places. That means the four remaining teams will now battle for the final two slots,”

officials said.

“The first legs of the play-offs will be staged on 20 May 2021, with the return matches to be held five days later,” FIFA Futsal World Cup authorities added. —GNLM ■

Tuchel tells Chelsea not to fear Leicester rematch

THOMAS Tuchel encouraged his Chelsea players not to waste the success of his first few months in charge at Stamford Bridge in the final week of the Premier League season ahead of a FA Cup final rematch against Leicester on Tuesday.

Chelsea were beaten 1-0 by the Foxes at Wembley on Saturday to miss out on their first shot at silverware this month.

Tuchel’s men also face Manchester City in the Champions League final on May 29, but need two wins from their final two Premier League games just to qualify for next season’s Champions League.

Liverpool’s dramatic late win at West Brom on Sunday, thanks to goalkeeper Alisson Becker’s 95th minute header,



Thomas Tuchel encouraged his Chelsea players not to waste the success of his first few months in charge at Stamford Bridge in the final week of the Premier League season ahead of a FA Cup final rematch against Leicester on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

means the Reds should finish in the top four if they win their last two games at the expense of one of Leicester or Chelsea.

“It is easier to be self-confident when you constantly

win, but there is no need to be afraid,” said Tuchel after experiencing back-to-back defeats for the first time since he took charge in January. “We need to believe in ourselves. — AFP ■

Fury-Joshua in jeopardy over Wilder rematch order: reports



Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder could have been ordered to meet in a third fight, potentially jeopardising Fury’s heavyweight unification bout with Anthony Joshua. **PHOTO: AFP**

TYSON Fury’s heavyweight unification fight with Anthony Joshua could be put on hold after an independent arbitrator ruled that the WBC heavyweight champion must face former champion Deontay Wilder in a rematch, US reports said Mon-

day.

ESPN and The Athletic website said retired judge Daniel Weinstein upheld a claim lodged by Wilder that Fury must face him in a third fight by September 15 following their February 2020 title battle.

While the arbitrator’s ruling is not a formal court order, it would be deemed enforceable by courts if Wilder and Fury are unable to reach agreement, reports said.

Monday’s ruling comes just a day after Fury announced he had agreed to fight Joshua in Saudi Arabia on August 14 where the WBC, WBA, IBF and WBO heavyweight belts will be up for grabs.

“Massive announcement FURY VS JOSHUA IS ON AUGUST 14 in The kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The worlds (sic) biggest sporting event all eyes on us,” Fury wrote on Twitter, describing the bout as “100 per cent on”. Monday’s ruling does not necessarily torpedo the money-spinning all-British Joshua-Fury fight in the Middle East. — AFP ■

Solskjaer hopes fans will cheer not jeer on return to Old Trafford

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer hopes Manchester United fans will ditch their protests against club owners, the Glazer family, and cheer on the team when supporters return to Old Trafford for the first time in more than a year on Tuesday.

United’s last three home games have featured fans protesting against the Glazers after they signed up to the European Super League before the supporters’ furious reaction saw them withdraw hastily.

United’s home game with Liverpool had to be postponed earlier this month when fans broke into the stadium and got onto the pitch.

The re-scheduled game last Thursday also featured protests outside the ground — as did last Tuesday’s home defeat to Leicester.

Solskjaer wants to hear more positive sounds when they host relegated Fulham where victory would secure them second place in the table.

Around 10,000 fans are expected to attend as the latest easing of the British government’s coronavirus restrictions comes into force.

Although some clubs welcomed back around 2,000 fans for a short spell last December the last time a club entertained a sell out crowd was Leicester’s 4-0 win against Aston Villa at the King Power Stadium on March 9, 2020. “We’ve been waiting for a long, long time to welcome the fans back,” said Solskjaer at his eve-of-match press conference.

“Of course the last couple of home games, especially the Liverpool ones with the protests... “It’s never nice to see a club that is not united, fans with the team, so we’re hoping that Tuesday is going to be a positive day that we move together, that we play a good game of football.”

‘Harry is our leader’

Solskjaer, though, blames the protests for their last two home defeats to Leicester and Liverpool.

Even without the protests United’s overall home form this season has been poor — six defeats in all — and effectively cost them giving champions Manchester City a run for their money in the title race. — AFP ■



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hopes Manchester United fans will ditch their protests against club owners, the Glazer family, and cheer on the team when supporters return to Old Trafford for the first time in more than a year on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**