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Taxes must be levied in a fair manner for the State and the people: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC Management Committee Meeting 7/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 May 2021.

EFFORTS will be made for resuming the State-owned garment factories and cotton ginning factories which were recently suspended from operating production of clothes in order to reduce spending of foreign exchange, on the one hand, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Management Committee Meeting 7/2021 of the Council at the Council Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, the Senior General said the field trips of Union ministers to townships for managing respective sectors are the best performances. The council adopts just poli-

cies, and relevant ministries need to implement the policies. Hence, the Union ministers can meet departmental staff on their trips for fulfilling the needs. Moreover, the ministries should coordinate with each other to carry out the development of the State.

On their field trips, the Union ministers need to explain voting frauds and the situation of voter lists in the 2020 general election to the service personnel. All State service personnel need to understand the political crises based on the dishonesty of democracy in the previous general election, although the Tatmadaw values democracy. The ministries need to supervise service personnel to have systematic office works and abide by disciplines.

All the people need to use the domestic products with patriotic spirit. All need to control the trade harming the domestic production and local economy. Mandalay Region and dry zones in Myanmar are engaging in the production of sa-

rongs, blankets and mosquito nets. Some kinds of threads are imported from foreign countries. The government must give assistance for the cultivation of cotton plants so as to produce threads. Local industries should manufacture the

clothes for domestic use. Likewise, domestic pharmaceutical industries need to produce a sufficient volume of common medicines to reduce imported medicines and decrease foreign exchange spending. Relevant ministries, as well as other ministries, are to strive for the improvement of domestic industries.

As an agro-based country, Myanmar needs to apply modern techniques for developing agricultural task and manufacturing works in the agriculture and livestock sectors to ensure food sufficiency. And surplus must be exported to improve the economy of rural people.

The Union ministers discussed their respective sectors.

All State service personnel need to understand the political crises based on the dishonesty of democracy in the previous general election, although the Tatmadaw values democracy.

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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 Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw, members of Sangha comfort monks sitting for 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination



CHAIRMAN of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, Vice-Chairs of

the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (first branch committee) Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandasara (Thanbyuzayat), Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Baddanta Kovida

(Meiktila), Joint Secretary Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Setthila (Pyay), Members of the Sangha and officials of the Department of Religious Affairs met and com-

forted the monks sitting for the 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination held at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill yesterday.

A total of 54 monks sat for the exam yesterday.

Moreover, a total of 171 monks will sit for the five-day 73rd Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination till 21 May. —MNA

Disturbance to opening of schools is acts of
destroying the country

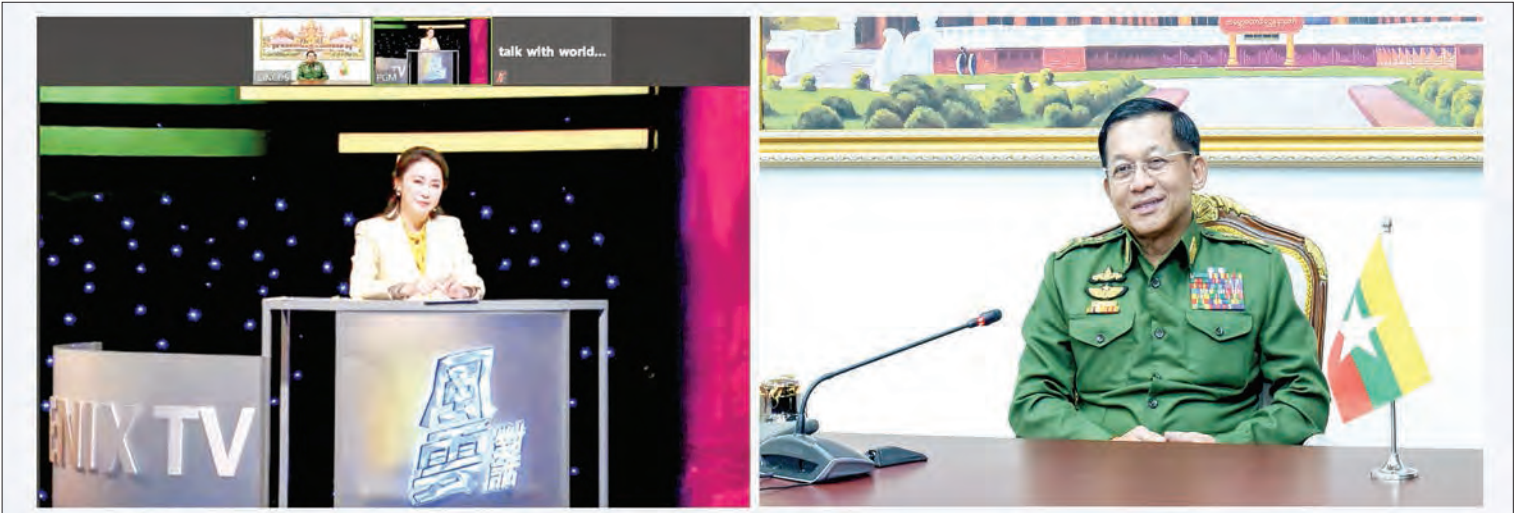
THE curricula are being used in line with the 30-year national education promotion long-term plan approved by the previous governments. Disturbance to the opening of schools is the acts of destroying the country, and it is very bad. Effective action must be taken against these destructive acts.

(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)

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of
Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing replies to queries
raised by Phoenix TV media of China

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ms Fu Xiao Tian, the senior political reporter and presenter of Talk with World Leaders programme from Phoenix news agency of the People's Republic of China yesterday afternoon through videoconferencing and replied to the queries.

At the interview, the Senior General fully replied to questions raised by the news agency on the political progress of Myanmar, occurrences of voting frauds in the 2020 election, endeavours of the Tatmadaw



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives and replies to questions raised by Phoenix political reporter Ms Fu Xiao Tian online yesterday.

for the peacemaking process and future plans, discussions on Myanmar issues at the ASEAN Leaders Meeting and future programmes, Rakhine State issues, control of peace and stability at the border area between China and Myanmar, further cooperation tasks between the two countries and other topics of information.—MNA

Taxes must be levied in a fair
manner for the State and the
people: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

Then, the Senior General as State-owned factories were suspended, the country lost possible funds for the State. Likewise, it is necessary to seek the ways and means for operating the joint venture factories. Officials need to scrutinize the factories rented to the private sector whether they are being operated under the agreements or not and supervise the work processes under the disciplines.

Myanmar lost billions of kyats in the loss of natural disasters on a yearly basis. Currently, it is possible to begin the storms and squalls in Myanmar. Preventive measures must be taken at respective buildings and in relevant regions. Township administrative bodies and development committees need to coordinate the plans to ensure the proper water flow in drains of respective townships.

Action must be taken against the illegal import and distribution of mo-

torcycles without licences with the supervision of relevant ministries. Encouragement must be given to the public transport system.

Arrangements must be made for the running of circular trains, electric trains and electric buses. The use of electricity can reduce the consumption of domestic fuel and environmental impacts. Electricity is being generated from hydropower and solar power sufficiently. Emphasis must be placed on preventing waste of electricity due to illegal consumption and on the collection of electric bills.

Taxes must be levied in a fair manner for the State and the people. These taxes must be systematically spent on peace, health and education sectors of the State. Efforts must be made for producing a sufficient volume of domestic products to reduce import goods for the development of the State economy. —MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No 132/2021

10th Waxing of Kason 1383 ME
20 May 2021

Appointment and Duty Assignment of
member of CBM Board of Directors

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Ye Myint to the duties of a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Myanmar in accord with Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Public information

Yangon 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

Responsibility, loyalty needed for public healthcare at hospitals: MoHS



UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win met medical superintendents yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw as they will be transferred to the central-level hospitals, and general hospitals with 200 beds and above.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said public hospitals need to be fully operational despite the increasing number of patients receiving treatments. He urged them to be responsible, dutiful and professional for the public healthcare and pay attention to each sector of the hospital operation as experienced superintendents.

He mentioned that if there are any threat or intention to

the junior staff by those who have returned to work after being absent due to various reasons, they will be investigated, and effective action will be taken. He urged them to accelerate the COVID-19 prevention and treatment works, submit actual information of the hospitals in a timely manner and do their utmost for their jobs.

The attended medical superintendents presented the requirements, and the Union Minister and Directors-General coordinated them. The meeting was attended by the ministry's officials and the 13 medical superintendents who will be transferred. — MNA

MoSWRR organizes meeting on work plans to be implemented with National Natural Disaster Management Funds

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a pre-coordination meeting to submit work plans of regions/states that are to be conducted with the National Natural Disaster Management Funds to the National Disaster Management Committee yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said it should prepare the national disaster management funds in respective regions and states. It also should set the priorities out of the preventive measures.

Moreover, it should make preparations for natural disasters as the monsoon season nears.

The Deputy Minister also stressed the need to focus on the climatic conditions for preventive measures based on the previous experiences and instructed the region/state department heads to cooperate with the departments and organizations concerned.

Then, the departmental officials briefed them on work plans to be conducted with the funds, and the Union Minister gave key instructions. — MNA



Legal Translation Commission holds 8th meeting

THE 8th meeting of the Legal Translation Commission's Working Committee and Working Bodies was held yesterday morning at the Union Attorney-General's Office.

At the meeting, Chairperson Dr Thida Oo of the Legal Translation Commission said the Legal Translation Commission Law was enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 25 in 2015 and the commission was formed in 2016.

The laws enacted by the Indian Parliament until Myanmar pre-independence era in 1947 were followed in Myanmar. The Legal Translation Commission Law was promulgated to translate 81 existing laws from English into Myanmar. The



commission translated and approved a total of 26 laws and published up to 8 books. The Public Property Protection Act and the Court Fees Act approved by the 7th meeting have recently been published. Plans are underway to distribute it as Book No 8.

The State Administration Council reorganized the commission with 15 people by Order No. 51/2021 on 2 March. The Union Attorney-General has become the Chairperson of the commission and legal experts as the members. Dr Thida Oo added that the Legal Translation Commission is separate from the translation of laws, which is the primary responsibility of the Union Attorney-General's Office. Legal translation work is a subject that needs to be considered in a very subtle and wide-ranging way.

The meeting will be held for two days and will discuss and approve the Negotiable Instruments Act and the Land Customs Act. — MNA

Rural Road Development Dept organizes quarterly coordination meeting

THE Department of Rural Road Development organized a quarterly coordination meeting yesterday to implement rural development programmes and rural road development strategic plans for the rural populace.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay urged officials to submit the targeted work plans for 2021-2022 FY. There are 52,329 villages in the country, and the rural road's length is more than 56,000 miles. About 23 per cent of road section can be used in any seasons, while 77 per cent can be used in the dry season. It has drafted the plans to use the rural road up to 80 per cent



across the nation as per the strategic plans for rural roads development 2030.

The reliable rural roads and bridges save the costs for the locals in transporting the

locally produced products to the markets. Therefore, it can support the country's GDP. The

departments and private companies should follow the terms and conditions of the tender system.

Then, the regions/states department heads clarified the completed and ongoing operations in 2019-2020FY, 2020-2021FY and 2021-2022FY.

Deputy Minister U Min Htein briefed them on the work plans of ministry, policy matters and rules and regulations for the civil service personnel.

Then, the Permanent Secretary and Director-General presented the roads and bridges construction situation, fixed time of completion and financial status. – MNA

MoEA discusses naming conventions of ethnic groups



THE Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture under the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs organized a presentation on the naming system of ethnic people yesterday.

The Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint talked about the exciting and different nomenclatures of ethnic groups.

It can be said that the life of one ethnic group is literature and culture. Their tradition is their hearts because their traditions show their ethnicity.

He also said the literature and cul-

ture in addition to the tradition play key role for the existence of one race.

Then, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung remarked, and Director-General U Win Naing of the Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture clarified naming systems of 85 ethnic groups.

Assistant Director Daw Wai Lae Yi Oo also briefed naming systems of six different tribes of Karen ethnics and nine different tribes of Kayah ethnics. The Union Minister then concluded the event. – MNA

Central Bank of Myanmar holds monetary policy seminar

THE Central Bank of Myanmar held the Monetary Policy Seminar yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

The seminar was attended by CBM Governor U Than Nyein, the Deputy Governors, the Directors-General and officials.

At the seminar, the Governor said the monetary policy plays an essential role in a country's economic development. The central banks are implementing the monetary policy tools appropriate to their macroeconomic situation in implementing monetary policy.

Myanmar is implementing the monetary policy under Article 40 (a) of Chapter (6) of the

Central Bank of Myanmar Law (2013). It is the monetary policy of the Central Bank of Myanmar to maintain domestic price stability.

He explained that the Central Bank of Myanmar is formulating a monetary policy framework aimed at ensuring a specific amount of money that can be achieved in order to obtain the country's economic growth target at a reasonable inflation rate. The amount of money is being controlled to accomplish that goal.

He also added that the foreign currency exchange market is being regulated as needed by the Central Bank of Myanmar



in order to facilitate foreign currency flow and prevent high exchange rate fluctuations. The Central Bank of Myanmar and

the Ministry of Planning and Finance are working together to set the financial policies and monetary policies.

The seminar discussed the facts needed to adapt to a Monetary Policy Framework with Inflation Targeting. – MNA

24 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 May, total figure rises to 143,183

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 143,183 after 24 new cases were reported on 20 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,148 have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

20 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 Pyapon, Bogale, Hinthada, Danubyu, Laymyethna, Ingapu and Zalun townships of Ayeyawady Region.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 1,236,131 eligible voters in these seven townships of the Ayeyawady Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 1185,171 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 214,000 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 12,382 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 140,446 persons repeated on the voter lists 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.	Pyapon	249	211,639	188,447	46,544	2,039	21,494
2.	Bogale	361	224,417	214,737	63,162	1,870	20,656
3.	Hinthada	282	272,502	267,978	40,671	2,932	32,592
4.	Danubyu	164	145,685	141,656	15,055	1,220	17,222
5.	Laymyethna	188	83,457	71,996	8,543	810	10,678
6.	Ingapu	169	164,855	189,444	19,214	1,603	20,066
7.	Zalun	166	133,576	110,913	20,811	1,908	17,738
	Total	1,579	1236,131	1185,171	214,000	12,382	140,446

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Pyapon, Bogale, Hinthada, Danubyu, Laymyethna, Ingapu and Zalun 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 1,579 polling stations in these seven townships took out 1,389,788 ballots and used 911,850 ballots. It left 438,240 ballots instead of 477,938 ballots. The difference was 61,533 ballots, and it found 21,835 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	Pyapon	249	227,396	149,233	78,163	71,856	6,381	74
2	Bogale	361	255,134	156,539	98,595	94,002	6,599	2,006
3	Hinthada	282	305,207	201,290	103,917	87,571	22,093	5,747
4	Danubyu	164	167,340	111,219	56,121	55,935	647	461
5	Laymyethna	188	100,273	63,202	37,071	35,321	4,450	2,700
6	Ingapu	169	184,761	129,320	55,441	51,595		
7	Zalun	249	227,396	149,233	78,163	71,856	6,381	74
	Total	1,579	1389,788	911,850	477,938	438,240	61,533	21,835

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships of Ayeyawady Region, the numbers of eligible voters are more 50,960 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 214,000 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI, “Preparation of Voting Roll” stated, “Whoever has the rights 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 12,382 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 140,446 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of the Ayeyawady Region.
8. It was found that they granted ballots without any signatures or left-hand thumb fingerprint in Form (1) books used at No (3) polling station of Gyo War Kyauk Ye Village-tract, No (2) polling station of Gyo War Kyan Khin Village-tract and No (1) polling station of Chaung Twin Village-tract of Pyapon Township.
9. Only one voter signed in the places of 137 advance voters out of 627 eligible voters in No (2) polling station of Kyone Kyite Village-tract and also in the areas of 183 advance voters out of 849 eligible voters in No (3) polling station of Kyone Kyite Village-tract of Pyapon Township.
10. At No (5) polling station of Aye Ywar Village-tract of Bogale Township, they used 200 ballots without any information of respective constituencies. According to the inspection, the poll head had reported the voter lists to the township administration department every one hour. But the poll head wrongly counted the 200 voters, so they put 200 ballots into the poll boxes. Then, they recognized them as invalid votes when they counted the ballots.
11. There were 593 voters and four additional voters in Form (1) book of No (2) polling station of Theikkal Seik Village-tract and 451 voters and six additional voters in Form (1) book of No (2) polling station of Aye Ywar Village-tract of Bogale Township. The respective village-tract election sub-commission did not report these ten additional voters to the township sub-commission and allowed them to cast votes.

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12. The birthday date of Daw Noe Noe Khine, serial no (176) on voter lists of No (2) polling station of Thitto Chaung Village-tract of Bogale Township, was 9-11-2002, and Daw Khine Mon, serial No (151) on voter lists of No (3) polling station of Tha Kan Wa Village-tract was 24-11-2002. Therefore, they are under the age of 18, but they were allowed to cast votes.
13. In the voter lists from (422) to (427) of No (8) polling stations of Sett Kyun Village-tract of Bogale Township, it did not mention the date of birth, NRC no and parents' names. They allowed U Thein Tan, No (425) and Daw Aye Maw, No (426) were allowed to cast votes.
14. The ballot receipts and remaining ballots of No (1) polling station of Inn Win Village-tract and No (1) polling station of Kyat Kalay Village-tract of Hinthada Township were not returned to the township election sub-commission, but on 22-4-2021 when the inspection was conducted.
15. The ballot receipts and remaining ballots of No (2) polling station of Chauk Ywar Village-tract of Ingapu Township were not returned to the township election sub-commission, but on 23-4-2021 when the inspection was conducted.
16. Findings in these seven townships of Ayeyawady Region were as follows:
- (a) There were 931,268 voters, and they used 911,850 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 19,418 less than the numbers of voters.
 - (b) It found 61,533 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots.
 - (c) It found 21,835 extra ballots at some polling stations.
 - (d) They did not follow the Hluttaw Election Law section 66(h) and separately returned the ballot receipts/remaining ballots to the township election sub-commission only 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 used in some polling stations.
 - (f) In Form (1) books of some polling station, it did not state the date of birth of voters, CSC number, parents' names. It included the voters under 18. They allowed the voters to cast votes without the signs.
 - (g) Some of the ward/village-tract election commission failed to return the ballot receipts and extra ballots according to the law, so the ballots were found missing.
 - (h) Some ward/village-tract election sub-commission did not report to the township sub-commission and put additional voters with handwriting in Form (1) and allowed them to cast votes.
 - (i) The non-identity voters were on the voter lists, and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any national identity cards.
 - (j) They conducted measures that violate the law when they started collecting advance ballot.
 - (k) 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.
- (17) It found voting frauds in Pyapon, Bogale, Hinthada, Danubyu, Laymyethna, Ingapu and Zalun 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.

Union Election Commission

Man Wein closure turns export products to China through Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint

THE products that have been usually exported to the Man Wein checkpoint are now going to China through Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint due to the Man Wein checkpoint closure, said Vice-Chair U Min Thein of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

Man Wein checkpoint, which is one of the major border crossings between Myanmar and China, was closed on 30 March because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

“Now, the Man Wein checkpoint has been closed temporarily. Thus, rice and broken rice, pulses, aquatic products, onion, and chilli are exported to China through Kyin San Kyawt

(Wan Ding) checkpoint. Earlier, the Kyin San Kyawt (Wan Ding) checkpoint used to export only the fruits such as watermelon, muskmelon and mangoes. Now, with the closure of Man Wein checkpoint, the foodstuffs are exported through the Kyin San Kyawt (Wan Ding) checkpoint,” he added.

Besides, export of all the foodstuffs to China through the Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint has been delayed, he added.

“It has been delayed. Yesterday, watermelon and muskmelon were given priority to export to China via the Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint. A total of 315 truckloads entered through the Kyin

San Kyawt checkpoint, including 215 truckloads of fresh stuff, 24 truckloads of rice and broken rice, 33 truckloads of pulses, seven truckloads of onion and four truckloads of chillies. But, a five-day queue at the Man Wein post takes about 15 days in the Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint. The cargos were also inspected at the checkpoint, and it takes a long time,” U Min Thein explained.

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

With the declining number of COVID-19 positive patients in the Kyalgaung area, the lockdown restriction imposed on the Kyalgaung area has been lifted starting from 4 May. But, the observation is still going on for another three more months. As a result, the Man Wein checkpoint has not been planned to reopen.

Further, in coordination with the Ruili Foreign Relations Department, the Man Wein checkpoint has not been reopened yet, and it will be reopened only after having the detailed plan, according to the Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone, the Trade Department.

Therefore, the relevant traders will be informed if Chi-

na has an official notification to reopen the crossing.

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

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

Don't forget usefulness of cotton suitable for Myanmar people

AGRICULTURISTS who are taking a leading role in the share of techniques in the agricultural sector need to produce agricultural products based on results of research works by assessing the market demand, but the researches should be actually beneficial to the farmers.

Those agriculturists and researchers should research on a wider scale in order to release the outcomes to be applied in overcoming the difficulties the farmers face.

Shwedaung farm in Wundwin and Lunkyaw farm in Kyaukse focuses on research and technical development in the cultivation of cotton crop to improve its quality and high yield, produce quality seeds and seek advanced agricultural techniques.

The industrial crop cotton is still beneficial to the lifestyle of Myanmar people with textile made of cotton which is suitable for climatic conditions of the country.

In addition, farmers cultivate various strains of cotton crops on more than 390,000 acres of croplands where large cotton, small cotton and long-staple cotton plants are cultivated.

Various global countries are still engaging in cotton-related businesses, including cultivation, production and trading, understanding the usefulness of cotton for their basic needs, particularly in the production of textile and clothes.

The industrial crop cotton is still beneficial to the lifestyle of Myanmar people with textile made of cotton which is suitable for climatic conditions of the country. That is why don't forget the cotton. Let's develop such a crop!



Thoughts regarding Moon formation, Dinosaur extinction hypotheses, 'string theory' (Quantum Physics), multiverse (Cosmology)

By Dr Myint Zan

PART I TWO SCIENTIFIC (HYPOTHESES?) REGARDING FORMATION OF THE MOON AND THE MAJOR CAUSE OF EXTINCTION OF DINOSAURS

A recent news item available online commemorates the anniversary of the launch of The Conversation, which is an online discussion forum written by various academics from Universities around the world for the general informed public and interested persons. This writer has read the article 'How the moon formed' by Christian Schroeder published on 10 March 2020 of *The Conversation*.

Leading Supposition (or Hypothesis) regarding the formation of the Moon

Dr Schroeder's article states that 'how the Earth got its moon is a long-debated question'. To summarise, Dr Schroeder states that 'the front runner among the explanations is that 'the Moon [was] formed [by] the collision between the early Earth and a rock called Theia' ('giant impact theory'). Theia was estimated to be roughly half the Earth's size, and the collision was supposed to have occurred 4.5 billion years (4,500 million years) ago. The impact of the collision was so great that parts of the Earth mixed with parts of Theia were ejected into Space, and this eventually formed the Moon. From other sources, the writer has read this collision -the first major and probably the most 'impactful' so to speak collision in over 4.5 billion years of the Earth's geological history-occurred a 'mere' 70 million years after the formation of the Earth from the debris of the Solar System. Dr Schroeder's article cited recent evidence reported in the journal *Nature Geoscience* which may further buttress the Theia hypothesis. Coincidentally while the writer was editing the draft of his article, another contemporaneous article that provides further evidence of the Theia 'proposal' was published in the journal *Science*, on 29 March 2021: 'A remnant of a protoplanet may be hiding inside Earth' by Nicoletta Lanese.

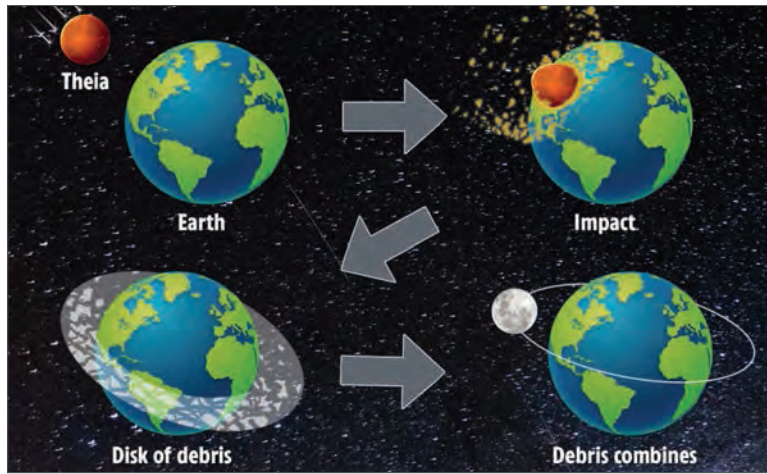
Stronger Hypothesis regarding the major cause of extinction of the Dinosaurs and other species?

ing the major cause of extinction of the Dinosaurs and other species?

There was yet another collision that occurred more than 4400 million years (plus or minus several dozen million years) after the presumed Theia collision. This latter-day or geologically more 'recent' collision was first proposed by Luis and Walter Alvarez, Frank Asaro and Helen V. Michel in their June 1980 article 'Extraterrestrial Cause for the Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction' published in *Science*. In so few words, the article stated that a giant meteorite or 'asteroid' (more recent studies stated that it was probably a comet; according to the late Stephen Jay Gould in his book *The Structure of Evolutionary Theory* published in 2002, it was a 'bolide') that hit the Earth in what is now the Yucatan peninsula near the Gulf of Mexico led to the extinction of the Dinosaurs and about 70% of the then species on Earth.

The bolide that hit the Earth was supposedly 6 miles across. The size of that bolide or comet was a tiny fraction of what is called the Theia gigantic 'rock' or protoplanet, which was postulated by some scientists to be roughly the size of the planet Mars that hit the newly-formed Earth around 4500 million years ago. Around 4,500 million years ago, Dinosaurs, not to say humans or homo sapiens - a handful of humans now postulate about the causes of the extinction of the Dinosaurs (see below)- were far, far (far) (even in terms of geological time) in the 'misty future' (i.e. if the Theia hypothesis which has been proposed by some scientists is correct).

Now, this curiosity or 'wondering' arise in this dilettante writer's mind. (The writer has learned his 'science', so to speak from, in the complimentary sense of the phrase- popularisers of science the late Stephen Jay Gould, the late Carl Sagan, the late Ernst Mayr, the late Martin Gardner and to a lesser extent Richard Dawkins who recently celebrated, on 26 March 2021, his 80th birthday to all of which I express my gratitude and from whose writings I have learned a lot). Can the theory,



postulate or supposition (not 'stipulation' though) that the asteroid/comet/bolide collision which occurred 65 to 66 million years ago be classified or is it classifiable as a scientific hypothesis? If so, is it a firm scientific hypothesis?

The writer recalls that when it was first proposed in 1980 and for perhaps more than a dozen years or so thereafter, there were quite a few 'doubting Thomases' so to speak of the (shall we say to give credit to the two main authors of the 1980 article) the Alvares's initial proposal. From this writer's perusal of the secondary literature, perhaps a significant majority of the scientists (almost approaching consensus?) who have considered and investigated the matter are now of the view that the main though arguably not the sole cause of the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction was the comet collision that occurred around 66 million years ago.

Which is a stronger hypothesis: 'Theia collision' of around 4,500 million years ago or comet or bolide collision of around 66 million years ago?

Going back deep into the past, 'deep geological time' of around 4500 million years, is the 'Theia' proposal regarding the formation of the Moon an arguable scientific hypothesis or not?

What are the views among geologists, earth scientists, astrophysicists and other scientists regarding the Theia 'conjecture' so to speak? Are there other serious alternative conjectures or theories regarding the origin or 'genesis' (to use the Biblical term or expression like 'doubting Thomases' above though not in the Biblical sense) of the Moon?

Is there more (or less) agreement among concerned scientists towards a consensus regarding the formation of the Moon around 4,500 million years ago compared to the cause of the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction around 66 million years ago? Are both of these conjectures classifiable as valid scientific hypotheses? If so, which are the firmer hypotheses?

The above theories can be considered under the genre of 'historical sciences' whose nature and truth of the propositions cannot be proven by repeated experiments like in some of the physical sciences.

PART II TWO (SUPPOSITIONS?) IN RELATION TO QUANTUM MECHANICS AND 'MULTIVERSE' IN THE 'OTHER' COSMOLOGY

From two possible hypotheses regarding what can be termed as historical sciences a 'quantum leap' to a postulate, proposal or supposition in the non-historical science of quantum mechanics. **String Theory in Quantum Mechanics: Supposition or Hypothesis?**

In his partly if not largely iconoclastic tract (a sort of 'intellectual biography') *Einstein's Mistakes* [.] *The Human Failings of Genius* (W. W. Norton & Co., 2008) the author Hans C. Ohanian describes string theorists of making the cute proposal that the ultimate subatomic entities at the bottom of downward progression from atoms to electrons to nuclei, to protons and neutrons, to quarks and gluons-are not point-like particles but tiny bits of the string vibrating in a spacetime of 10 dimensions. For a great many

years, a great many theorists laboured over this string model with obsessive zeal, hoping that from the equations governing the dynamics of the strings, they would be able to deduce and explain the properties of quarks and gluons and all the elementary particles and forces.

(Ibid, pages 334-35)

It is clear from what Ohanian wrote that he wouldn't condescend to call the string theory first proposed by three physicists in the 1970s as a scientific hypothesis though he did use the phrase 'cute [in not so complimentary sense of the word] proposal'.

This writer has quoted physicist Hans C. Ohanian's dismissal or almost debunking of the shall we say suppositions of the string theorists. Paraphrasing the saying 'one swallow does not make a summer', one physicist's debunking of other physicists' concepts of string theories may not necessarily be conclusive that the string theories are no more than being 'cute proposal(s)'. However, the more pertinent query or the writer's 'wondering' is, in a comparative context, and across scientific disciplines, which theory by acclamation, through consensus or majority scientific opinion is the firmer or firmest (scientific) hypothesis?

If none of them arguably are unequivocally firm scientific hypotheses, can they be described as 'suppositions'? Among the three theories considered so far, the Theia supposition, the cause of the Dinosaur extinction supposition or the string theories which is the firmest or weakest? This writer's (un)scientific opinion is that the Cretaceous-tertiary extinction theory is the firmest among the three (of course, subject to refutation with evidence and arguments).

'Multiverse' 'Supposition' in 'Other' Cosmologies?

In the above brief statement regarding the 'Big Bang', the word THIS Universe is written in emphasis. 'The Big Bang' scientific hypothesis (or is it now a cosmological fact?) is that to be somewhat tautological, the 'Big Bang' that occurred 13800 million years ago is how this Universe (or

to be pompous and presumptive 'our Universe') started. This is virtually the consensual views of most cosmologists, perhaps since the 1950s.

'On the other hand' or as regards the 'other' cosmological theory the Online britannica.com 'defines' multiverse as a *hypothetical collection* of potentially diverse observable universes, each of which would comprise everything that is experimentally accessible by a connected community of observers (emphases added)

And the online merriam-webster.com definition states that multiverse is 'a *theoretical reality* that includes a possibly infinite number of parallel universes' (emphasis added).

The writer should add that he uses the word (scientific) hypothesis above in a somewhat different sense than the britannica.com 'definition'. Perhaps the word 'assumption of potentially diverse .. universes' may do as well to define in so few words the meaning of 'multiverse'. The online Britannica article, from this writer's discernment, provides no conclusive statement to indicate (or is it to vindicate?) that the multiverse cosmology (?) is a (firm) scientific hypothesis.

To query or indeed question the Miriam Webster definition scientifically, albeit not pedantically or lexically, can 'reality' be 'theoretical'? Is it equally felicitous or infelicitous to describe 'theoretical reality' as 'postulated' or 'posited reality' or as a 'postulation' (and again not 'stipulation')?

Assuming but not conceding, stipulating or supposing that 'multiverse' exist(s) are the cosmological or physical laws in those multiverse(s) the same as THIS Universe? Are or were would there be in those multiverse 'Big Bangs', galaxies (cosmologically, not Galaxy tablets or I phones), stars, planets, dark matter or not? Is the speed of light the same in those multiverses? Or do (does, did) what we call the phenomena of light both in its wave or corpuscular dimensions exist or not in those 'dimensions' (pun intended) in the multiverse?

SEE PAGE 12

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. Colonel Aung Thaik Tun Ministry of Defence	Rector University for Development of National Races (Sagaing) Education and Training Department Ministry of Border Affairs
2. U Zaw Zaw Pro-Rector (Admin) Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) Union Civil Service Board	Rector Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) Union Civil Service Board

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သတင်းစာ နာယုလျိပါ သက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာဝံ့ချ်နီ ပုံနှိပ်လျိပါ သက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

01 860 4530

ကြေးညာမြို့နယ်၊ ကြေးညာ-အောင်ဇံမြို့နယ်၊ ကြေးညာ ထည့်သွင်းလျိပါ ထိုက်ရိုက်သက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်

09 974 424 848



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 20 May, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 21 May, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, fairlywidespread in Upper Sagaing Region and (Northern and Eastern)Shan, Kayin, Mon States, scattered in Chin State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:Scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 May, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 May, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay and Neighbouring Area for 21 May, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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 and NUG unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sri	Name	Occupation	Address	S e c - tion of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Tin Tin Nyo	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-Branch (Myohaung), Launglon Township	Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
2	U Zin Phyto Wai	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-2, Letpadan Town	Letpadan Town, Bago Region	505-a	
3	Daw Lu Hta	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Mongyan), Mongyan Town	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
4	Daw Tin Tin Htwe	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Launglon), Launglon Township	Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
5	U Tin Tun Win	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Thingannyinaung), Myawady Township	Myawady Township, Kayin State	505-a	
6	Daw Thandar Cho	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-3, Myawady Town	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
7	Daw Nang Aye Myint	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Htithemyway) Taunggyi Town	Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
8	Daw Khin Shwe Oo	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Htithemyway) Taunggyi Town	Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
9	U Thant Zin Ko Ko	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-Branch (Innng) Pindaya Township	Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
10	Daw Wa Thone Wai	Junior Assistant Teacher, Basic Education Post-Primary School (Kyaink Khine Ye) Thanbuzayet Town	Thanbuzayet Town, Mon 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, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff. -- MNA

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 and NUG unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sri	Name	Hospital	Address	S e c - tion of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw Ohn Mar Lin (Senior Nurse)	Kawthoung Hospital	Kawthoung Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
2	Daw Zar Zar Myint (Senior Nurse)	Ottwin Hospital	Phyu Town, Bago Region	505-a	
3	Daw Mar Mar Win (Senior Nurse)	Nyaungkharshhe Station Hospital	Bago Town, Bago Region	505-a	
4	Daw Mya Mya Aye (Senior Nurse)	Namsang Hospital	Monywa Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
5	Daw Naw Thi Thi Win (Senior Nurse)	Mawlamyine Hospital	Ye Town, Mon State	505-a	
6	Daw Wai Mon Thein (Nurse)	Kyonpyaw Hospital	Kyonpyaw Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
7	Daw Thiri Tun (Nurse)	Thaton Hospital	Thaton Town, Mon State	505-a	
8	Daw Ei Ei Thae (Nurse)	Gyankat village Station Hospital	Ngapudaw Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
9	Daw Lainmar Nyein (Nurse)	Daku Station Hospital	Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
10	Daw Htay Htay Win (Nurse)	Mohnyin District Hospital	Mohnyin Town, Kachin State	505-a	

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

Terrorists keep launching bomb attacks

TERRORISTS planted hand-made bombs at state-owned buildings, some houses of people and on public roads.

On 19 May, two men riding a motorcycle threw two hand-made bombs into the township municipal office in Kyaung Oh Ward of Pyay Township in Bago Region. One of the bombs exploded near the staff housing of U Aung Myint Htay, another one did not explode, and the police kept it. Then, a bomb in the drain in front of the housing exploded.

According to the investigation, the police arrested the suspect Tun Phone Myint Myat in Say Yay Ward of Pyay Township. Also, they detained another three suspects Aung Phyo Htet, Hein Myat and Tun



Latt, at their respective houses with explosive materials based on his testimony.

Similarly, a child died in a bomb blast in front of No (2) B.E.H.S in Lwal Bwal Ward of Tiddim Township of Chin State. Moreover, two men riding

a motorcycle threw a hand-made bomb into the Kyaung Ywar village administration office of Ye Township in Mon State. In the bomb blast, five people, including village administrator U Shwe Zin, were injured and taken to Ye hos-



hospital and Mawlamyine public hospital, respectively.

Another bomb explosion also occurred at the ward administration office of Shwetaga Ward of Pyay Township in Bago Region.

According to the inspec-

tion, two men threw two hand-made bombs and ran away. U Than Aye and Daw Moe Moe Khine from Shwetaga Ward were injured and taken to the military hospital.

The police inspected the Bluetooth speaker for making loud noises at the corner of Aung Zeya street and No (2) road about 50 yards from No (26) ward police station of Dagon Myothit (South) Township of Yangon Region.

Meanwhile, the speaker exploded, and one police injured. He was taken to Thimgangyun (San Pya) hospital for medical treatment.

The security forces investigate to take action against those who commit such bomb attacks under the law. – MNA

Terrorist group destroys BEHS branch in Myittha



THE terrorist group destroyed a BEHS branch in Thit Tat Gone Village in Myittha Township of Mandalay Region on 19 May.

The combined inspection team inspected the school after their attack, and it caused K100,000 worth of damages.

The security forces investigate to take action against who destroyed a state-owned building under the law.—MNA

Security forces continue confiscating weapons and related equipment used in riots



SECURITY forces confiscated weapons and related equipment to be used in terrorist attacks in Taung-

gyi, two men from Myeik, four men from North Okkalapa, one man from Ye and one woman from Mahaaungmyay township were arrested with weapons and equipment to be used in terrorist attacks.

It is reported that investigations are underway to identify and arrest the owners of weapons and equipment used in terrorist attacks and those who are detained with them under the law. – MNA

KIA attacks, sets fire to private fuel bowzers; terrorism accelerated in Tanai

THE KIA attacked and set fire to two private-owned fuel bowzers with a capacity of 3,000 gallons of petroleum each at 2 pm on 19 May in Kachin State.

KIA's firearms shot the bowzers between Zanan village and Suyan village in Sumprabum Township, Kachin State, while they were on the way from Myitkyina to Putao town to transport fuel to Tine Kyaw filling station.

The fuel trucks were destroyed by fire. One of the drivers was shot and now under medical treatment in the township hospital.

Similarly, KIA attacked the Yuzana Company's Cassava Factory yesterday morning near Bangkok village, Tanai Township, Kachin State. Due to the attack, the factory's fence, two garages, one machine warehouse, four residential buildings, three

staff houses and one vehicle were damaged.

Some media outlets that support illegal terrorist groups have reported that KIA fired at a convoy carrying Myanmar's military jet fuel, but the reality showed that private fuel bowzers were targeted, leading to fuel shortages and high commodity prices.

It is reported that security forces are stepping up security in the area. – MNA



FROM PAGE-9

Perhaps a search on google may or may not indicate (non-scientific) ‘answers’ or suppositions to these queries, but this writer has refrained from ‘googling’ for ‘answers’ to these queries.

In the light of the uncertainties or (non)answers to these queries, the writer has above (in) advisedly used the word ‘Other Cosmologies’ for if multiverse(s) exist, then all of them or each of them may (or may not) have their own ‘other’ cosmologies different from THIS Universe cosmology or not?

In recent popular science books that this writer has read in the past few weeks, *Einstein’s Mistakes and Stephen Hawking’s The Theory of Everything* [:] *The Origin and Fate of the Universe* (emphasis added; Hawking did use the singular) no mention far less discussion is made of the multiverse concept. The first edition of *Theory of Everything* was published in 1996. From what this writer recalls, Stephen Hawking’s *A Brief History of Time* (first edition 1988) does not also mention the multiverse idea.

The writer has read Stephen Hawking’s and Leonard Mlodinow’s *The Grand Design* (first publication 2010), but off-hand do not recall whether the co-authors endorse or espouse the multiverse concept or not.

Notwithstanding the prestige of these two renowned scientists, their endorsement or, for that matter, refutation of a (scientific) idea is not necessarily conclusive or indicative of physical or cosmological reality.

Albert Einstein (14 March 1879-18 April 1955) died before the ‘multiverse’ idea come fully into the cosmological picture (or is it imagination, see below), so to speak. It could be added that when Einstein’s published his landmark Theories of Special Relativity and General Relativity in the years 1905 and 1915, respectively, the prevailing cosmological theory was the ‘Steady state’ theory: a Universe (but not necessarily multiverse) without beginning or end. But since the late 1920s, the ‘Big Bang’ theory posits a ‘beginning’ to this Universe (so to speak and writing retrospectively without supposing there are other ‘Universes’).

Perhaps it is not wrong to state the Big Bang postulate or hypothesis has, if not replaced, then largely taken over from ‘Steady state’ as the prevailing cosmological posit. Now, with the intrusion (as a manner of expressing) of the multiverse concept, a different version of ‘Steady state’ can be envisaged or not since in the multiverse, there would be no ‘beginning’?

At the risk of ‘name-drop-

ping’, one more book by a physicist with the word ‘multiverse’ in the title can be mentioned. The late physicist Victor Stenger (29 January 1935-25 August 2014) (perhaps) posthumously published book is titled *God and the Multiverse: Humanity’s Expanding View of the Cosmos* (Prometheus, 2nd printing edition 2014). In the Preface, Victor Stenger wrote that ‘[o]f course the existence of other Universes has not been empirically established at least not yet’ albeit he immediately added that ‘the verification of the multiverse is not beyond the realm of possibility (page 19).

As stated above, physicist Hans C. Ohanian’s dismissal of string theory is not necessarily conclusive as to whether the theory is valid or not. Likewise, the late Victor Stenger’s admission that the multiverse concept (as of 2014 when the book was published and perhaps one could provisionally add in early 2021) is not ‘empirically verified yet’ albeit it is ‘within the realm of possibility’ is not indicative –far less conclusive- that the multiverse concept is a firm scientific hypothesis,

Imagining the historical events in Earth’s geological history and the postulates of string theory and multiverse cosmologies

An excerpt from the song by the late John Lennon goes: ‘Imagine there is no heaven’. For perhaps a minority of persons, it may not take much of an imagination to envisage ‘no heaven’, but for hundreds of millions of others, it is much easier and comforting to imagine that ‘there is heaven’.

As a person interested in general science and philosophical issues pertaining to science, it is easier for this writer to ‘imagine’ the Theia and the ‘Dinosaur and other species extinction’ (shall I now say?) scientific hypotheses with varying degrees of verifiability than the arcane string theory of quantum mechanics (or modern physics) and the multiverse as an (other) cosmological concept.

Neither imagination nor empirical verification (depending on its modes and methods as well as the content and contours of the subject being empirically investigated) is always necessarily a sufficient condition (though perhaps they are necessary ones) to verify the subject’s existence or reality. From this writer’s perusal of the topics and mainly using his imagination, readings and the reason for the historical sciences of the Moon formation and the main cause of Dinosaur and other species extinction is more convincing than the string theories and multiverse cosmologies.

Dr Myint Zan, a retired Pro-

fessor of Law, edited the book *Legal Education and Legal Tradition: Selected Essays published in 2020 by Springer Link.com*. He has established the Myint Zan Fellowship in Philosophy at one of his alma maters, The Australian National University for Early Career Researchers, for the years 2018 to 2021 and also at the ANU an undergraduate Myint Zan prize in the Philosophy of Science in perpetuity.

This article is dedicated to the memory of my late mother, Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin, (15 December 1923-19 June 2014), a retired Professor of Medicine who established the ‘Myint Myint Khin Scientific Literacy Award’ for Burmese authors who writes in the vernacular on science matters. The inaugural scientific literacy prize was awarded to the families of two late Burmese authors, Bhamo Tin Aung (9 June 1920-23 October 1978) and U Aye Maung (2 February 1914-11 May 2002) on 19 March 2014. The 2nd Myint Myint Khin scientific literacy prize was awarded on 7 May 2017 to the younger generation founders of the web ‘Curiosity Science Magazine’ who, in terms of age, are of two generations younger than the late authors whose families were the recipients of the inaugural Myint Myint Khin scientific literacy award.

Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 210,000 outpatients

TATMADAW keep providing healthcare services for the patients at the military hospitals and temporary treatment hospitals in the townships of regions and states.

The Tatmadaw medical teams comprising Tatmadaw doctors, specialists, medical assistants and nurses, have been giving medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 212,935 outpatients and 64,828 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts,

medics, medical assistants and nurses have conducted 9,946 major operations and 5,069 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 12,660 babies to date. Of those, 5,129 cases are done in the caesarean section and 7,531 cases in ordinary delivery.

In addition to providing medical care to patients in need of hospitalization, Tatmadaw is making arrangements for the well-being of hospitalized patients and caregivers. —MNA



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MADB to cover 43,000 acres of monsoon paddy in Kayin State with K6.5 bln loan



MYANMA Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) of the Ministry of Planning and Finance has projected to provide K6.5 billion worth of agricultural loans for the coming monsoon season in Kayin State. It will cover 43,000 acres of monsoon paddy.

The MADB branches will disburse farmers' loans for the monsoon season by paying out K150,000 per acre. The growers can take out loans for a maximum of ten acres. The loan maturity date is 15 April 2022.

Those farmers who have already paid off the previous loan will be prioritized in the loan application process.

The MADB provides annual agrarian loans to the small-scale farmers in order to have food self-sufficiency and export competitiveness for Myanmar's agricultural products, boost exports, promote interests of the farmers, and enhance their socio-economy, Manager U Thein Zaw of the Kayin State MADB (Hpa-an Branch) said. — IPRD/GNLM

The MADB branches will disburse farmers' loans for the monsoon season by paying out K150,000 per acre. The growers can take out loans for a maximum of ten acres.

Myanmar pharmaceutical imports top \$228.5 mln in five months

THE import value of Myanmar pharmaceutical products was estimated at US\$228.5 million in the five months (Oct-Feb) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to Myanmar Customs Department.

Myanmar imports 90 per cent of medicine and medical products through foreign markets, the Myanmar Chamber of Commerce for Pharmaceutical

& Medical Device (MCCPMD) stated.

India is the main supplier for Myanmar. Also, it is imported by Bangladesh, China, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, China (Taipei), Thailand, US and Viet Nam.

Trade has returned to normalcy after panic buying during the coronavirus pandemic. Most

commonly prescribed drugs are available in the market. Only some are out of stock for now. At present, pharmaceutical import is regularly flowing. However, the prices of pharmaceuticals were up by 5 to 10 per cent, owing to the dollar appreciation. The Ministry of Commerce has cut the red tape for imports of some pharmaceuticals which have been earlier imported. — KK/GNLM

Myanmar's border trade reaches \$6.36 bln in first 8 months of FY2020-21



Muse topped the list of border checkpoints with the most trade value of \$3.45 billion, followed by Myawady with \$941 million.

MYANMAR'S trade with foreign countries through border gates reached over US\$6.36 billion as of 7 May in the current financial year (FY) 2020-2021, which started in October, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period, the country's export via border gates amounted to \$4.32 billion while its import shared \$2.04 billion.

This FY's border trade dropped by over \$853 million, compared to the same period of the last FY2019-2020 when it amounted to \$7.21 billion, the ministry's figures said.

Muse topped the list of border checkpoints with the most trade value of \$3.45 billion, followed by Myawady with \$941 million.

The country conducts border trade with neighbouring

China through Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei gates, with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaung and with India through Tamu and Reed border gates, respectively.

According to the Commerce Ministry, from 1 Oct 2020 to 7 May 2021 of this FY, the country's foreign trade totalled over \$18.09 billion while its sea trade valued \$11.73 billion.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others to foreign trade partner countries. In contrast, capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported into the country. — ACM/GNLM

Green gram cultivation succeeds in Kyaukse

THE green gram cultivation has succeeded in Kyaukse township, Mandalay region, thanks to adequate rainfall. The local farmers are also happy with the abundant yield, according to the local growers.

Green grams are grown using irrigation water in Kyaukse township as a projected crop.

However, some farmers cultivate more green gram than their target because they can produce them tapping underground water.

The green grams are yielding thanks to growing within the boundary abundantly. It can be harvested every week. The green gram is a crop that the local farmers should raise because

the seeds could be dried under the sun and sold them back for a good price.

"This year, the green gram cultivation meets with success, achieving a good yield on account of sufficient rain. Last year, the local farmers had a yield of only 20 baskets per acre because of fewer rainfalls. But this year, the growers expect a higher yield of 30 baskets per acre. The green grams are priced at K23,000 per basket," said U Paw Thein, a green gram grower from Magyidaw village.

Last year, Kyaukse township grew nine acres of green gram in Station-1, 585 acres in Station-2, 376 acres in Station-3, 128 acres in Station-4, 15 acres in Station-5, 872 acres in Station-6, 544 acres in Station-8, 438 acres in Station-9, 34 acres in Station-10 and 42 acres in Station-12, according to the Township Agriculture Land Management and Statistics Department. — Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM



Green grams are grown using irrigation water in Kyaukse township as a projected crop.

World Bank to invest \$2 bn in African small businesses

THE World Bank announced Wednesday it will invest \$2 billion to support medium and small businesses in Africa and boost trade in the region as it recovers from the Covid-19 downturn.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the bank's development arm focused on private-sector development in emerging markets, will invest \$1 billion in direct financing for businesses and another \$1 billion in support of international trade finance.

The combined \$2 billion package is "among the IFC's largest ever commitments to specific



The World Bank is investing \$2 billion towards supporting businesses and international trade in Africa. **PHOTO: AFP**

initiatives in Africa," the corporation said, adding that Covid-19 "plunged the region into recession, reduced foreign direct investment flows and pushed millions more Africans into poverty".

"Long-term recovery will depend on getting funding to the pillars of the economy that need it today," IFC Managing Director Makhtar Diop said in a statement.

The announcement

came as French President Emmanuel Macron hosted a summit in Paris that includes African leaders and global financial institutions. Africa's populations have been less badly hit by the pandemic than other regions, with a total of nearly 130,000 dead compared with almost 3.4 million worldwide, according to the latest AFP tally from official sources.

But the economic cost has been devastating, with the International Monetary Fund warning in late 2020 that Africa faces a shortfall of \$290 billion up to 2023, undermining efforts at development. —AFP ■

UAE to allow full foreign ownership of firms

THE United Arab Emirates announced Wednesday it will lift a cap on non-local ownership and allow full foreign control of business ventures from June 1,

The reform, originally flagged in 2019, will make it easier to do business in the Gulf state and encourage investment, the economy ministry said.

"The amended Commercial Companies Law aims at boosting the country's competitive edge and is a part of UAE government efforts to facilitate doing business," said Economy Minister Abdulla bin Touq al-Marri.

The decision abolishes a longstanding law that limits foreign owner-

ship to just 49 per cent.

To dodge the limit, some of the seven emirates that make up the UAE -- including Dubai -- have for years established free trade zones where foreigners can own up to 100 per cent of their business.

The UAE's economy is the second-largest in the Arab world, behind Saudi Arabia.

It counts as the most diversified, particularly thanks to Dubai which gains 95 per cent of its income from outside the oil industry. The capital Abu Dhabi sits on the majority of the UAE's vast oil reserves.

The country ranks 16th in the World Bank's index on the ease of doing business. —AFP ■



Women wearing protective masks pose for a "selfie" in front of Burj Khalifa in Dubai. **PHOTO: AFP**

Highest bid for Blue Origin's maiden voyage \$2.6 million and climbing



The Jeff Bezos owned firm is targeting July 20 for the launch of its reusable suborbital rocket system New Shepard from its West Texas facility, the first time it will carry humans after 15 successful uncrewed tests. **PHOTO: AFP**

AN online bid for a seat aboard Blue Origin's first crewed spaceflight was going for \$2.6 million on Wednesday afternoon as the company prepares to blast off this summer. Would-be customers have until June 10 before the current phase ends, and the company will hold a live final round on June 12, with the proceeds going to the company's charitable foundation.

Jeff Bezos' space venture is targeting July 20 for the launch of its reusable suborbital rocket system New Shepard from its facility in west Texas.

It will be the first time

the company, founded in 2000, will carry humans after 15 successful uncrewed tests of the vehicle. The trip will last a total of ten minutes, four of which passengers will spend above the Karman line that marks the recognized boundary between Earth's atmosphere and space.

After lift-off, the capsule separates from its booster, then spends four minutes at an altitude exceeding 60 miles (100 kilometers), during which time up to six people on board experience weightlessness and can observe the curvature of Earth from space. —AFP ■

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Ford to unveil all-electric F-150 pickup

ONE DAY after winning an enthusiastic endorsement from President Joe Biden, Ford will officially preview the all-electric version of its best-selling F-150 truck on Wednesday.

The battery-powered Ford F-150 "Lightning" is part of the US auto giant's \$22 billion campaign to ramp up its electric vehicle offerings by 2025.

"This sucker's quick," Biden said Tuesday afternoon following a spin in the pickup in Dearborn, Michigan.

Ford is already selling an all-electric vehicle, the Mustang Mach-E sport utility vehicle, but the Lightning will be the first battery-powered incarnation of the F-150.

The F-150, first launched by Ford in 1948, has long been the top-selling US vehicle and a critical model for the 118-year-old company.

Ford has avoided releasing details about the auto ahead of the official launch at 9:30 pm Wednesday local time (01:30 GMT). —AFP ■

Bytedance billionaire CEO to leave post to 'read and daydream'

THE Chinese tycoon boss of TikTok parent Bytedance said Thursday that he will leave the role because he lacks managerial skills and preferred "reading and daydreaming" to running the tech giant.

Beijing has tightened the screws on China's booming tech sector, levying fines -- including on Bytedance last month -- for allegedly flouting monopoly rules, and issuing stark warnings to the coterie of billionaire digital bosses about their responsibilities to society.

Zhang Yiming, the co-founder of Bytedance -- which created the popular short video TikTok app -- said he will step down as CEO and transition to a new role by the end of the year focusing on "long-term strategy". Liang Rubo, with whom he set up the firm, will take over the role.

In an unusually candid open memo by one of Asia's new tech rich, Zhang said: "The truth is, I lack some of the skills that make an ideal manager.

"I'm more interested in analyzing organizational and market principles... than actually managing people."

The 38-year-old added that he is also "not very social, preferring solitary activities like being online, reading, listening to music, and daydreaming about what may be possible". —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PAN EDELWEISS

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PAN EDELWEISS VOY. NO. (085)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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: **2301928**

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Slovenia PM faces impeachment vote ahead of EU presidency

LESS than two months before Slovenia takes over the EU's rotating presidency, conservative Prime Minister Janez Jansa is battling fires at home and abroad – including an impeachment motion.

The vote in the Alpine country's parliament is the latest crisis for the combative 62-year-old, known for his support for former US president Donald Trump and his outspoken Twitter posts.

Four centre-left opposition parties have initiated the impeachment bid, alleging among other things that Jansa mismanaged the country's coronavirus response.

With the nation of two million suffering a relatively high



Jansa's critics say he has become increasingly authoritarian. PHOTO: AFP

proportion of pandemic deaths compared to other EU countries, the premier's public approval ratings have slumped to their lowest

point since he took office in March 2020.

Jansa's critics say his moves against media he deems hostile –

notably cutting off funding, which has also drawn Brussels' attention – resemble the tactics of his ally, nationalist Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Thousands have gathered during protests in central Ljubljana since late last month. Holding placards that read "Stop the dictator" and "Freedom to the people", they demand new elections.

"The foundations of the state of law have come more and more under attack," protest organizer Jasa Jenull told AFP.

The protests mark "a breaking point, a litmus test", showing an invigorated civil society movement, Ljubljana University professor of social psychology Vlado Miheljak told AFP. — AFP ■

Japan must 'radically' speed defence build-up: minister



French army soldiers walk into a Chinook helicopter during a joint military drill between Japan Self-Defence Force, French army and US Marines, at the Kirishima exercise area in Ebino, Miyazaki prefecture on May 15, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

TOKYO must boost its military at a "radically different pace" than in the past to counter Beijing's growing capacity, Japan's defence minister said in an interview published Thursday.

Nobuo Kishi warned the gap between Japan and China's military was "growing by the year," in an interview with the Nikkei newspaper.

"We must increase our defence capabilities at a radically different pace than in the past," he said, citing China's military spending as well as new areas of warfare including space, cyber and electromagnetics.

Japan's defence spending has tended to hover at around one percent of GDP, but Kishi said that spending would be guided by needs rather than caps.

"The security environment

surrounding Japan is changing rapidly with heightened uncertainty," the Nikkei quoted him as saying.

"We will properly allocate the funding we need to protect our nation."

Japan's post-war constitution limits the scope of its military to defensive power, and efforts to boost capacity have sometimes been controversial domestically.

Kishi's comments come with Japan increasingly concerned about the regional security environment and particularly China's growing assertiveness.

The military balance between Japan and China has "leaned heavily toward China in recent years, and the gap has been growing by the year," he told the paper. — AFP ■

WWII bomb found in Frankfurt safely detonated

A MASSIVE World War II bomb found in Germany's financial capital Frankfurt was safely detonated in the early hours of Thursday, the city's fire service said, allowing tens of thousands of evacuated residents to return to their homes.

The 500-kilogramme me unexploded bomb was unearthed during construction work on Wednesday in the densely populated Nordend area of the city, a location firefighters said made it a "particular challenge" to remove.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper reported the ordnance had been discovered right next to a children's playground at a depth of about two metres (6.5 feet).

Its report said the controlled blast, which happened

just after midnight, "sounded like thunder rumbling" and left a hole three metres deep and ten metres wide.

Firefighters said that they had covered the bomb with 40 truckloads of sand before detonating it, in order to minimise damage to the surrounding buildings.

Around 25,000 people had been asked to evacuate the area, including the occupants of a nearby community hospital's neonatal ward.

Among residents who took shelter at a skating rink was 29-year-old Tobias, carrying his pet cat in a cage.

He said he had heard the news over a police loudspeaker and been ordered to leave his home immediately, causing a "bit of stress". — AFP ■



25,000 people were evacuated from the densely populated Nordend area after the 500 kilogramme me bomb was unearthed during construction work. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

US and France tangle at UN over Middle East

THE conflict in the Middle East has stirred up a diplomatic stand-off at the United Nations between France and the United States, the first open tension between the two allies since President Joe Biden took power.

Despite guaranteed opposition from Washington, France proposed another draft UN Security Council resolution calling for the end of hostilities between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip.

According to the text obtained by AFP, the draft "demands an immediate cessation of hostilities" and calls for "intensification and acceleration of diplomatic efforts and support for a negotiated two-state solution". — AFP ■

Colombians protest ahead of talks with government

COLOMBIANS took to the streets Wednesday, on the eve of talks with the government, in a third week of demonstrations that have been marked by police abuses and dozens of civilian deaths.

The talks, due to resume Thursday, have stumbled over the government's reticence to renounce violence by the police, and on Wednesday Nobel Peace laureate Juan Manuel Santos, a former Colombian president, urged incumbent Ivan Duque to recognize the misuse of force. Thousands of people mobilized in Bogota, Cali, Medellin and other cities, with no early reports of clashes.

At least 42 people, mostly civilians, have died in clashes with security forces since demonstrations started on April 28, according to official figures, and more than 1,700 have been injured.

NGOS say the casualty number is higher.

"We need more gestures, we need more empathy and more humility, and for the state to recognize: 'look, we committed abuses,'" Santos told W Radio. — AFP ■

Japan to launch Europe-based squad for world cup qualifiers against Myanmar

THE Japan national football team has comprised an entire squad of European players for the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 Asian Cup second round qualifiers against the Myanmar national football team on 28 May.

As the European football season draws to a close these days, the Japan national team has selected a wide range of high-profile players across Europe, with up to 25 of the 26 players playing in there.

Popularly known as Japanese Messi, Kubo is already familiar to Myanmar football fans, and other veteran players were included in the squad.

The full players' list are Eiji

Kawashima from RC Strasbourg (France), Daniel Schmidt from Sint-Truidense VV (Belgium), Kosuke Nakamura from Portimonense (Portugal), Hiroki Sakai from Olympique Marseille (France), Yukinari Sugawara from AZ Alkmaar (Netherlands), Daiki Hashioka from Sint-Truidense VV (Belgium), Sei Muroya from Hannover 96 (Germany), Maya Yoshida from UC Sampdoria (Italy), Takehiro Tomiyasu from Bologna FC (Italy), Yuta Nakayama from PEC Zwolle (Netherlands), Yuto Nagatomo from Olympique Marseille (France), Hidemasa Morita from CD Santa Clara (Portugal), Wataru Endo from Stuttgart (Germany), Ken-



Japan national football team has selected a wide range of high-profile players across Europe. Photo: Japan Football

to Hashimoto from FK Rostov (Russia), Ko Itakura from FC Groningen (the Netherlands), Genki Haraguchi from Hannover 96 (Germany), Koji Miyoshi from Royal Antwerp (Belgium), Taku-

mi Minamino from Southampton FC (England), Keita Endo from Union Berlin (Germany), Ritsu Doan from Bielefeld (Germany), Takefusa Kubo from Getafe CF (Spain), Daichi Kamada from

Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany), Yuya Osako from Werder Bremen (Germany) and Takuma Asano who is a unattached footballer from free agent.

Japan and Myanmar will play in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers on 28 May in Chiba, Japan.

A host country in each group will play the remaining matches and the Group F matches in Japan, according to Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has announced that the Myanmar team will play the remaining three matches of the World Cup qualifiers, and all the matches will be played with their best. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Juventus win Italian Cup for 14th time as fans return

DETHRONED league champions Juventus beat Atalanta 2-1 to win the Italian Cup for the 14th time on Wednesday as fans returned to the stadium for the first time in over a year.

Goals in either half from Dejan Kulusevski and Federico Chiesa gave coach Andrea Pirlo his second trophy of the season after the Italian Super Cup, on the day he turned 42.

Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini was denied a first trophy of his coaching career, and Atalanta's second trophy after the 1963 Coppa Italia.

It was a boost for Juventus who go into the final weekend of the season with their Champions League qualification going down to the wire after Inter Milan ended their nine-year league reign.

Gianluigi Buffon was in the Juventus goal for the final time in his career and the veteran keeper was solid on the night winning his



Dethroned league champions Juventus beat Atalanta 2-1 to win the Italian Cup for the 14th time on Wednesday as fans returned to the stadium for the first time in over a year. PHOTO: AFP

sixth Coppa Italia 22 years after his first with Parma.

The veteran pulled off a big save just after kickoff at the Mapei Stadium in Reggio Emilia.

Duvan Zapata had pulled back for Jose Luis Palomino with 43-year-old Buffon using his legs to stop the ball.

Zapata pounced on a sloppy Matthijs De Ligt back-pass but Buffon again cleared after quarter of an hour and denied Hans Hateboer after 35 minutes.

Despite the Bergamo side's early domination Juve made the breakthrough after half an hour. — AFP ■

Moyes urges West Ham to complete European mission

WEST Ham manager David Moyes has urged his players to round off an impressive campaign in style by beating Southampton on Sunday to secure a Europa League spot.

The Hammers, who beat relegated West Brom 3-1 on Wednesday, need a point in their final game of the season at home to ensure sixth spot and a place in European football's second-tier competition.

That would be their highest finish since 1999, when they ended up in fifth spot.

West Ham are three points better off than Tottenham and Everton, and Everton have a significantly inferior goal difference.

Spurs face a tough away trip to Leicester after their lacklustre performance in the 2-1 home loss to Aston Villa

on Wednesday.

But Moyes wants his team to secure their place in style.

"It is (close) and I'm delighted but it's not done," said the 58-year-old. "I'll go away, we'll sit back and enjoy it but we know we have to be in charge and win the game. If we win the game there's no danger.

"We have been playing really well. Tonight (Wednesday) we didn't but we found another way of winning.

"We're beginning to get a group who can find ways of winning depending on what type of game it is."

The former Everton and Manchester United boss has enjoyed a career renaissance in his second spell at West Ham and is in talks over a long-term contract. — AFP ■

Maradona doctors face premeditated murder charge over star's death: source

SEVEN people under investigation over the November death of Argentine footballing legend Diego Maradona face charges of premeditated murder, AFP has learned from a judicial source.

The accused -- which include Maradona's neurosurgeon Leopoldo Luque, psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov and psychologist Carlos Diaz -- face

eight to 25 years in prison if found guilty.

The indictment is based on findings by a board of experts into Maradona's death from a heart attack last year, a source from the San Isidro Attorney General's Office, which is leading the investigation, said Wednesday.

That report concluded that the footballing icon received

inadequate medical care and was left to his fate for a "prolonged, agonizing period" before his death, which came just weeks after undergoing brain surgery on a blood clot. "After so many injustices, the case has come full circle," the source told AFP.

The accused are prohibited from leaving the country and must appear ahead of an

inquiry between May 31 and June 14.

The legal proceedings were prompted by a complaint filed by two of Maradona's five daughters against Luque, who they blamed for their father's deteriorating condition after the brain surgery.

Prosecutors believe Maradona's death was not the result of malpractice or negligent ac-

tions of his doctors, but that they knew the former soccer star would die and did nothing to prevent it.

The prosecutors obtained a series of messages and audio that show that the medical team were aware that Maradona was using alcohol, psychiatric medication and marijuana in the last months of his life. — AFP ■