Only when every citizen has the will to build a better country will the country have prosperity: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

The Tatmadaw did not commit the coup d’état but manages the State responsibilities to guarantee democracy.

STATE ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC 11/2021 meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 May 2021.

The Tatmadaw did not commit the coup d’état but manages the State responsibilities to guarantee democracy.

STATE ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC 11/2021 meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 May 2021.

The Tatmadaw did not commit the coup d’état but manages the State responsibilities to guarantee democracy.
Good morning

- First, may I extend my loving-kindness to
- All highly-respected Venerable monks
- All Buddhist brothers and sisters around the world
- All strata of world people,
- and particularly to the people of the Union of Myanmar with a wish that you all be free from the Three Catastrophes of Diseases, Weapons and Famine. According to the Buddha, “Greed, Anger and Ignorance” are the root-causes of the said three catastrophes. So, I wish all people of the Myanmar manage to control these three root-causes in order that they would lead happy lives daily.

Today is the 2610th Birthday Anniversary of the Buddha, also known as the Buddha’s Day. Today, which is the Threefold Sacred day, is the most significant and auspicious day for the Buddhist World since Prince Siddhattha Gotama was born, attained Supreme Enlightenment and passed into final demise on this very full-moon day of Kason, known as “Vesaka Punnima”, better known as “Vesakha” in the Buddhist world. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity of expressing my special thanks to the Buddhist Associations around the world for organizing this great occasion in honour of the Buddha.

As a matter of fact, Buddha and his Dhamma were born in India. It is just a matter of pride and honour for Asians since not only the Buddha, but also the Founders of other religions were born in Asia. I think it is not hyperbolic if I say Asia is the Noble Continent.

It has been over 2564 years since the Buddha perished. However, the Dhamma torch He lit, which originated in India, has spread to all parts of the globe, and is still flourishing. I would, here, like to stress that it is the duty of all Buddhists for the Dhamma light the Buddha lit not to fade away, not to extinguish but to be shining brighter than before instead.

Here, I would like to quote a piece of the Buddha’s teachings which said:
Due to greed, hatred, anger and delusion in the hearts of humans,
- the whole world is trembling and shaking
- the whole world is smoky
- the whole world is internally burning
- the whole world is totally ablaze with flames
- the whole world is needy

So, I would like to strongly urge that with systematic and sustainable practice of the Buddha’s teachings,
- Let’s change the unstable world to a stable one
- Let’s purify the world by removing the smokes of defilements
- Let’s put out the internal and external burnings of the whole world
- Let’s fulfill the needs of the people

With this earnest appeal, I conclude my Buddha’s Day message.

May the sublime Dhamma prevail in its pristine purity in every corner of the world.

Thank you.

Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Nañissara
Vice-Sangha Raja of Shwekyin Nikaya Buddhist Order
Abhidhammaharuttthaguru, Abhidhaagamahasaddhammajotika Ph.D., D.Litt.,
Founder of Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Association,
Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies, Patron of Sitagu Ayudana and Sekkhu Dhana Hospitals,
Chairman of the Board of Directors of Theravada Dhamma Society of America
To educate the people for systematic littering

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.

(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 (Haing on 21 May 2021))

Only when every citizen has the will to build a better ...

FROM PAGE-1

There are more than 90 parties in the country based on politics, regions and ethnic nationals. They need to carry out politics in unison without diverse concepts. If they do not have unity, they face difficulties in restoring peace and stability. Politicians and media should not commit incitements and spread fake news. The peacemaking process goes on as it is necessary to cease armed conflicts among the ethnic nationals for restoring peace and stability based on security measures.

The council needs to carry out peace and stability of the State, ensure food sufficiency and resurge the economy. It is necessary to undertake agriculture and livestock tasks suitable for the respective regions to improve the rural economy. Encouragements must be given to reoperate the suspended businesses and develop cotton cultivation to produce industrial materials.

Emphasis must be placed on generating hydropower without environmental impacts. Efficient use of water and sufficient electrification will help develop the nation. River water pumping projects must be implemented to improve the agricultural tasks. The government, the political parties, and all citizens need to work in concert to fulfill the nation’s needs.

The council members discussed matters pertaining to effective security measures for reopening of schools, declaration of martial law orders in some townships, exposing those who keep a large amount of money in hand with unscrupulous attempts, the rapid response of media, taking security for the people through public strength, and disciplines.

Service Personnel Law, Rules and disciplines.

Tatmadaw keep providing health care 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 218,197 outpatients and 66,193 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medical assistants and nurses have conducted 10,183 major operations and 5,201 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment for the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 12,919 babies to date. Of those, 5,233 cases are done in the caesarean section and 7,686 cases in ordinary delivery.

Moreover, Shan State Administration Council Chairman Dr Kyaw Tun and North-East Command Commander Brig.-Gen Naing Naing Oo and party offered words of encouragement to the patients—locals, military officers, other ranks and their families—who took medical treatments at station military hospital in Lashio Town, Shan State (North) and gave foodstuffs.

Officials received K3 million which donated by Shan State Administration Council to purchase medicines for the local patients who had treatments at the military hospital.

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

"National discipline starts at schools". It is necessary to initiate the disciplines for the nationals, and students need to abide by school disciplines. The students should pay attention to learning. Disciplines must be realized in respective arenas. Suppose anyone does not follow the law in a democracy. In that case, it is impossible to restore the rule of law and to implement free, fair and clean democracy.

Suppose anyone does not follow the law in a democracy. In that case, it is impossible to restore the rule of law and to implement free, fair and clean democracy.

Emphasis must be placed on improving the rural economy. In the country, it is necessary to undertake agricultural tasks such as plantations to produce industrial materials.

To improve the agricultural tasks, the rapid response of media, taking security for the people through public strength, and disciplines.

In line with the motto:

“National discipline starts at schools”, it is necessary to initiate the disciplines for the nationals, and students need to abide by school disciplines. The students should pay attention to learning. Disciplines must be realized in respective arenas. Suppose anyone does not follow the law in a democracy. In that case, it is impossible to restore the rule of law and to implement free, fair and clean democracy. It is necessary to turn out many educated persons and disseminate the knowledge to each other in the nation to ensure the rule of law. Only when every citizen has the will to build a better country will the country have prosperity. In order to do so, the education sector needs sound foundations. The Senior General invited suggestions from regions and states for the people to have the resurgence of the economy and food sufficiency.

—MNA

Tatmadaw provides treatment to over 210,000 outpatients

TATMAWD keep providing health care 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 218,197 outpatients and 66,193 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medical assistants and nurses have conducted 10,183 major operations and 5,201 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment for the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 12,919 babies to date. Of those, 5,233 cases are done in the caesarean section and 7,686 cases in ordinary delivery.

Moreover, Shan State Administration Council Chairman Dr Kyaw Tun and North-East Command Commander Brig.-Gen Naing Naing Oo and party offered words of encouragement to the patients—locals, military officers, other ranks and their families—who took medical treatments at station military hospital in Lashio Town, Shan State (North) and gave foodstuffs.

Officials received K3 million which donated by Shan State Administration Council to purchase medicines for the local patients who had treatments at the military hospital.

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
Trials begin for former President, State Counsellor, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman

The hearings of former President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung were conducted at the special court of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

Former President U Win Myint was charged under the Natural Disaster Management Law Section 25 at Zabuthiri Township court for violating COVID-19 restrictions as he welcomed the election car campaign containing 760 people in 220 cars and on 32 motorcycles at the gate of his presidential residence on 19 September 2020.

Similarly, former State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was charged under the Natural Disaster Management Law Section 25 for welcoming the election car campaign at her house on 19 September 2020 and organizing a door-to-door election campaign in Shwekyarbin Ward of Zabuthiri Township by breaching the COVID-19 restriction on 8 August 2020. She also faced additional charges under Section 67 of the Telecommunications Law and Section 8 of Export and Import Law at Zabuthiri Township court for the illegal importation of 10 radio communication devices and 1 set of Jammer on 1 February 2021.

Moreover, the letter of NLD CEC sent to foreign embassies, EU and international organizations not to cooperate with the military junta, and President U Win Myint is the country’s official government on 7 February 2021 and notification No 6/02/21 affected the state community. Therefore, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Win Myint and Dr Myo Aung were prosecuted under the Penal Code Section 505 (b) at Zabuthiri township court.

The hearings of U Win Myint, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Dr Myo Aung were carried on at the special court in Nay Pyi Taw Council office compound, and they were sent to the court. They were also allowed to meet their lawyers. Further hearings will proceed according to the law. — MNA

CBM governor virtually joins 49th ACU’s BOD meeting

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor U Than Nyin joined the virtual meeting of the 49th Asian Clearing Union’s Board of Directors yesterday.

The meeting chair Bhutan firstly made an opening speech and transferred the chairmanship to India. Then, the leaders kept holding the ACU Board of Directors meeting.

The meeting discussed matters pertaining to the economic status of ACU member countries, efforts and reports of ACU Secretary-General in trading among the member countries in 2020FY, the important role of non-bank financial institutions, proper methods to resolve the current challenges, hardships of exporters and importers who adopt ACU system and building of Web-based Application.

They also focused on ACU Agreement and Procedure Rules regarding the use of Japanese Yen in ACU system, payment and clearing system of ACU and nomination of ACU chair and vice chair for 2022-2023.

The ACU member countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. – MNA

State Administration Council Press Release
Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who arrive in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries with worries because of incitement and intimidation of NLD members, the extremists who support that party, CRPH unlawful association, incitement of CDM and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since after 1 February 2021 when the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibility.

2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of CRPH unlawful association and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in their areas, they wish to return to their native lands.

3. As those who evaded from their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from evaded areas to various regions of Myanmar.

4. Information was released that if those who evaded to various areas except the persons who committed any kinds of crime wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord, the citizens abroad are to contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates without facing action taken in accord with the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council
THE Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw, held a School Enrolment Day ceremony for the 2021-2022 academic year at B.E.H.S 9 in Zabuthiri Township yesterday.

The students of B.E.H.S 5 opened the ceremony with the song ‘Kyawng-at-hnan-yay-thidin-pat’. Then, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe said the school enrolment day is celebrated from 24 to 31 May across the nation. The students’ parents will be satisfied with the reopening of schools on 1 June. The parents should not believe the spreading fake news like the officials will collect money for school admissions. The respective officials and teachers should give accurate information in a timely manner.

He then said that all the teachers are civil service personnel and should be free from party politics and perform their duties whatever the government is. He also highlighted the vital role of teachers in guiding students with the lessons stated in the school textbooks and ensuring that every child will have access to education regardless of wealth or not.

Then, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing briefed all on the preparations for the reopening of 757 schools in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 June and security measures for teachers and students. Union Minister and party handed over the books and textbooks to the respective township education officers.

The students of B.E.H.S 9 in Zabuthiri Township sang “Zarti-man.”

The Union Minister and party then inspected the school enrolment processes and comforted the students’ parents. —MNA

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 143,262 after 28 new cases were reported on 24 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,218 have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA
YANGON Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe and members attended the School Enrolment Day ceremony held at No (4) Basic Education High School yesterday morning in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region.

The chairman said that when schools reopen, there may be harassment by fraudsters in various ways. He urged all to coordinate among teachers, parents, authorities and volunteers to respond in the best way. He also said to teachers to discharge the duties and responsibilities given by the State and work well as civil servants.

Student textbooks, note books and COVID-19 protective materials were distributed to the school. The chairman and officials also encouraged the enrolment situation at No (4) Basic Education High School in Ahlon Township and No (2) Basic Education High School in Latha Township.

Chairpersons of District Administration bodies and District Education Officers attended the School Enrolment Day ceremonies held at No (1) Basic Education High School, Thuwunna in Eastern Yangon District, No (1) Basic Education High School, Thanlyin Township in South Yangon District; No (1) Basic Education High School, Insein in North Yangon District.

The School Enrolment Day ceremonies were held in schools at Yangon Region to ensure that all school-age children access education in this academic year yesterday. — MNA

Textbooks, note books and COVID protective materials are distributed free to students.
School enrolment week kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw

BASIC Education Schools in Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory began the enrolment processes yesterday morning, and teachers conducted temperature check and distributed masks. They arranged for students to stay 6 feet apart from each other during the enrolment process.

Deputy Director Daw Myint Myint Khine said the Nay Pyi Taw Education Office inspected basic education schools, monastic schools and private schools according to 35 guidelines (version 4.0) of the Ministry of Health and Sports. Inspection on schools includes 6 feet spacing arrangement at school entrances, 4 feet distancing seats at classrooms, hand gel, face shields and masks, adequate supply of disinfectants for spraying, good ventilation and healthcare facilities in line with the set guidelines.

School buses are also arranged for the students. Full security is provided where necessary to ensure peaceful education in basic education schools, she added.

In addition to no charge for enrolment, textbooks, one dozen note books and four pencils are provided to primary level students. Readers, one dozen note books, two pencils and two pens are presented to middle and high school students. Moreover, every student and teacher is supplied with two reusable masks and one face shield.

Daw Khin Thein Myint, who came to No (9) Basic Education High School to enrol her children, said, “There is no charge for the enrolment. And the State provides the necessary paper, pencil, mask and face shields. I see that everyone who comes to the school today is happy. I am also satisfied with the preparations for COVID-19 disease.”

She also urged parents to come and enrol in the schools with the appreciation of the State’s goodwill, adding that parents have to provide the education to their children.

It is reported that members of the Myanmar Police Force and relevant township administration bodies are also providing security for the safety of the students and teachers on duty.

There are 757 basic education schools, 28 monastic education schools, and 74 private schools in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Teachers, school heads and officials from the Ministry of Education have worked together to reopen schools that have been closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Schools will be reopened on 1 June following the COVID-19 rules and regulations, and school enrolment week is set from 24 to 31 May across the country.

— Naing Aung/GNLM
Kason: the month of the festival of pouring water on the Bodhi tree

By Dr Khin Maung Nyunt (Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu)

Watering banyan trees, a tradition in preserving Myanmar’s Buddhas

Buddhists

Banyan trees are growing across Myanmar, giving large shade and greening where humans and animals can take shelter in any season. Banyan trees seldom fall in any season owing to strong roots and natural disasters because of large trunks and long-length strengthening roots. Large banyan trees are essential for society due to mitigating the environment from being affected by natural disasters or man-made situations.

As the full moon day of Kason that generally falls in May, dedicating to the preaching of the Lord Buddha, who attained the given enlightenment and meditation under a banyan tree, the month of Kason, the 4th month in the Myanmar calendar, is involved in the summer. All Buddhists are expected to observe the merit-making occasion at the banyan trees across the nation.

Buddhist people have been enjoying the festival of pouring water on banyan trees since the reign of King U Thong, who came onto the throne of Pinya City State in the 10th century. It is centered on about 255 Buddhist festivals and ceremonies, classified as a kind of Paribha-ga (knowing) and ‘perceiving’. Maha Bodhi tree is considered as a kind of Paribha-ga in which devotees regard such trees and worshipped, and believers are scared of chopping trees with such regard.

In solitude of the month of Kason, the worship of boiling water on the Bodhi tree (Ficus religiosa) is observed as a special thanks-giving in Myanmar, as it brought many Hindu deities, in addition to Hindu Brahmanism arrived here, by the kings of the Kalinga Jataka of the 13th Nipata, in the Buddhist literature pertaining to the Buddhist in origin and not connected with the Hinduism.

Buddhas attained enlightenment under big shady trees and major events in the last life of Gautama Buddha took place in the forests, devotees such regard trees and forested sacred as trees, and they respect these. Withthabha Buddha became enlightenment under the Sal tree (Pentacema sphenom) Kassana- da Buddha became enlightenment under the Kelki tree (Alstonia scholaris), Kassapa Buddha under the Vethalpa tree (Ficus religiosa), Kassapa Buddha under the Banyan tree (Ficus indica) and Gautama Buddha under the Bodhi tree (Ficus religiosa).

In fact, the trees under which Bud- dhists attained ‘Omniscience’ are called Mahā Bodhi tree. Bodhi is a Pali word meaning ‘knowledge’ or ‘perceiving’. Mahā Bodhi tree is classified as a kind of Paribha-ga in which devotees regard such trees and worshipped, and believers are scared of chopping trees with such regard.

As part of efforts to pay homage to the Paribha-ga, water is poured at banyan trees. On the other hand, such movements aim to thrive banyan trees in the hot season, in line with the De- votion of water pouring ceremony at banyan trees has turned banyan trees as a festival in the tradition. Up to now, such tradition is involved in the summer.

As the Paribha-ga Ceti. As the Lord Buddha attained the Enlight- enment under the shade of a Bo tree called banyan tree, it can be identified as Paribha-ga Ceti.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

According to the observation, at 137:26 hrs MT today, the Cyclonic Storm “YAKA” over the Eastern Coastal Bay of Bengal. It is centered on about 255 Nautical miles Northwest of Cyclonic Storm “YAKA”, which is moving in an East-Northeast direction at an approximate speed of 8.0 knots, about (60) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Digha (India). It is forecast to move North-Northwestwards and intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm during next 12hrs and Very Severe Cyclonic Storm during next 24hrs. Maximum is strong over the Andaman Sea and Northeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

Yangon Region Administration Council

Yangon Region Administration Council is working with rele- vant departments and agencies in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their most immediate business and investments which are facing some delays and working for new businesses.

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council

Public information

BAY INFORMATION: According to the observations at 137:26 hrs MT today, the Cyclonic Storm “YAKA” over the Eastern Coastal Bay of Bengal. It is centered on about 255 Nautical miles Northwest of Cyclonic Storm “YAKA”, which is moving in an East-Northeast direction at an approximate speed of 8.0 knots, about (60) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Digha (India). It is forecast to move North-Northwestwards and intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm during next 12hrs and Very Severe Cyclonic Storm during next 24hrs. Maximum is strong over the Andaman Sea and Northeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID until AFTERNOON of 25 May 2021

Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sajing, Magway region and Kayah State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay region, Yangon region and the Shan State, scattered in the provinces and states as mentioned below.

Yangon Region Administration Council

Phupha and Eastern Shan States and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy downpours in Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Sagaing regions and Northern Shan, Bhamo, and Mohnir. Degree of certainty is (85%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with very rough waves will be experienced in South China Sea, and off and along Bakkine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 45-48 mph. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mog, off and along Mon-Tanbi-Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 45-50 mph. Waves will be height about (13-15) ft in Dolfina, off and along Bakkine Coast, and (12-13) ft in Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanbi-Coast. Surface wind speed is (85%) certain. Forcast for NAY PYI TAW and NEIGHBOURING AREA: Light to moderate likelihood of isolated rain or thun- dershowers. Degree of certainty is (90%).

Forecast for YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA: Light to moderate likelihood of isolated rain or thun- dershowers. Degree of certainty is (90%).

Yangon Region Administration Council

The Global New Light of Myanmar
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Section of Penal Code</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Daw Kathy Khine  (Senior Sister)</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw Hospital</td>
<td>Natmauk, Magway Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Daw Tint Tint (Sister)</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw Hospital</td>
<td>Pobahthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Daw San Myint Yi (Sister)</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw Hospital</td>
<td>Sagaing Town, Sagaing Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Daw Yu Wah Win (Senior Nurse)</td>
<td>Kawthoung Hospital</td>
<td>Dawei Town, Taninthayi Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Daw Hnin Pwint Hlaing (Senior Nurse)</td>
<td>Kawthoung Hospital</td>
<td>Dawei Town, Taninthayi Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image5.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Section of Penal Code</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dr Hlaing Tun Aung</td>
<td>Lecturer, University of Magway, Magway Town</td>
<td>Magway Town, Magway Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image6.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dr Zaw Latt</td>
<td>Lecturer, Yadana-bon University, Amarapura Township</td>
<td>Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image7.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>U Thaw Zin Oo</td>
<td>Lecturer, Technological University (Pakokku), Pakokku Town</td>
<td>Pakokku Town, Magway Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image8.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>U Aung Myo Win</td>
<td>Lecturer, University of Shwebo, Shwebo Town</td>
<td>Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image9.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>U Lal Ram Lawmya</td>
<td>Lecturer, University of Kalay, Kalay Town</td>
<td>Kalay Town, Sagaing Region</td>
<td>505-a</td>
<td><img src="image10.jpg" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The rite of pouring water on the Bodhi tree began on the day of the attainment of Myanmar independence, 4th January 1948. Next to it on the right is the Bodhi tree planted in 1905. Both brought from Buddhagaya. There is another Bodhi tree at the southeast corner (Tuesday Direction) with a brick platform around it. It was planted by Head monk Meidet Saydaw. It is at this tree that the ceremony of pouring water on Kason full-moon day takes place annually.

The rite of pouring water on the Bodhi tree began on the date of the arrival of its seeds on the Bodhi tree. The Earliest mention of this rite was in the Ka-chin song of the Pinya Period (pots in which water and flowers are placed when offering to places where there is abundance of damsel water. This merit is regarded as a life-saving act of charity. Many Myanmar folk rhymes and songs describe Kason festival. Letwethondara composed a ratu song titled ‘Water to the banyan tree. Myamar chronicles and literature had mention of the pouring of water at the Banyan tree. Myanamar chronicles and literature have accounts of the royal performance of this rite on the full moon day of Kason. Lawka Byu Har or Inyone Sardan a famous Treatise on Court Ceremonies and Festivals compiled by Minister Thiri Uzana of Inwa Period, described how the King and his court participated in the rite of water-pouring at the Bodhi Tree and the festivities that followed it. But Kason festival is not confined to the Court. It is a public event in which peoples from all walks of life take part. In every Buddhist house, there is the family altar with a Buddha image, and on it are placed three pots called Nyaung Ye Oh (pots in which water and flowers are placed as a religious offering) dedicated to the Buddha, Dhamma (Teachings) and Sangha (Pure disciple). There is an old Myanmar greeting, “I pray for your health and happiness by offering Thabyae (Eugena) sprigs to the Buddha and pouring water on the Banyan tree!” Many Myanmar folk rhymes and songs describe Kason festival. These are the pieces of evidence to prove that it is a public festival. One noted court poet and Minister of Konbaung Period named Lewthewhanda composed a raktu verse while he was in exile at the Meza Hill near Katha. In the second stanza, he described the Kason Nyaung Ye festival as he saw it in the local village. The first few lines run as follow.

ပွဲခါညောင် ဉာက္ဉာက္ သိသိသာ သွန်မြဲ ညောင် ညောင် ကြည့် လည်း ဗုဒ္ဓာ လည်း ဗုဒ္ဓာ ညောင် ညောင် ၊

At the Nyaung Ye Festival Meza people all devote Duly fall in prayer and pour Water to the banyan tree. Today the best places to watch The ceremony of watering on Bo tree at the month of Kason and participate in it are Shwedagon Pagoda precinct, Yangon, Bawdikone Pagoda and Shwe Kyet Yet Pagoda in and near Mandalay and other famous pagodas with Bodhi trees. The ceremony takes place early in the morning or in the evening. The ceremony held at the southeast corner of the Shwedagon pagoda precinct is traditional and grand. Brilliant pageantry proceeds the procession of colourfully dressed participants carrying pots of water and Eugena sprigs and flowers. Chanting of Purita and administering of moral precepts by monks, a brief explanation of the rite, recitation of Pali poems praising the Lord Buddha allows the Lord Buddha follow one after another. Then begins the pouring of water at the foot of the Bodhi Tree. Organized groups composing mostly of damels com in by turn and pour water, singing hymns. The highlights of the occasion that create a festive atmosphere are the feast and entertainment. Light refreshments are served gratis to all, and music, song and dance performed by amateurs and merry-makers keep up the festive mood. Brilliant pageantry proceeds the procession of Vaisakha New Year pagoda in the countrywide Kason festival is held at the village pagoda or monastery where there is a Bodhi Tree. Mirthful processions of village maidens in their best are seen skillfully balancing on their heads water pots as they wend their way with measured steps to the sacred Bodhi tree to perform the water pouring rite. Behind them follow a party of joyful village youths playing wind and percussion instruments to produce sonorous music. It provides a social occasion for young people to meet each other.

On this occasion of the Kason festival, it is the customary practice of Myanmar Buddhists to remove the fishes and turtles from nearby dry ponds and lakes to places where there is abundant water. This merit is regarded as a life-saving act of charity. In ecological paranse Kason festival of watering trees and saving fishes may be taken as a sort of public activity in the preservation of the natural environment.

Demise: The ultimate passing away of Buddhas and Person of Supreme-Saintliness (arahant)

Police arrest insurgents, associates in bomb attacks in Mandalay

The police arrested the people who committed the handmade bomb attacks on public roads of Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region and other suspects together with the explosive materials yesterday.

Two men riding a motorcycle threw a handmade bomb into a shop called ‘RD Mobile’ at the corner of 59th street and Manawhari street of Kan-thayar Ward of Chanmyathazi Township yesterday. Furniture of mobile phone shop and a light truck were damaged in the explosion. The security forces conducted an investigation and arrested Pyae Phyoo and Wai Yan (aka) Shain Lay, who live in Thinpankone Ward of Pyigyitagon Township, at the corner of 59th and 108th streets of Kan-thayar Ward.

They testified to the officials that Nga Pyae (aka) Myo Hlaing Win from Pyigyitagon Township gave them K50,000 per bomb to explode, so they committed such bomb attacks. Then, the police raided the house of Nga Pyae (aka) Myo Hlaing Win and only found the materials used in the riot. According to the words of other detainees, the security forces raided the low-cost housing in Myayi Nandar Ward of Chanmyathazi Township. They arrested six men and three women, including Arkar, together with explosive and anti-government materials. The officials will take actions against those who committed the bomb attacks and other participants – eight men and three women, including Pyae Pyo under the law. — MNA

Woman arrested with explosives in Monywa, security forces continue seizing illegal weapons

SECURITY forces arrested a woman suspect together with a box in which 80 cartridges of NEOGLE 90 brand, 290 detonators and one 25-metre-long detonating fuse in Monywa, Sagaing Region, on 23 May.

The box was found in the “Aung Mingala” bus while the bus was under search, and according to the driver, it belonged to a woman named Sein Le Ye, 29, who later was arrested when she came to pick it up near Aung Mahar road, Htan Taw ward, Monywa. Similarly, two guerilla clothes, two homemade bombs, six plastic shields, five fibre helmets and other related items were confiscated from the base- ment and hut in the west of Sin Oh Bo monastery in the 9th street, Shwe Chi ward in Pyinma- na Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning. It is reported that plans are underway to take actions against the perpetrators of the crimes. — MNA

Security measures conducted to ensure community peace

TATMADAW, Police Force and Fire Brigade jointly conducted security measures to ensure the State’s stability, security of people, the rule of law and community peace starting 14 Feb- ruary night.

Tatmadaw, police and fire brigade members also jointly conduct security measures for the peaceful night and community peace in respective regions and states and keep serving security measures the whole day. — MNA
Muse border market sees a dip in rice export price

THE prices of rice and broken rice exported to China via the Muse land border are falling, said Vice-Chair U Min Thein of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

In early April, the broken rice fetched 120 Yuan per bag. The low-quality rice was priced 137-142 Yuan per bag depending on varieties (Ngasein, Thukha and Shintong). Over one month later, the price dipped to 117 Yuan for broken rice and 128-137 Yuan for other rice varieties in May, according to Muse Rice Wholesale Centre. China Customs granted licences to 47 Myanmar companies on 26 February 2021 to legally export the rice to China through Muse land border this year.

The authorized companies for rice export to China increased this year as against last year. However, the permitted volume of rice for exports has not been confirmed yet, he added.

Myanmar traders are delivering rice to China through the Muse border under new permits at present. Nevertheless, limited money withdrawal permitted by the private banks is disrupting the rice exports.

Myanmar shipped more than 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign countries over Q1 (1 October and 15 January) of the current financial year 2020-2021 and earned over US$275 million, Myanmar Rice Federation stated.

The border trade handled over 308,000 tonnes of rice, while maritime trade covered over 418,000 tonnes in Q1.

False earthstar sellers get high price this year

THE false earthstar, commonly known as the hygroscopic earthstar, and the barometer earthstar are earning high prices this year compared to last year. The natural false earthstar from Pinlebu, Wuntho and Kawlin townships from the Sagaing region started entering the Kawlin town market.

The false earthstar is grown annually in mushroom nests. This season sees the wholesale traders and retail sellers earning high prices this year as against last year. However, the permitted volume of rice for exports has not been confirmed yet, he added.

Myanmar traders are delivering rice to China through the Muse border under new permits at present. Nevertheless, limited money withdrawal permitted by the private banks is disrupting the rice exports.

Myanmar shipped more than 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign countries over Q1 (1 October and 15 January) of the current financial year 2020-2021 and earned over US$275 million, Myanmar Rice Federation stated.

The border trade handled over 308,000 tonnes of rice, while maritime trade covered over 418,000 tonnes in Q1.

Sesame seeds export tops US$272.79 mn in five months

MYANMAR'S sesame seeds export has earned US$272.79 million in five months (Oct-Feb) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to data released by Myanmar Customs Department.

The price of sesame seeds is rising a bit for now owing to the appreciation of the dollar. At present, the black sesame seeds (Samone variety) fetched K120,000-148,000 per bag, and white sesame seeds were priced at K115,000-120,000 per bag, Mandalay depot stated.

Last year, the sesame prices dropped by over 20 per cent compared with the prices in the previous years due to the COVID-19 negative impacts. Consequently, the growers do not make a large profit this year, said a trader from the Mandalay market. Typically, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is a leading buyer of Myanmar sesame.

It is also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland, among the EU countries. The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Trade Promotion Organization. Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practic-es (GAP), and purchased them after a quality assessment.

Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are also exported to South Korea and Japan. Meanwhile, China buys various coloured sesame seeds from the country. This year, Japan has not purchased Myanmar’s sesame yet. Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. The Magway Region, which has grown in Myanmar, is the primary producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Manda-lay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation.

The volume of sesame exports has registered over 96,000 metric tonnes worth $130 million in the financial year 2015-2016, $100,000 tonnes worth $145 million in the FY2016-2017, 120,000 tonnes worth $147 million in the FY2017-2018, 31,900 tonnes valued at $43.8 million in the 2018 mini-budget period, 125,800 tonnes worth $212.5 million in the FY2018-2019 and over 150,000 tonnes of sesame worth $240 million in the previous FY2019-2020.

— KGVNL
Markets mixed as inflation fear plays against recovery hope

EQUITY markets were mixed Monday as inflation concerns played off against optimism over the global economic recovery, while spiking infections in parts of the region also kept investors on their toes.

Wall Street provided a tepid lead at the end of last week, though European equities were given a boost by upbeat eurozone economic data and progress in the bloc’s vaccination drive after a slow start.

With expectations that the global recovery will pick up pace this year, the main focus is now on the impact that will have on prices, with observers warning a long period of high inflation will force central banks to wind back the ultra-loose monetary policies that have helped fire a long-running market rally.

Adding to the upward pressure on inflation is US President Joe Biden’s massive stimulus package passed earlier this year, while he also has others worth trillions more on infrastructure and help for families.

The Federal Reserve has repeatedly said it will not scale back on its largesse, which includes vast bond-buying and record low interest rates, until unemployment is tamed and inflation is running hot consistently. But investors continue to worry that it might be forced to act sooner than expected.

“It’s going to be a very mixed market over the next several months until we get more information on what’s really going to happen with inflation and how the stimulus in the US affects spending there, but also how the coronavirus really progresses,” JoAnne Feeley of Advisors Capital Management LLC told Bloomberg TV.

Power firm JERA to test ammonia fuel at coal-fired plant to cut CO2

Supplied diagram shows the image of using of ammonia as a fuel at a coal-fired power plant. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

POWER generation company JERA Co. said Monday it will start using ammonia as a fuel at a coal-fired power plant in central Japan as part of a four-year test project starting in June toward reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

It is the world’s first demonstration project to co-fire a large amount of ammonia at a large-scale commercial coal-fired plant, according to JERA, a joint venture between Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. and Chubu Electric Pow- er Co. Ltd.

Ammonia, which does not emit CO2 when burned, is seen as a viable alternative fuel in thermal power generation as Japan is ramping up efforts to bring CO2 emissions to net zero by 2050.

Under the project from June to March 2025, JERA will carry out a small-scale experiment with ammonia between August and December this year using burners at Unit 5 of the Hekinan thermal power station in the central Japan prefecture of Aichi.

By the end of the project, JERA and industrial machinery maker IHI Corp. aim to use the mixed fuel with an ammonia content of 20 percent at the same power station’s Unit 4 which has a power generation capacity of 1 gigawatt.

Thermal power generation has played a key role in Japan where most of its nuclear power plants remain offline following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi accident. — Kyodo News ■

Solutions 30 shares plunge as trading resumes

SHARES in Luxembourg-based IT company Solutions 30 plummeted by more than 60 percent on Monday after questions were raised about its accounts. The stock had shed 64.47 percent in value to $3.69 (44.50) a share in initial trading from its last quote on 7 May. On 10 May, Solutions 30 asked market operator Euronext to suspend trading, which resumed intermittently on Monday.

On Sunday, the company published its latest annual accounts, five days after the French market watchdog AMF ordered it to do so. The accounts were not certified however, as the company’s auditor, EY, said it was not in a position to give an opinion. EY said that Solutions 30 “did not provide us with access to certain information necessary to perform our audit.” The company replied that it “strongly dis-agrees” with the auditor’s reasoning. Solutions 30 is locked in a struggle with US activist investment fund Muddy Waters, whose director Carson Block has bet that the shares will fall in value via a process known as short-selling.

The company’s latest troubles began in December when an anonymous 114-page report accused it of money laundering and fraud, accusations that were picked up by Muddy Waters. In April, Solutions 30 published an audit by Deloitte that appeared to clear it of those allegations. However Block has maintained that Deloitte did not carry out a full audit, and has drawn comparisons between Solutions 30 and Wirecard, a high-profile German digital payments company that collapsed last year after directors acknowledged that 1.9 billion euros in supposed assets did not exist. — AFP ■

Premium Hokkaido melons fetch sharply higher price in 1st auction

Hokkaido Products, a baby food maker, offers the highest price for a pair of Yubari melons in the season’s first auction in Sapporo on 24 May 2021. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

This year’s successful bidder was Hokkaido Products Ltd., a local manufacturer of baby food. “I put in a bid hoping to encourage farmers,” the president of the company Hidetsugu Kage told reporters.

The company plans to offer the purchased melons free through its social media site, doling them out to 10 selected families with children.

According to Yubari’s agricultural cooperative, 102 local farmers plan to ship a total of 3,675 tonnes of melons worth around 2.16 billion yen this year. — Kyodo News ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

09 9 845 237 515

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Electric Power Generation Enterprise

Invitation to Bid for implementation of Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant Projects on Independent Power Producer and Build-Operate-Own Basis

Date: 2nd May 2021

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity at Designated Connection Points from the Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant Projects on Independent Power Producer (IPP) and Build Operate Own (BOO) Basis.

2. The Concession Period shall be 20 (twenty) years from Commercial Operation Date (COD).

3. The Tender Form can be purchased within office hour from the tender announced date at following office either:

(1) Procurement Department,

Electric Power Generation Enterprise,

Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

or

(2) No. 39, Kamur Road, Aihlone Power Station, Aihlone Township, Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

4. The Tender Form fee is Myanmar Kyat three hundred thousand (Kyat 300,000) only.

5. The final submission date is 11th August 2021 at (10:00) hr, Myanmar Standard Time.

6. Bidders shall prepare the proposals in accordance with the Invitation for Bid and Request for Proposal (RFP). Bidder’s Proposals must be submitted on time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.

7. The necessary information of this tender can be inquired within office hour via calling phone numbers or sending Email; Electric Power Generation Enterprise Ministry of Electricity and Energy Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw

Ph: +95 9 83303333, +95 9 420722181

epgeselarntser25@gmail.com
The Covid-19 crisis is still raging and wealthy nations continue to hoard most doses of life-saving vaccines, the WHO’s main decision-making body has plenty to discuss.

The 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) begins Monday with statements from national leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, health ministers and other high-level representatives of the WHO’s 194 member states.

The discussions run until 1 June focusing heavily on efforts to rein in the pandemic and on calls to revamp the entire global health approach to help prevent future Covid-like catastrophes. There is much at stake, but it remains unclear whether countries will step up to the plate. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who will also address the opening of the virtual gathering, said last week that this year’s WHA was “arguably one of the most important” ever.

Covid shadow hangs over WHO international meet

US says unclear Iran ready for nuclear pact return

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said it remains unclear whether Iran is “ready and willing” to take the necessary steps to return to compliance with the multination nuclear agreement.

Speaking ahead of a fifth round of talks in Vienna on securing that deal, Blinken was asked Sunday about Iranian reports that Washington had already agreed to lift some of the sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy: “We know what sanctions would need to be lifted if they’re inconsistent with the nuclear agreement,” he said on ABC’s “This Week”.

He added that more importantly, “Iran, I think, knows what it needs to do to come back into compliance on the nuclear side, and what we haven’t yet seen is whether Iran is ready and willing to make a decision.”

“That’s the test and we don’t yet have an answer.”

Donald Trump in 2018 walked away from the deal, saying Tehran had violated its “spirit” and remained a regional threat.

His successor Joe Biden wants to revive the plan, and Blinken has been working with the other parties to the 2015 accord, to that end.

For that to happen, Washington would need to lift the sanctions reinstated by Trump while Tehran would have to re-commit to the terms of the deal, from which it progressively withdrew after Trump’s 2018 move.

“The lifting of Trump’s sanctions … is a legal & moral obligation. NOT ne-gotiating leverage.” Iran’s foreign minister Moham-mad Javad Zarif reacted to Blinken to twitter. “Didn’t work for Trump — won’t work for you.”

Also addressing Biden, Zarif said: “Trump’s legacy is past its expiration date. Drop it.”

‘Even greater impunity’

Almost a year after Trump walked away from the agreement, the Islamic republic started to gradu-ally abandon most of the essential commitments in the accord.

The Trump administration’s “maximum pres-sure” campaign against Iran, Blinken said, “clearly did not get the result that we all seek”. — AFP

Afghan war displaced settle in the ruins of a lost city

ONCE the winter residence of sultans from illustrious Islamic dynasties, the ruins of a thousand-year-old royal city in southern Afghanistan have become home to hundreds of people who have fled Taliban clashes.

The astonishing ochre clay complex juts from the cliffs along the Helmand River, threatened by decay and encroaching urban sprawl as well as the makeshift constructions that have grown up within it. Thousands of people have been displaced across Helmand since October following a surge in Taliban attacks, and while many have resettled in the capital Lashkar Gah — one of the few areas in the province still under government control — some have joined other refugees in the ruins.

Qala-e-Kohna, as it is known locally, or Lashkari Bazar to archaeologists, has garnered in-ternational attention for its scale, remarkable architecture and ma-terials. Spread over 10 kilometres (eight miles), the site is the only known winter residence of the Ghaznavid and Ghurid sultans – two dynasties that ruled a region covering present-day Afghanisti-n between the 10th and 13th centuries and responsible for spreading Islamic art as far as north India.

“There is no place in the Is-lamic world where we have some-thing like it – a site as coherent, elaborated, and despite everything still relatively well preserved,” said Philippe Marquis, the di-rector of the French Archaeo-logical Delegation in Afghanistan (DAPA). — AFP

Turkey detains top IS suspect wanted by US

TURKISH intelligence officers have arrested an Egyptian-born terror suspect wanted by Washington who was a top explosives expert for the Islamic State group, state media reported Monday.

The suspect, identified as Mustafa Abdul-wahab Mahmud and born in 1999, was detained with three others on the outskirts of Istanbul after fleeing Syria, the reports said.

The indictment said he joined the IS group in Syria, where he specialized in making suicide belts and various explosive devices. The Istanbul prosecutor’s office is seeking 22.5 years in prison on charges of membership of a terror group.

He was detained on a tip from US intel-ligence services, who have been tracking his movements, the media reports said, adding that he is believed to have been plotting attacks inside Turkey, including against US interests. — AFP

The discussions run until 1 June focusing heavily on efforts to rein in the pandemic and on calls to revamp the entire global health approach to help prevent future Covid-like catastrophes. There is much at stake, but it remains unclear whether countries will step up to the plate. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who will also address the opening of the virtual gathering, said last week that this year’s WHA was “arguably one of the most important” ever.

This past year has been the most testing in our organization’s history,” Tedros acknowledged.

A highlight of this year’s WHA will come on Tuesday when ministers and diplomats discuss the findings of three separate independent panels that assessed aspects of the global pandemic response.

Finding that countries and institutions had been woefully unprepared to deal with the crisis, the experts argued for a total overhaul of the global alarm system. They also urged reform of the WHO to boost its independence, transparency and funding. A draft resolution to strengthen the organization meanwhile does not seem to go as far as many had hoped.

It calls for the creation of a new working group to study and streamline the various recommendations in the reports and create concrete proposals for the 2022 WHA to consider. It also calls on the WHO chief to propose concrete ways of improving the global health alert system, including possibly creating regional alerts.

And it urges the creation of a pilot project, which would be voluntary at first, where countries would submit to regular reviews by other member states of their pandemic preparedness, in the same way they undergo reviews of their rights situations before the UN Human Rights Council. — AFP

Biden wants to revive the nuclear accord on the nuclear side, reiterating that Iran, he thinks, knows what it needs to do to re-enter the agreement, the Islamic republic, which would have to re-commit to the terms of the deal, from which it progressively withdrew after Trump’s 2018 move.

The past year has been the most testing in our organization’s history,” Tedros acknowledged.

A highlight of this year’s WHA will come on Tuesday when ministers and diplomats discuss the findings of three separate independent panels that assessed aspects of the global pandemic response.

Finding that countries and institutions had been woefully unprepared to deal with the crisis, the experts argued for a total overhaul of the global alarm system. They also urged reform of the WHO to boost its independence, transparency and funding. A draft resolution to strengthen the organization meanwhile does not seem to go as far as many had hoped.

It calls for the creation of a new working group to study and streamline the various recommendations in the reports and create concrete proposals for the 2022 WHA to consider. It also calls on the WHO chief to propose concrete ways of improving the global health alert system, including possibly creating regional alerts.

And it urges the creation of a pilot project, which would be voluntary at first, where countries would submit to regular reviews by other member states of their pandemic preparedness, in the same way they undergo reviews of their rights situations before the UN Human Rights Council. — AFP
India passes 300,000 Covid-19 deaths as ‘black fungus’ spreads

INDIA passed 300,000 confirmed coronavirus deaths on Monday, fatalities remaining high despite the country flattening out the number of new cases in its devasting pandemic wave.

It became the third country — after the United States and Brazil — to cross 300,000 deaths.

For several weeks the country of 1.3 billion has been hitting record daily rises in infections and fatalities, that have overwhelmed its healthcare system.

While the crisis has eased in major cities such as New Delhi and Mumbai, the coronavirus is still spreading in rural areas and southern states.

Another 4,454 deaths in 24 hours — the second-highest daily figure so far — took India’s toll to 303,720. It has added the last 50,000 deaths in under two weeks, according to government figures.

Experts said the real numbers of deaths and infections, now 26.7 million, were probably much higher than the official figures.

“Deaths always will lag case... People who have been diagnosed with infection now will go into hospital, and then a small number of them will die but that will be later,” Ashoka University biology professor Gautam Menon told AFP Monday.

The brutal wave has been accompanied by the emergence among coronavi- rous patients of thousands of cases of the usually rare infection mucormycosis, or “black fungus”.

The government has given figures between 5,424 and 8,848 cases a year. Doctors say one of the reasons behind the explosion in “black fungus” infections has been excessive use of steroids on virus patients. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said imports of the main anti-fungal drug, amphotericin B, had started to arrive in the country amid a severe shortage.

Death toll ‘undercounted’

The coronavirus wave has brought India’s hospital system to its knees with severe shortages of oxygen and critical drugs.

The government has been criticized for its response as long queues formed for funerals at crematoriums and cemeteries. Images of suspected Covid-19 dead floating in the holy Ganges river or buried in shallow graves have only added to the controversy.

— AFP

Japan opens state-run mass COVID vaccination centres in Tokyo, Osaka

JAPAN opened state-run mass coronavirus vaccination centres on Monday in Tokyo and Osaka in a bid to accelerate its inoculation programme that has lagged far behind other developed countries with just two months remaining before staging the Olympics.

The centres, staffed by Self-Defence Forces doctors and nurses, will operate for three months from 8 am to 8 pm including weekends and national holidays. They will use the vaccine developed by Moderna Inc of the United States, which was approved by the government on Friday.

Japan hopes the venues, aiming to inoculate up to 10,000 people a day in Tokyo and 5,000 in Osaka, will help meet its target to complete vaccinations by the end of July of people aged 65 or older, along with those turning 65 in the current fiscal year.

The two populous areas, hit by a resurgence of infections, have been under a state of emergency since late April with several other prefectures.

— Kyodo News

1.7 million affected by hack of top Japan dating app

THE personal data of more than a million users of one of Japan’s most popular dating apps may have been exposed by a hack, its operator has warned. Net Marketing Co, which runs the Omiai app, said it detected unauthorized access in April to the server that stores member information.

“We have learnt that it is very likely that some member information was leaked due to unauthorized access,” the company said in a statement.

Images of driving licences and passports that had been submitted for age verification were among the data compromised between 20-26 April, the company added. It said 1.71 million users were affected, including some no longer registered with the service. Credit card information was not affected as it is processed separately through a financial institution.

The news, announced in a statement late Friday, sent Net Marketing’s shares plunging on Monday, ending down 19.34 per cent.

Omiai, named for the Japanese word for matchmaking, is among the country’s most popular dating apps, with a focus on serious relationships.

It had 6.89 million members, according to data from April.

— AFP

China probes deaths of 21 runners after freak weather hits ultramarathon

AN investigation was underway Monday into the deaths of 21 runners during a mountain ultramarathon in northwest China, as harrowing testimony emerged from survivors who battled to safety through freezing temperatures and bone-chilling winds.

The extreme weather struck a high-altitude section of the 100-kilometre (62-mile) race held in the scenic Yellow River Stone Forest in Gansu province Saturday afternoon.

Provincial authorities have set up an investigation team to look into the cause of the incident, state media reported, as questions swirled over why organizers apparently ignored extreme weather warnings from the city’s Early Warning Information Centre in the lead up to the race, which attracted 172 runners.

China’s top sports body also vowed to tighten safety rules on holding events across the country.

Survivors gave shocking testimony of events on the rugged mountainside, where unconfirmed meteorological reports to local media said temperatures had plunged to as low as minus 24 degrees Celsius (minus 11 degrees Fahrenheit).

“The wind was too strong and I repeatedly fell over,” wrote race participant Zhang Xiaoliao in a Weibo post.

“My limbs were frozen stiff and I felt like I was slowly losing control of my body... I wrapped my insulation blanket around me, took out my GPS tracker, pressed the SOS button and lost consciousness.” — AFP

PHOTO: Kyodo News

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
Monsoon President Cup Golf Tourney to be held on 10, 11 June

THE Monsoon President Cup Golf Tournament, hosted by the Myanmar Golf Federation, will be held on 10 and 11 June at Okkalapa Golf Course in Yangon.

The competition consists of events of one professional player and one amateur player. There will be individual backstroke competitions.

Prizes will be awarded to the first to fifth place winners in the team event. In the individual event for professionals, senior professional and amateur, a total of nine players will be awarded, with three winners from level one to three each.

The first prize is K2 million, the second prize K1.5 million and the third prize K1 million, respectively, in the team event.

Also, the fourth prize for the team event is K700,000, and the fifth prize is K500,000. The first prize is K1 million, the second prize K700,000, and the third prize K500,000, respectively, in the individual professional event.

In both Senior Professional and Amateur competitions, the first prize is K700,000, the second prize is K500,000, and the third prize K300,000, respectively, in the individual professional event.

Ten events of archery to be included in Viet Nam SEA Games

Myanmar archery team has had many successes at the SEA Games, most recently winning three silver medals plus two bronze medals at the 2019 Philippine SEA Games.

Htike Lin Oo won the silver medals for the Myanmar archery team in the Recurve Individual National Competition.

Next, Pyae Sone Hnin won the women’s competition and team event, and Su Su Hlaing won the Compound women’s singles. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Sergio Aguero is close to agreeing a move to Barcelona that would unite him with fellow Argentine superstar Lionel Messi, according to Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola.

City’s record goalscorer, who has spent a decade at the Etihad, scored a quickfire double in the champions’ 5-0 win over Everton in his final Premier League appearance for the club on Sunday.

The goals took his Premier League tally to 184 — the most by any player for a single club.

Aguero’s final season at City was dogged by injury and a coronavirus infection but Guardiola believes the striker has a lot to offer the Catalan giants.

Barcelona had a disappointing season, finishing third in La Liga and falling in the last 16 of the Champions League.

“I’m pretty sure he is going to enjoy,” said Guardiola. “And maybe Barcelona are stronger and stronger with him on the pitch.” — AFP

Juventus and AC Milan qualify for Champions League, Napoli miss out

JUVENTUS qualified for the Champions League on the final day of the season on Sunday with a 4-1 win at Bologna and were joined by AC Milan who beat Atalanta 2-0.

Napoli had to settle for a Europa League spot, finishing fifth, one point behind Juventus, after a 1-1 draw at home against Hellas Verona.

A pair of Franck Kessie penalties at the end of either half ensured AC Milan finished the season second — 12 points behind Juventus and second to the Champions League for the first time since the 2013-2014 season.

“We deserved the Champions League as well as second place,” said Milan coach Stefano Pioli whose side had missed the chance to seal their berth last weekend against Cagliari.

“We went through the whole championship at the top, unfortunately we had thrown away the match point last Sunday.

“I’m really excited, happy. I have to thank the club because they made us work in a spectacular way.”

Atalanta had already ensured a third consecutive season of Champions League football but missed out on a first second-place Serie A finish days after losing out in the Coppa Italia final to Juventus.

Cristiano Ronaldo was left on the bench by Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo who opted for an attacking line-up of Paulo Dybala and Alvaro Morata flanked by Federico Chiesa and Dejan Kulusevski.

“It was a shared choice, Ronaldo was tired after the fatigue on Wednesday,” said Pirlo.

“He made himself available to the team but I chose to have another player named Morata play, who is not the latest arrival. I have a quality team, with many choices available.”

A Morata brace along with goals from Chiesa and Adrien Rabiot prevented Juventus missing out on the elite European competition for the first time since 2012.

In Naples, Amir Rahimian scored for Napoli after an hour against his former club, which would have been enough to secure a berth at the top table but Davide Faraoni pulled one back for the visitors nine minutes.

Juve’s Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (R) and Juve’s Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny (C) celebrate after Juventus secured their qualification for the Champions League at the end of the Italian Serie A football match Bologna vs Juventus on 23 May 2021 at the Renato-Dall’Ara stadium in Bologna. PHOTO: AFP

Genaro Gattuso’s side were denied a return to elite European action after also missing out last season. — AFP