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Tatmadaw has formed rescue teams to assist the government since 2016 if natural disasters fall: Vice-Senior General

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who chairs the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, delivered an address at the meeting 1/2021 of the Committee, at the hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said the National Natural Disaster Management Committee was reconstituted with 43 members under the notification (10/2021) of the State Administration Council. Events of natural disasters happen across the world every year. Such events were triggered by impacts of global warming, extreme logging of trees, deforestation and forest fires.

In observing outbreaks of natural disasters, the report of the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) stated that four categories were set as a criterion of the disaster which killed more than



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the National Natural Disaster Management Committee meeting 1/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ten people, one more criterion which affected more than 100 people or the disasters which stipulated the government to declare the area of State level natural disaster, and the disaster in which the government sought the international aid. As the disasters which met at least one criterion were recorded, the globe experienced more than 300 disasters within ten years from 2011 to 2020. In this regard, some 15,000 persons were dead in the disasters per year, and more than 164 million people were affected by disasters per year. During the period, more than US\$170 billion lost in the events per year.

Myanmar experienced natural disasters based on natural situations within ten years from 2000 to 2010, with 23 per cent for the outbreak of fire, 11 per cent for flooding, 12 per cent for storms and four per cent for earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides. Yearly, nine kinds of natural disasters, namely storms, tidal waves, flooding, landslides, earthquakes, tsunami, droughts, fire outbreaks and forest fires, fall in Myanmar.

In this regard, the National Natural Disaster Management Committee needs to solve three parts of the issue. The first part is to make preparations, the second to carry out immediate rescue works and the third part to undertake rehabilitation in addition to take preventive measures, preparedness, searching and rescue and rehabilitation. All must overcome challenges of natural disasters, man-made dangers and the danger based on policies and laws as much as possible.

As monsoon falls, anyone cannot say storm and flooding will not happen in the country.

Relevant region and state administration councils are firstly responsible for solving the problems whenever natural disasters fall. The chairpersons of the region and state administration councils need to lead the process of solving the natural disaster problems immediately. To so do, the Vice-Senior General reminded the participants to solve issues related to the natural disaster management in accord with the facts involved in the permanent order of natural disaster issued in 2009, arrangements to be made by relevant ministries and pieces of evidence related to natural disaster management distributed to regions and states.

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The chairpersons of the region and state administration councils need to lead the process of solving the natural disaster problems immediately.

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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.

Govt spends over K16,000 million on road, bridge projects in Myeik

THE Department of Rural Road Development has expended more than K16,000 million of Union and Region budgets in the 2020-2021FY to implement 71 road constructions and 58 bridges in the Myeik district of Taninthayi Region.

According to the department, the Myeik District Rural Road Development Department spent more than 1,300 million Union budget and more than 15,000 million region budget on 71 roads and 58 bridges construction projects in 2020-2021FY.

The road paving operations are being carried out in each township of Myeik District under the supervision of Assistant Director U Thura of the Rural Road Development Department. Currently, 70 per cent of operations are completed.

The government implements the construction of 24 roads and 11 bridges in Myeik



Township while 11 roads and 26 bridges are under construction in Kyunsu Township, 14 roads and 13 bridges in Pulaw Township and 22 roads and eight bridges in Taninthayi Township. – Khine Htoo (Myeik/IPRD)/GNLM

96 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 May, total figure rises to 143,414

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 143,414 after 96 new cases were reported on 27 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,269 have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

Need to choose quality and high-yield crops and pedigree animal species of agriculture and livestock sectors to occupy domestic and international markets

COVID-19 causes the decline of the economy across the world. Foodstuff production must be undertaken without fail among the businesses. Myanmar needs to successfully develop agriculture and livestock sectors based on its advantages. The Senior General stressed the need to choose the quality and high-yield crops and pedigree animal species of the agriculture and livestock sectors to occupy the domestic and international markets. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation researches the production of quality strains of crops.

(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)

Tatmadaw has formed rescue teams to assist the government since 2016 if natural disasters fall: Vice-Senior General

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Moreover, local people from affected areas may face losses in natural disasters. Hence, relevant region and state administration councils need to make preparedness as monsoon falls. The Tatmadaw has formed rescue teams to assist the government in 2016 if natural disasters fall. Moreover, the Tatmadaw prepares to carry out the formation, training and rescue in line with the work plan.

The Tatmadaw has much experience related to natural

disasters. Those attending the meeting cooperate in the tasks how to overcome natural disasters by studying the handbooks based on experiences in cyclonic storm Nargis in 2008, flooding in Kalay area of Sagaing Region in 2015, storms and other natural disasters, 2013 management law and 2015 management rules.

In conclusion, the Vice-Senior General noted that the government, ministries, and the Tatmadaw must join hands in overcoming natural disasters in accord with the motto: all survivors must be alive.

Vice-Chairmen of the committee Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut and Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine reported on preparations of work committee led by respective ministries for prevention of natural disasters, mitigation, response, rescue and cooperation, timely completion of construction tasks and allotment of the funds.

Union ministers discussed preparations of the Tatmadaw to participate in rescue in the natural disasters, work processes for solving the problems of natural disasters, border region development in disaster-hit areas, allotment of emergency funds to relevant ministries and regions and states, cooperation with the international community and regional countries to seek assistance from international organizations, storage of rice reserve, and prevention, mitigation and response to natural disasters in any areas.

Afterwards, the Vice-Senior General said it is necessary to apply the natural disasters law, rules, and orders to overcome natural disasters on time at the national level. He stressed the need to mobilize the people to participate in the rehearsals managed by departments concerned, military and civilian officials in line with the work plan. Relevant ministries must cooperate with each other in making preparedness for natural disasters. Advanced training must be given to State service personnel. Preparations must be made for providing emergency aid to affected regions and states.—MNA

Officials inspect qualifiers of Judo, Archery for 31st SEA Games

THE training camps for the 31st SEA Games are underway in Nay Pyi Taw. State Administration Council member Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win inspected the preliminary training session of Judo and Archery at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw and presented cash awards to the athletes.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win and Deputy Minister U Myo Hlaing first enjoyed the Judo qualifying contests and then Compound Raking Round and Recurve Ranking Round of Archery.

The final match of Judo was organized in the afternoon. SAC member Jeng Phang



Naw Taung, Deputy Minister U Myo Hlaing and other officials watched the contests. The officials awarded the medals and cash to the first prize winner Gold Camp (A) including Judo Suits and best athlete awards.—MNA

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Announcement on mine blast on way of Mandalay-Yangon down-train



A hole with 3 feet depth and width on the ground has occurred, and five sleepers and five carriages were destroyed. None of the railway staff and passengers was injured.

THE State Administration Council makes efforts for state stability and socio-economic development and expands the daily train services to facilitate the transport sector for the people.

Moreover, the SAC keeps following the points of NCA when it leads to the enduring peace that the entire people want.

On 26 May, a handmade mine planted by terrorists exploded on the railway when

No 2 down train from Mandalay to Yangon arrived between mileposts (125/14) and (125/15) about 3,700 metres from Nyaung Pintha station of Pyu Township at about 9:30 pm. A hole with 9 square feet depth in the ground has occurred, and five sleepers and five carriages were destroyed. None of the railway staff and passengers was injured.

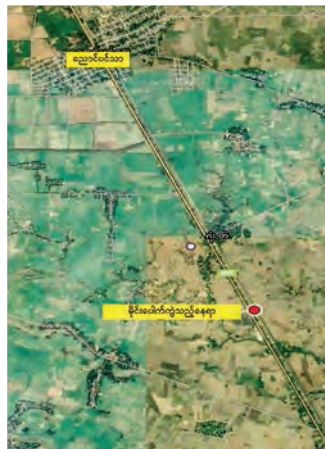
The insurgent groups conducted mine attacks in 1984. An explosion occurred on Mandalay-Yangon No (2) down train

between Kanyut Kwin and Taw Kywel Inn stations (121/6 and 121/7 mile posts). Ten passengers were killed, and 15 wounded in the blast. Similarly, the insurgents also planted a mine to attack the No (2) down train from Mandalay near Kwin Chaung bridge between Kanyut Kwin and Taw Kywel Inn stations on 21 May 1996. It was reported that nine passengers were killed and seven injured in the explosion. Such mine attacks of insurgents on the railways destroyed the

lives of people in the past. The people strongly condemned such cases.

The moves of insurgents groups that target the non-military civilians seemed to be intentionally committed to cause casualties and destroy the lives of people and attempt to deteriorate the community peace.

The people should condemn such brutal violence against innocent people and cooperate with the security members in a safe community. Tatmadaw also



strongly denounces insurgent groups' targeted attacks on innocent civilians. The ethnic armed groups that have signed the NCA should pay special attention to the provisions contained in NCA.

Information Team
State Administration Council

People arrested with explosives

THE police continue seizing the firearms and explosives of the insurgents to stop the violent attacks in the country.

A collaborative team with security members stopped and checked a motorcycle driven by Shwe Ko, who lives in Pauk Sein village of Ngazun Township, from Yangon to Mandalay on Yangon-Mandalay highway on 26 May. Then, he was arrested, together with the materials used in riots.

Similarly, the police raided the house of Kyaw Swa Lwin (aka) Zarni located at 60th street, between 34th and 35th streets of Pyi Gyi Myat Shin Ward of Pyigyitagun Township and arrested him together with five handmade bombs.

Moreover, the security forces inspected an unoccupied apartment located at Tat Lan Housing in Yadana street of No (12) Ward of Thakayta Township of Yangon Region. They found various weapons used in riots.

The combined inspection team arrested Moe Khine from Kyauk Khit village, U Hla Win



and Kyaw Gyi (aka) Kyaw Thu Naing from Pet Lel Inn village together with the arms while conducting a land clearance operation at about 700 metres from Kyauk Khit Village of Singu Township of Mandalay Region yesterday.

Moreover, the police ar-

rested nine people, including Wai Yan Shine from Sin Ngu Ward of Insein Township, at their respective houses, with firearms and anti-government documents.

The detainees will face actions under the law. — MNA



Press Release on terrorist groups’ arson and bomb attacks at schools

THE primary need for the development of the country and the improvement of social life is to improve the education sector. Every country in the world focuses on education to develop a new generation of talented young people in building a future nation. The Government had to shutter the schools for the 2019-2020 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting the country, students and parents in many ways.

The State Administration Council is overseeing the reopen-

ing of schools nationwide from 1 June following the COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment Regulations during the period of adequate control of the COVID-19 disease to prevent further loss of education. Enrolment of students is being accelerated at present.

Preparations are underway in order to ensure students can study safely, distribute free textbooks, teaching aids and masks, face shields to protect COVID-19, and install handwashing facilities at schools.

However, politically extreme



Texts against the Government at the school building.



Ravages in the aftermath of arson attacks.

terrorist groups, who wish to destroy national interests, instigate teachers and education staff to join CDM and threaten, with death, those who do not do so. Innocent young students are forced to drop out of school.

From 1 to 26 May, a total of 18 arson attacks, 115 times of bombings and attempted bombings occurred at basic education schools and universities across the country. Moreover, they commit vulgar acts that are unacceptable to any civilized society, such as sticking texts against the school attending and drawing threat messages using spray paint.

When the international community is not ac-

cepting or condemning such acts of vandalism, they are becoming more and more like extremist terrorist organizations in order to destroy the educational aspirations of future youths. The majority of the parents and the public are protesting against such activities and the organizations behind them.

Therefore, as the State Administration Council seeks to reopen schools, terror acts of insurgent groups will not be tolerated. Those who disrupt the reopening of schools will be taken effective action in cooperation with the people.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Gun owners surrender their firearms voluntarily

THE people voluntarily handed over their handmade guns to security forces through the states/regions administrators.

People from Thagyar Chaung village of Kawkaireik Township in Kayin State gave two handmade percussion rifles and villagers of Sin Gone in Katha Township of Sagaing 1 handmade gun on 26 May. And people from Pan Tin village of Ingapu Township of Ayeyawady Region handed over two handmade guns to the security members. The security members systematically keep the firearms surrendered by the people. — MNA



Announcement of Union Election Commission

27 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 Haka Township, Falam Township, Mindat Township, Matupi Township and Paletwa Township in Chin State.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 163,199 eligible voters in these townships. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 177,831 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 8,516 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 1,944 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 20,098 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
3. The findings of the voter list by township are 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	Haka	95	39,204	33,097	2,967	262	3,712
2	Falam	169	39,273	30,236	1,482	506	5,026
3	Mindat	116	30,706	23,042	888	420	4,014
4	Matupi	150	38,019	35,559	646	675	6,074
5	Paletwa	19	15,997	55,897	2,533	81	1,272
	Total	549	163,199	177,831	8,516	1,944	20,098

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Haka Township, Falam Township, Mindat Township, Matupi Township and Paletwa Township in Chin State together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators in accordance with Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
5. According to the inspection, a total of 549 polling stations in these seven townships took out 267,910 ballots and used 123,225 ballots. It left 134,616 ballots instead of 144,685 ballots. The difference was 11,251 ballots, and it found 1,182 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township								
Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Haka	95	48,149	30,440	17,709	16,289	1,710	290
2	Falam	169	52,076	27,749	24,327	23,716	750	139
3	Mindat	116	39,465	23,844	15,621	14,273	1,448	100
4	Matupi	150	50,020	31,008	19,012	12,374	7,138	500
5	Paletwa	19	78,200	10,184	68,016	67,964	205	153
	Total	549	267,910	123,225	144,685	134,616	11,251	1,182

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these five townships of Chin State, the numbers of eligible voters are less 14,632 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens who had turned 18 in November 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).
7. There are 8,516 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI, “Preparation of Voting Roll” states, “Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time.” However, there were 1,944 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 20,098 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these five townships of Chin State.
8. During the inspection of voter lists and casting of votes in Haka Township, only ballots papers used for the Pyithu Hluttaw were found at Polling Station No (2) of Malsawm village-tract and Polling Station No (2) of Lone Yan village-tract, and it was found that receipt, remaining ballot papers and ballot paper Form (1) books were missing.
9. During the inspection of voter lists and casting of votes in Falam Township, it was found that the polling station bag containing the receipt of used ballots for Pyithu Hluttaw, remaining ballot papers, and ballot paper Form (1) books were missing from the Losao village-tract polling station (1).
10. Of the 66 ballot papers used for advance voting in Falam Township, only one voter name was included in the receipt, and the signature of the voter, polling station number and ward/village-tract names were not filled out.
11. During the inspection of voter lists and casting of votes in Matupi Township, it was found that the polling station bag containing the used ballot receipts, remaining ballot papers and ballot paper Form (1) was missing from the polling station (2) included Chan Pyan village-tract and polling station (3) of Teeneeyar village, Rarshit village-tract.
12. Regarding the loss of the polling station bag, the Secretary of the Matupi Township Election Sub-Commission, contacted the secretary of the Chan Pyan village Election Sub-Commission on 14.4.2021, and it was known that the bag was kept at his house, and he was informed to return the bag. Although the bag was inspected when he returned it on 15.4.2021, the polling station bag of the Teeneeyar village polling station was not found.
13. The advance ballot papers used in Paletwa Township was found in the five polling stations of the town, and it was not found that they were systematically distributed. The Form (16-1), “Remaining unused ballot paper lists”, was not included in the polling station bags. It was found that the ballot paper forms (1) were not booked, and the ballot papers to be posted at the polling station were not affixed but were put only in the polling station bag.
14. Findings in these five townships of Chin State were as follows:
- (a) There were 125,565 voters, and they used 123,225 ballot papers out of all withdrawals, which was 2,054 less than the number of voters.
- (b) It was found that ballots were missing in withdrawing and using.
- (c) A total of 1,182 extra ballot papers found in some polling stations.
- (d) They did not follow the Hluttaw Election Law Rules 66(h). They separately returned the ballot receipts/remaining ballots to the township election sub-commission only after the election.

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- (e) They allowed the voter to cast the ballots without filling in the voter's name, voter list number, polling station number, ward/village name, signature/fingerprint.
 - (f) Some ward/village tract election sub-commissions failed to deliver ballot papers and extra ballot papers under the law.
 - (g) Those who did not have citizenship cards were included in the voter list and accepted voting without a citizenship card.
 - (h) Illegal ballots were also used in advance voting.
 - (i) They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.
15. It found voting frauds in Haka Township, Falam Township, Mindat Township, Matupi Township and Paletwa Township in Chin State. 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

State Administration Council Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.

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

3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**

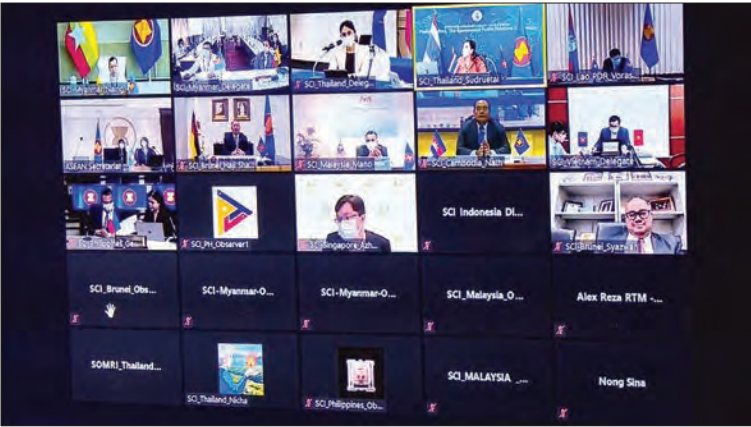
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.

5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.

Myanmar delegation participates in 22nd ASEAN SCI meeting



The ASEAN SCI meeting aims to strengthen mutual understanding and mutual respect among member countries through ASEAN regional media and implement the ASEAN projects with the rotating ASEAN Chairmanship.

At the meeting, the project proposal was discussed to include Myanmar in charge of hosting the 10th ASEAN Quiz (National Level) and the 10th ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level) in 2022.

Viet Nam will chair the 23rd ASEAN Sub-Committee Meeting on Information in 2022. – MNA

MYANMAR delegation led by Director-General of MRTV (Myanmar Radio and Television) U Ye Naing attended the 22nd ASEAN Sub-Committee Meeting on Information, 22nd

SCI Meeting hosted by Thailand through videoconferencing yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on establishing an ASEAN Cultural Fund budget for future

activities in the ASEAN information sector and coordination for financial procedures related to information sector projects. The countries that want to implement the new project also explained the proposed projects.

The discussion also focused on the selection of the country to host the next SCI meeting.

Myanmar hosts ASEAN wildlife-related meetings virtually

MYANMAR hosted the 16th ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement and the 2nd ASEAN Technical Meeting on Development of ASEAN Handbook on Legal Cooperation to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade on 26 and 27 May via videoconferencing.

During the meetings, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental

Conservation Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw discussed the enactment of the law in order to combat illegal trade of wildlife, flora and fauna, the draft of plans to eradicate illicit wildlife trade, activities to draw the attention of local populace for biodiversity conservation, and cooperation works between departments concerned and ASEAN regions.

The ASEAN member countries, the international organizations, including the CITES' Secretariat Office and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, then presented the law enforcement on the illegal trade of wildlife.

A total of 116 delegations from ASEAN, the Forest Department and other relevant international organizations joined the meetings. – MNA

Enhance life of persons with disabilities with equality and non-discrimination

HUMAN society needs not to act discrimination of gender, disability, IQ, EQ and others with holding up sympathy. Everybody, including the abled and the disabled, is a member of human society. They all have an equal term of rights to shape their future and fortune as they like. Anyone does not have the rights to set aside others depending on the disabilities. The word of disabilities is inclusive of deformities at body organs as well as in the mental soul. It is because nature bestowed not only fine personalities but deformities on everybody depending on general reasons.

That is why it can be said that the persons with disabilities in Myanmar can see a better future thanks to the implementation of the national strategic plan.

women; and Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities. Myanmar’s national strategic plan is drafted with six chapters on health, education, jobs and employment, social protection, natural disasters and state of emergency. As such, it is sure that the plan would be reliable for improving the lifestyle of those with disabilities in Myanmar. That is why it can be said that the persons with disabilities in Myanmar can see a better future thanks to the implementation of the national strategic plan.



Hence, nobody is empowered to remove or add any natural gifts of humans. That is why no one needs to blame for physical and mental disabilities on others.

On the other hand, everybody has responsibilities and obligations to give a helping hand to those with disabilities for shaping a better society with equality and non-discrimination.

Currently, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is drafting the five-year national strategic plan for the rights of persons with disabilities in order to provide assistance to them. The five-year strategic plan is based on eight principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The convention mentions eight principles: Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons; Non-discrimination; Full and effective participation and inclusion in society; Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity; Equality of opportunity; Accessibility; Equality between men and

Universal truth we have been searching for the whole life circle (Samsara)

By Aung Kyaw Thant

ALL of the Lord Buddhas Who attained the Enlightenment how to walk along the path heading to the Nibbana preached the universal truth, which is unchangeable. The usage of a singular form of the universal truth represents four noble truths that reciprocally symbolize a singular usage of the universal truth.

Four noble truths These four noble truths which were very firstly preached by the Lord Buddha are Dukkha Sacca: the noble truth of suffering, Samudaya Sacca: the noble truth of origin of suffering, Nirodha Sacca: the noble truth of attaining the cessation of consciousness, and Magga Sacca: the noble truth of the right path to Nibbana.

Everybody should understand that they hold up the truth as they like, depending on their perceptions of everything. Despite saying different stories of the truth, even two persons do not have the same approaches to the truth based on their concepts. Hence, all the global people are on the different ways of approaching the truth. Naturally, the outlooks of those who are holding the different types of truths cannot be similar. They all have to enjoy the rights of holding up diverse opinions. But they all march forwards the universal truth, which must be a common truth as well as the very single truth. The universal

truth does not have any rival truth.

Nowadays, most of the people say: their concepts are true, but other’s concept is wrong; something special is true, but another is wrong; some acts are true, but other’s ones are wrong; some opinions are true, but other ones are wrong; some doctrines are true; some attitudes are true; some ways and means are true; some systems are true; and so on. It is because they compared their concepts with the others but not actually analyze their concepts are right or wrong.

Changeable or unchangeable truths

In fact, everybody should understand that the truths they hold up are the unfirmed items. It is because these truths are changeable depending on situations and times. The truth we say today may not be accepted tomorrow. The truth someone accepts today may not be disagreed by all tomorrow. Somebody cannot accept the truth of others. Likewise, the truth related to the concept of somebody may be unacceptable for them. The truth that a father told his son yesterday may be unacceptable today, but it may be accepted by his grandson tomorrow. Sometimes, everybody unavoidably discards the truth that many people firmly believe various reasons based on the politics or ideologies or others. For example, Myanmar people kept

their concepts and ideas in their minds during the colonial era and Fascist occupation era because of threats imposed on their lives.

In this regard, I mean all the truths accepted by everybody are unfirmed. This is why all the changeable truths are the unfirmed truths. On the other hand, it can be said these truths may be reality. Indeed, the real truth cannot be changed, revoked, revised, amended, edited and improved. The universal truth is absolutely comprehensive. Any way cannot be used to deform the universal truth. Although various kinds of truths based on the outlooks of relevant persons may be controversial, everybody cannot deny that the universal truth is unchangeable and uncontroversial.

Finding on universal truths

Human beings have clearly understood the universal truths in various sectors across the world for about some centuries. But, the Lord Buddha, namely Gotama Buddha, had preached the universal truths comprising four noble truths leading to the Nibbana since about BC 600. According to the treatizes of Buddhism, all the Lord Buddhas had preached the universal truth leading to the Nibbana. The Nibbana is the most ultimate goal of the Buddhists. Those Buddhists set the target to attain the Nibbana at the end of their life circles. They accepted various doctrines and isms as well as religious goals but wished

to attain the Nibbana in the last life.

In various lives that the Buddhists accept the life circle based on their good and bad deeds, they may hold diverse doctrines, isms, concepts, ideas and attitudes. Even though they chose the wrong paths leading to their goals, they wish to understand and accept the universal truth. Therefore, members of the Sangha who follow the codes of conducts of the Buddhist monks prescribed by the Lord Buddha administer Dhamma Desana, which mentions the best ways and time to the Nibbana by understanding four noble truths: Dukkha, Samudaya, Nirodha and Magga.

Currently, ordinary people chant what the best truth is and what is the top truth. But, it is believable that some truths would be firmed and unchangeable till tomorrow morning. These truths are unsure to firmly exist. In fact, everybody should analyze that one’s concept is true today, but such a concept can be identified as a wrong one the other day. So, everybody should emphasize that they need to have the rationality to analyze everything. Everybody should take every truth into consideration.

Limit of various truths

The truth which may be firmed one morning can be identified as one-morning truth. So also, everybody can identify

something special as a day truth, a week truth, a month truth and a year truth as well as a life truth. Even life truth should not be identified as the universal truth. It is because such truth has just a life span only, but its term cannot be beyond the period of one life. So, we can adopt the conclusion that if a truth is placed under a limited period, it will not be a universal truth.

Although today’s truth can be substituted with tomorrow’s wrong, it is just identification. It depends on the own concept of analysts. Those who firmly uphold different concepts will not disagree with other concepts. They will seem all concepts that are different from their concepts may be wrong ones. They think something unequal to their concepts will be wrong. Likewise, they think something which has not coincided with the concepts, as well as the truths they accepted, is wrong ones. Actually, we all need to analyze and scrutinize our concepts which are really right or wrong at first.

In fact, the religious concepts and ideologies should not be complicated with that of social and political fields. However, these arenas are interrelated to each other. All the concepts and ideologies can be observed in various arenas. One concept from the religious sector can be used in the political arena, while one ideology is used in the economic sector.

Moreover, the political field hires some usages related to the truth from the religious arena.

It is noticeable that concepts, ideas and attitudes concerning the universal truth can be seen in various sectors, but they are changeable. The definition of universal truth used in various sectors is unchangeable.

Hence, whoever says what the universal truth is, we should analyze it under the criteria of noble truth. Do you notice the criteria of the noble truth? Suppose you see a kind of truth. You should analyze it at first whether it is long-lasting truth or not. If it is unchangeable truth until human beings attain the Nibbana, it can be identified as a universal truth.

Identification of the Universal truth

The one-day truth, the one-week truth, the one-year truth and so on, depending on non-religious concepts, is not enlisted in the universal truths. With regard to the religious arena, especially Buddhism, the truth which is long-lasting the whole world (Samsara) which means the time of infinite years heading to the attainment of the Nibbana, can be identified as a universal truth.

In fact, if you comprehensively know the universal truth, it is sure for you to conquer the life circle (Samsara).

(The views and opinions in the article are those of the author).

EU penalizes AstraZeneca slow delivery

THE European Union (EU) on Wednesday asked a Belgian court to impose penalties running to millions of euros per day on AstraZeneca for COVID-19 vaccine doses it has failed to deliver to the bloc.

The request came as EU countries and the European Commission, began legal action against the Anglo-Swedish pharmaceutical company for “flagrant violation” of its contract with Brussels. AstraZeneca’s lawyer Hakim Boularbah rejected the EU claim, declaring: “There was no mani-

fest breach of contract. It is very shocking to be accused of fraud.”

The EU is suing AstraZeneca to force it to deliver 90 million more doses of its coronavirus vaccine before July, arguing that the company failed in its contractual duty by handing over only a fraction of promised shots. The deadline for the contract is set for mid-June, according to the Commission, and the EU says the company should face financial penalties if it does not meet this deadline.

The EU’s legal team demanded an upfront fine of 10 million

euros (\$12 million) plus “10 euros per dose and per day of delay” in that event.

AstraZeneca delivered only 30 million doses in the first quarter out of the 120 million it was contracted to supply. For the current quarter, which runs until June 30, it plans to deliver only 70 million of the 180 million doses initially promised.

A Commission official close to the case told AFP in May that AstraZeneca was currently delivering doses at a rate of only 10 million per month, well below the

planned pace. But Boularbah told the court the firm would eventually supply 300 million doses and that “everything is being done to resolve the problems.” The company’s defense relies on a part of the contract that speaks of “best reasonable efforts” by AstraZeneca and declarations that production was hit by unavoidable delays. AstraZeneca’s French-Australian boss Pascal Soriot laid out the argument ahead of the court case in a series of interviews with the press.

Source : AFP



In this file photo taken on March 24, 2021 a medical worker holds a vial of the AstraZeneca vaccine against Covid-19 at a vaccination hub outside Rome’s Termini railway station. PHOTO: AFP

Confirmation and Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

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

Name	Appointment
(a) U Thet Swe	Managing Director News and Periodicals Enterprise Ministry of Information
(b) U Aung Kyaw Soe	Director-General Immigration Department Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

2. THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Tin Tin Htwe	Rector Yangon University of Economics Higher Education Department Ministry of Education
(b) Dr Thida Kyu	Rector Monywa University of Economics Higher Education Department Ministry of Education

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 27 May, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea, South Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 28th May, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan States, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA:Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7 -12)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:Likelihood of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th May, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28thMay, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th May, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

The Third Month of the State Administration Council Government

By Kanaung

The ASEAN Leaders' Meeting

In his capacity as State Administration Council Chairman, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing made the first foreign trip to Jakarta, Indonesia to attend the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, held on 24 April 2021. While it is hardly unusual for a State Leader to make an overseas trip, this trip was notable for highlighting the future path of the government led by the State Administration Council to ASEAN and the world, despite the state of emergency. It was made clear that the State Administration Council would continue to safeguard the country and protect its national interests, keep the nation on a path of democratic reform, improve national stability, and raise the living standards of citizens.

The State Administration Council Chairman informed the ASEAN leaders that Myanmar would continue to support regional stability, reconstruction, and rehabilitation. Moreover, he reiterated that Myanmar would maintain close cooperation with ASEAN countries in line with the ASEAN Charter and the provisions of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in order to achieve the aims and purposes



government, and emphasized ASEAN's stance on Myanmar. Above all, the most significant result of the trip was that it gave new strength and renewed commitment to the peaceful development of Myanmar, which will enable the Myanmar people to move forward with greater trust in the government led by the State Administration Council.

On 25 April 2021, the State Administration Council released a statement on the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, which mentioned that ASEAN leaders had exchanged views on the

peace and stability, the way forward would depend on the progress in restoring stability to the country. Myanmar also informed that all suggestions would be positively considered if these facilitated the implementation of the Five-Point Roadmap that had been laid down by the State Administration Council, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Way and ASEAN Spirit.

Peace, security, and the rule of law

On 31 March 2021, the Tatmadaw issued a statement regarding ceasefire arrangements and the peace process. The statement announced that the Tatmadaw would extend the suspension of all military operations until the end of April, so that ongoing peace negotiations could continue, and the traditional Myanmar Thingyan festival could be held peacefully. On 30 April 2021, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services extended the suspension of all military operations until 31 May 2021, except in cases where the government's security and administrative machinery is being sabotaged and attacked. The statement urged all in the meantime to negotiate and make concerted efforts to achieve durable peace.

On 26 April 2021, the National Unity and Peace Coordination Committee held separate meetings with the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) and the Karen

National Union/ Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC). The meetings focused on peace processes in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, the construction of inter-village roads for regional development, the establishment of factories and industries to create job opportunities for local communities and family members of the troops, and the development of the health, education, and agriculture sectors.

On 2 April 2021, the government held a meeting of the National-Level Committee on the Resettlement and Closure of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps. At the meeting, the Chairperson of the National-Level Committee discussed policy and procedures to be implemented, the formation of regional level committees and working committees, the programmes to protect and provide to the IDPs, and the measures to rebuild a safe and dignified environment for them. The Government will continue to support IDPs across the country, with plans to eventually ensure safe and independent communities for them. These will especially benefit the national ethnic peoples.

In Rakhine State, arrangements are being made to assist internally displaced persons in camps, resettle those who want to return to their homes, and conduct vocational training courses. The Union Minister for Border Affairs who chairs the National-level Committee on Resettlement and Closure

of IDP Camps explained these arrangements at event held for IDPs in Rakhine State on 10 April. The Union Minister met with various officials and the residents at IDP camps in Sittway, An, Kyaukpyu and MraukU townships.

To defend and protect the country's sovereignty and territory and enhance its defence capability, the Tatmadaw continually conducts Army, Navy and Air military exercises. The Myanmar Navy's role is crucial for the country's defence, given Myanmar's coastline of well over 1,300 miles. From 4 April 2021, the Myanmar Navy conducted the Three-Dimensional Naval Exercise – Sea Shield 2020, which involved exercises in strategic air defence, surface warfare and underwater warfare. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services himself inspected the operations on 10 April.

Starting from 2 April 2021, legal actions under Section 505-A of the Penal Code were taken against those who commit incitements affecting peace and stability. The suspects thus charged have their names, addresses, photos, and Facebook accounts disclosed in state-owned newspapers, radio, and television channels on a daily basis. Among those charged are well-known public figures, artists, and medical doctors. Those who have spread false news in order to stoke unrest and riots are also being charged.

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a

To defend and protect the country's sovereignty and territory and enhance its defence capability, the Tatmadaw continually conducts Army, Navy and Air military exercises.

of ASEAN.

During the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, the State Administration Council Chairman presented the political changes in Myanmar and the tasks that lay ahead. The trip underscored the State Administration Council's key roles, highlighted international and regional acceptance of the

current situation of Myanmar and on the points in the statement of the ASEAN Chairman. In response to ASEAN Leaders, Myanmar informed that it would give due consideration to the constructive recommendations made by ASEAN Leaders. Given that the priorities now were to maintain law and order and restore community

press release stating that since the so-called Committee Representing Pyithu Hluttaw (CRPH) was formed illegally, the CRPH and its associated organizations had been declared as unlawful associations on 21 March 2021. Actions have been taken against CRPH for forming an illegal parallel government. Accordingly, the NUG (National Unity Government) formed by the CRPH is also an illegal association and NUG members are illegitimate. On 22 April, 26 members of the so-called parallel government were charged at courts and police stations. Moreover, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners has not been allowed to register, as it does not conform to the Association Registration Law and Rules. The Association claims to release the death toll during the riots. Based on social media and rumours, the numbers are not accurate and have been grossly exaggerated.

tests, but had only done so with incitement from others, to be reunited with their parents in April.

On 27 April 2021, the State Administration Council's Information Team released a statement that indicated leniency for civil servants who have been involved in CDM not because they wished to undermine the state but as a result of pressure, threats and coercion from others and fear of social punishment. Such civil servants will be given special consideration, and provided with the opportunity to re-enter government service, with certain conditionalities and limitations.

Collective strength

The government led by the State Administration Council is accelerating measures to enhance regional development, uplift people's lives, and set the course to achieve democracy, based on goodwill, decisive

and solar power generation at Indawgyi Lake. Furthermore, the meeting also discussed the issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards under the Citizenship Law.

Arrangements are being made to grant citizenship scrutiny cards to all eligible citizens. The Pankhin project will issue citizenship scrutiny cards to more than 3.8 million people. This task will require the full participation of staff at each level in all relevant departments.

The implementation of measures to improve state and regional development is proceeding in a transparent and consultative way. On 6 April 2021, the State Administration Council Chairman met with the Chairpersons of Region/State Administration Councils and Self-Administered Division/Zone Administration Bodies. The State Administration Council Chairman underscored the need to serve the interests of

of agricultural products over natural resources exploitation, and to actions that develop human resources in each region.

The support of the leadership has provided renewed impetus to the Tatmadaw medical corps who are providing medical services to the civilian population, and to the government's efforts to reopen public hospitals, closed because of civil disobedience by public doctors, who had also expelled their own patients. The leadership provides motivation to accelerate transport and other infrastructural projects for the country, as well as the required improvements in health, education, and other socio-economic sectors. Leadership firms up the resolve to control the spread of misinformation and disinformation via media, reopen schools for children and adolescents, and ensure that adherents of all religions can practise their faith peacefully.

man focused on the reopening of public schools, universities, and health care programmes in the region.

Regional and international cooperation

The Twenty-Fifth ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting of ministers was held via video conference on 31 March 2021 under the ASEAN Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam. Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and his delegation joined the meeting via videoconferencing. The ministers discussed socio-economic development and collaboration among ASEAN countries.

On 1 April 2021, the Union Minister for International Cooperation attended the 17th Ministerial meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMS-



Such information causes more unrest and public concern, and the Ministry of Home Affairs stated on 26 April that action would be taken under the law against such false reports.

On 1 April 2021, the State Administration Council issued its invitation again to Myanmar citizens who had left Myanmar for various reasons. The invitation noted that certain citizens, including students, youth, and civil servants had fled to areas dominated by ethnic armed organizations or to other countries, due to fear fueled by falsehoods produced by local and foreign organizations. Those who have fled are now suffering with regard to security, life prospects and socio-economic conditions. Therefore, the State Administration Council invites such citizens to return to their homes. The Government has also made arrangements for young people who had participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and the pro-

action, and firm commitment.

Policy guidance and prioritization are set by the various deliberations of the State Administration Council. For example, on 22 April 2021, the meeting of the Management Committee of the State Administration Council focused on the production and export of products, the effective use of the State budget, the organization of sports competitions, the arrangements for reopening schools in May and June, and the renewed emphasis on law and business in university curricula. On 26 April 2021, the State Administration Council meeting (9/2021) focused on the need for solid evidence to take action against an organization under existing law, the need to appreciate loyal government employees, the resumption of normal operations by banks, the actions against entertainment artists committing illegal actions, the organization of interim press conferences,

Priority would be given to the export of agricultural products over natural resources exploitation, and to actions that develop human resources in each region.

the entire people and obtain their trust as a government that can be relied upon to deliver results. He emphasized that Myanmar must continue to work towards the achievement of democracy and federalism. As such, citizens would need to broaden their knowledge of democracy and federalism. Priority would be given to the export

On 10 April 2021, the State Administration Council Chairman met with the members of the Ayeyawady Region Administration Council and departmental staff. The meeting emphasized development issues and the resumption of operations. The Union Ministers accompanying the State Administration Council Chair-

TEC), which was held virtually in Colombo, Sri Lanka to finalize preparations for the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Sri Lanka in 2021. The Union Minister discussed the approval of documents to be signed at the coming 5th BIMSTEC Summit on economic cooperation, safe transportation, and mutual collaboration in the agricultural and energy sectors.

On 8 April 2021, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs participated in the ASEAN-UK Open-Ended Troika Meeting on cooperation between ASEAN and the UK in health-related matters, including COVID-19, resilient and sustainable economic recovery, and climate change. The Union Minister presented Myanmar's emphasis on management of COVID-19 and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, both of which are part of the State Administration Council's Five-Point Road Map.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Gandhama (Chrysanthemum) flower prices plummet due to oversupply

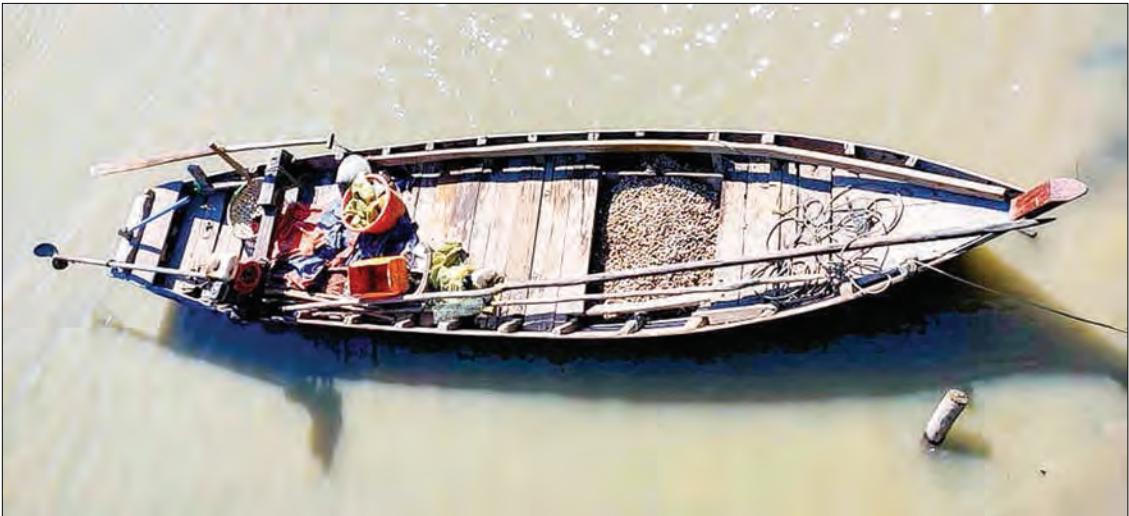


One bouquet of the flower was between K3,000 and K3,500 last year. It is only K2,000 this year, according to a flower grower from Kyaukmee village, Patheingyi Township.

ACCORDING to the Mandalay Flower Market, with more supply than demand of Gandhama flowers grown in Patheingyi Township, PyinOoLwin and Nawng-hkio townships, the prices of flowers have plummeted. Many farmers in villages near Patheingyi Township are mainly engaged in growing the Gandhama flowers. Flower prices are lower than last year at present when both flowers from the mountain regions and plain regions are in the market. One bouquet of the flower was between K3,000 and K3,500 last year. It is only K2,000 this year, according to a flower grower from Kyaukmee village, Patheingyi Township. Due to the influx of flowers in the market, the Gandhama flower prices are falling this year. —Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Scallops in Taninthayi Region

THE scallop is a popular local delicacy in townships in the Taninthayi Region, where long and wide coastlines exist, being prepared and sold as a variety of seafood from neighbouring Thailand. Locally known as Shat, various kinds of scallops can be found along the mouth of Pulaw creek in Pulaw Township, Kyel, Kyauk Kan Phe and Min Ka Kyel as well as in the muddy and sandy beaches in Myeik, Bokpyin and Kawthoung townships, Taninthayi Region. Unlike fish, the scallops



do not hatch or reproduce individually. They grow only in loamy soils with a mixture of silt and sand, with the mucus inside the husk. Their reproduction rate is swift, and fishers collect them for the family or to sell them. The location of collecting them varies depending on the unstable weather conditions and the tide. However, they can be collected all year round. On some days, it can be done twice a day and sometimes once a day, de-

pending on the tide. There are various methods for collecting scallops. Commercial collectors use a small boat and a shovel to collect them under the deep sea underwater, which is around a man's height, to export to Thailand. Local self-employed scallop collectors collect them on the sandy beaches at low tide. Local people eat scallops, which is dried, fermented, boiled, steamed or grilled. It can also be made with a variety of home-cooked dishes and cooked with Thai spices at hotels and restaurants. It is reported that scallops that are rich in vitamins and protein are not abundant in any coastal region apart from Taninthayi Region. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)/GNLM

Small-scale fish farm makes profits



SUBSISTENCE fish farming of Ko Ye Htut from Payathonezu Township of Kawkaik District in Kayin State sell the fish at reasonable prices to the people during the COVID-19 pandemic. He orders the catfish and climbing perch from Yangon and breeds them from 2 months to 4 months. The farmed fishes are sold at Payathonezu market at K2,500 (50 baht) per kilo of catfish and K5,000 (100 baht) per kilo of climbing perch. —Payathonezu (IPRD)/GNLM

Spain races to vaccinate farm workers against virus ‘time bomb’



Under Spain’s vaccination programme, farm workers have been given priority. PHOTO: AFP

OUTSIDE an old blue and white school in northeast Spain dozens of farm workers wait their turn to be vaccinated against the coronavirus by a team of nurses.

Spain, a key provider of fresh fruit and vegetables to the rest of Europe, is racing to immunize the army of cheap labour that follows the ripening of different crops across the country as the harvest season nears.

The aim is to avoid a repeat of the outbreaks of Covid-19 among farm workers in the northeast-

ern regions of Catalonia and Aragon last year that fuelled a spike in infections, leading to localized lockdowns. “We had a really rough time last year. Municipalities were locked down, fruit packing stations were closed due to the Covid cases,” said Jordi Janes, the mayor of Alcarra, a town of around 10,000 people near the city of Lleida.

“This gives us peace of mind,” he added, standing outside the vaccination centre set up in the town’s school to immunize around 400 workers from

area agribusinesses. When they enter the school the farm workers are asked for their ID and the name of the company that employs them. They then go to another room where a nurse gives them a single-dose Johnson & Johnson shot.

“They have given us all great joy,” said Kelly Johanna Hurtado Marian, a 22-year-old Colombian, who recalled how many of her colleagues got the virus last year.

She worked “a lot” to make up for their absence, she said. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bezos to hand over Amazon CEO reins on July 5

AMAZON founder Jeff Bezos said Wednesday that he will hand over operational control to his successor on July 5, leaving as the e-commerce giant flexes its muscles in television and cloud. Bezos is ceding his chief executive role to Andy Jassy, who heads Amazon Web Services, the lucrative cloud computing unit at the Seattle-based company. Bezos will take the role of executive chair.

Bezos announced his departure date at an annual shareholders meeting, saying it has “sentimental” value to him because it will be the 27th anniversary of Amazon officially becoming a corporation.

Bezos assured investors that Jassy is well known in the company, having been at Amazon almost as long as Bezos.

“He is going to be an exceptional leader, and he has all my confidence,” Bezos said of Jassy. — AFP ■

Shares in Hong Kong democracy paper quadruple as suspension ends

SHARES in the parent company of Hong Kong’s pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper quadrupled on Thursday as trading in them resumed following an eight day suspension. Dealing in Next Digital was halted last week after city authorities said they were freezing the assets of its jailed owner Jimmy Lai, using a sweeping new national security law.

But when trading resumed Thursday the share price skyrocketed from its previous close of HK\$0.19 to hit HK\$0.80 before paring the gains to HK\$0.36 mid-morning. The group saw a similar – and volatile – surge in its share price in August when police first arrested Lai, as ordinary Hong Kongers snapped up the firm to show support for the embattled Apple Daily. The 73-year-old media tycoon has long been a thorn in Beijing’s side for his caustic newspaper and unapologetic support for democracy.

Apple Daily, the city’s most popular tabloid, has staunchly backed Hong Kong’s pro-democracy cause, including the huge and often violent protests that swept the international financial hub in 2019.

In a filing on Wednesday announcing its plan to start trading again the following day, Next Digital said some HK\$500 million (US\$65 million) of Lai’s assets had been frozen, including his 71 per cent stake in the company. — AFP ■

HSBC to exit US retail banking sector



HSBC had already announced earlier this year that it intended to restructure its US retail and small business operations. PHOTO: AFP

HSBC announced Wednesday that it is exiting the retail and small business banking market in the United States, in line with its strategy to refocus on corporate and investment banking in Asia.

The London-headquartered, Asia-focused giant intends to “focus on the banking and wealth management needs of globally connected affluent and high net worth clients,” it said in a statement. Of

its 148 US branches, 90 are to be sold, including to Citizens Bank and Cathay General Bancorp. The bank plans to turn about 20 locations into international centers dedicated to high net worth individuals, and gradually wind down the remaining 35-40 branches.

“They are good businesses, but we lacked the scale to compete,” said Noel Quinn, the group’s chief executive, in the statement. — AFP ■

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Ministry of Industry
Date-Changing for invitation for Expression of Interest (Eoi)

1. Ministry of Industry invited the interested local and international companies to submit Eoi proposal for public-private partnership with No.(7) Textile Factory (Myittha) and No.(8) Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) dated (22.3.2021) and (24.5.2021)

2. Regarding the call for Eoi proposal, the available date for Eoi Form is changed from (28.5.2021) to (28.6.2021) (Monday) and the deadline for submission of Eoi proposal is changed from (31.5.2021), (16:00) pm to (2.7.2021), (16:00)pm, (Friday), Myanmar Standard Time.

No.(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise
Phone: 0673408185, 0673408338
textile.planning@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLT0175N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLT0175N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **LES VINS SKALLI** a company incorporated under the laws of FRANCE having its principal office at 9 quai Paul Riquet 34200 SETE FRANCE is the Owner and proprietor of the following trademark: -

FORTANT DE FRANCE
(Reg: No. IV/4714/2018)

in respect of:- “Alcoholic beverages (except beers); wines” Class: 33

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates Company Limited
for **LES VINS SKALLI**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 01-8372416
Dated: 28th May, 2021

Seintalone export to China plunges by half as against last year

U Kyaw Soe Naing, general secretary of the Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association, said Seintalone mango export this year is about 50 per cent less than in the corresponding period last year.

“The drop in mango export is attributed to China’s restriction in some border areas amid the COVID-19 and delays related to the COVID-19 containment measure (COVID-19 test for food packaging).

“China shut down many border posts. Only Kyinsankyawt post is available for cross-border trade, causing delays and long queue. It takes 4 to 5 days for a truck to enter the checkpoint. Heightening security measures on fruits and vegetables hinders the border



Eight per cent of Myanmar’s Seintalone goes to China. It fetches 100 Yuan per 16 kg box.

trade,” U Kyaw Soe Naing continued.

Seintalone mangoes from

Sagaing and Katha cities are daily sent to China on 10 to 15 trucks, Myanmar Mango Mar-

ket and Technology Development Association stated.

Eight per cent of Myan-

mar’s Seintalone goes to China. It fetches 100 Yuan per 16 kg box.

Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, and Machitsu varieties are primarily grown.

The foreign market prefers the Seintalone type.

Ayeyawady Region possesses the most extensive mango plantation acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second-largest producer with 43,000 acres, and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango.

According to the association, there are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region. — NN/GNLM

Short supply makes tomato prices skyrocket

AS there are a few growers of tomato plants in Kawlin and Wuntho townships, Sagaing region, this keeps prices high. The tomato growers in the townships are making better profits this year than last year.

“Last year, nearly all the villagers from the village grew the tomato and tomato price ranged from K250-300 per viss. So, the tomato growers from our village cultivated other crops this year instead of to-

matoes because they faced financial losses in the last winter tomato season. I grew 4,000 tomatoes last year, but only 2,000 tomato trees were cultivated this year. The 2,000 trees of tomato yielded about 700 visses, and I sold them for K800 per viss.

“We have never sold tomatoes at such a good price like this year,” said Ko Than Zaw, a tomato grower from Zin Pyon Chaung village.

I bought the tomato for K800 per viss from the Kawlin tomato growers. Then, they were sent to Shwebo, Monywa, Wetlet, Ywar Htaung and Mandalay towns by truck.

Among the crops, the Taiwan tomatoes are yielding well, making more profit for the growers. This is the reason why the growers are urged to grow the Taiwan tomato on a commerce scale.—Myat Tun Min (Kawlin)/GNLM



Tomato growers in Kawlin and Wuntho townships are making better profits this year than last year.

Myanmar attracts \$1.25 bln FDI in seven months this FY

MYANMAR has drawn foreign direct investment of more than US\$1.256 billion in the past seven months of the 2020-2021 financial year, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises and acquisitions in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

MIC intends to reach an FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the current FY2020-2021. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country. Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) ensures to approve the responsible businesses by assessing environmental and social impacts. The commission is working together with the relevant departments to screen the projects.

Japan has been the top source of foreign direct investments into Myanmar over the past seven months of the current FY. It brought in an estimated capital of \$518.76 million with three projects, DICA’s statistics indicated.

Singapore stood as the second-largest investors this FY with an estimated capital of \$388 million from 13 enterprises, followed by China investing \$166.75 million in Myanmar. Those enterprises listed from Thailand, India, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea,

UK, Viet Nam, Marshall Island, South Africa, Samoa, China, Hong Kong (SAR) and China (Taipei) also made investments this year.

MIC and the respective investment committees permitted and endorsed 42 foreign enterprises between 1 October and 30 April in the current FY. Of 42, 21 enterprises pumped FDI into the manufacturing sector. The power sector received seven projects, and the livestock and fisheries sector attracted five projects. The other service sectors also drew five projects, while the agriculture sector pulled two projects. One foreign enterprise each entered the industrial estate and the hotels and tourism industries.

The FDIs stood at \$6.9 million from 158 enterprises in the FY2016-2017, \$6.119 billion from 234 businesses in the FY2017-2018, \$1.94 billion from 89 projects in the 2018 mini-budget year, \$4.5 billion from 298 firms in the FY2018-2019 and \$5.689 billion from 253 businesses in the FY2019-2020 respectively, the DICA’s data indicated. Those enterprises have created over 96,000 jobs in the FY2016-2017, 110,000 jobs in the FY2017-2018, over 53,000 jobs in the 2018 mini-budget period, over 180,000 jobs in the FY2018-2019 and 210,000 jobs in the FY2019-2020, respectively. — MM/GNLM

Manufacturing sector pulls \$329.65 mln from 21 projects this FY

THE majority of foreign enterprises eyes the manufacturing sector for investments in the past seven months (Oct-Apr) of the current financial year 2020-2021. They pull in US\$329.659 million from 21 projects, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration stated.

The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need a large labour force are prioritized, MIC stated.

At present, labour-intensive enterprises face financial hardship amid COVID-19 negative impacts.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is primarily concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis. It contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

At present, Myanmar's garment export drastically dropped on the slump in de-



The Swedish fashion retailer H&M is gradually placing orders from Myanmar again after it paused in March. Then, more international fashion retailers such as Primark and Bestseller starts to resume new orders.

mand by the European Union market. Consequently, some CMP garment factories permanently and temporarily shut down and left thousands

of workers unemployed.

The factories are facing cancellation of order and slump in output, new demands. However, the Swedish fashion re-

tailer H&M is gradually placing orders from Myanmar again after it paused in March. Then, more international fashion retailers such as Primark and

Bestseller starts to resume new orders.

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Green gram prices remain high on steady demand

THE price of green gram remains at the current highs on the back of the steady demand by China, traders said.

The green grams fetch K39,000-41,000 per basket during the harvest season this year, Pakokku commodity depot's data indicated.

At present, the newly harvested green gram starts flooding the market. It fetched K38,000 per basket when the dollar gains. The growers are happy with the high price.

During the first week of May, the green gram price stood at K101,000 per three-basket bag. It rises to around K118,000 per bag in the May-end. The green grams (Kayan Shwe Wah variety) are priced at around K113,000 per bag. According to Mandalay Wholesale Centre, when the hard currency is flat, the export price of green grams dips.

China accounts for 60 per cent of Myanmar's green gram exports. In addition, countries in the European Union also purchase green grams from Myanmar. The export volume of green grams to India is lower compared to other countries. China prefers green grams (Shwe Wah) variety, said an official from

the Commerce Ministry.

China makes value-added products from green grams and sends them to foreign markets. Moreover, it produces bean by-products as feedstuffs.

The country has generated \$172 million revenue from green gram exports in the five months (Oct-Feb) of the current financial year 2020-2021.

Myanmar's green gram exports have registered at over 330,000 tonnes in the 2015-2016 budget year, over 400,000 tonnes in the 2016-2017FY, and over 350,000 tonnes in the 2017-2018FY and over 300,000 in the 2018-2019FY. Green grams are mainly exported to China through the border trade channels.

Of the total pulses' exports, green grams accounted for more than 26 per cent of the exports in the previous years.

As per green gram plantation data, there are over 300,000 acres of plantations in the country.

Green grams are primarily grown in Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and Kayin states. — KK/GNLM

Domestic gold price hits only over K1.57 mln despite rising of global gold price

THE domestic gold bar price hit only over K1.57 million on 27 May despite the rising of the global gold price, according to Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The international gold price was around US\$1,898 per ounce on 27 May.

Although the international gold price stood at only \$1834 per ounce on 12 May, the price of precious yellow metal hit the all-time highest of K1,709,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) in history. As a result, the domestic gold price is not rising like international gold.

Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association is taking the necessary measures to stabilize the gold price as per the instructions of the special investigation team, according to an announcement of YGEA issued on 17 May.

At present, the association has closed the gold trading to be able to steady the gold price and urged the members to run a cash-only for the gold transaction. Moreover, illegal importers and those who practise overtrading with negligence will face serious legal action.

In January 2021, domestic gold fetched the highest price of K1,336,000 per tical on 6 January. It reached the



At present, the association has closed the gold trading to be able to steady the gold price and urged the members to run a cash-only for the gold transaction.

lowest price of K1,316,000 per tical on 28 January. It got the lowest level of K1,340,000 (2 February) and the highest level of K1,410,000 (3 February). In March, the rate fluctuated between the most elevated of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March).

In April, the rate touched the lowest K1,389,000 (1 April) and the highest level of K1,455,000 (30 April), the gold traders said.

The local gold price reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). The

rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,312,000 (16 November) and the lowest of K1,278,000 (28 November).

According to the gold traders, in December, the pure yellow metal priced moved in the range of K1,275,000 (1 December) and K1,333,000 (28 December).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs in 2019, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over K1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching an all-time record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September in 2019. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar to play World Cup Qualifier against Japan today

MYANMAR men's national football team will take on Japan national team today at Fuku-Ari Stadium in Chiba, Japan, for the 2022 World Cup Qualifier.

Myanmar is falling in Group F together with Japan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia.

For the match against Japan, Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has released a primary list of 24 players.

Coach Antoine Hey will head the Myanmar team.

Three goalkeepers: Ko Ko Naing (Hanthawady United), San Satt Naing (Yangon United) and Pyae Hlyan Aung (Yadanarbon) are seen in the Myanmar team list for the qualifiers.

Defenders are Zaw Ye Tun (Yadanarbon FC), Ye Yint Aung,



Lar Din Mawra (Hanthawady United),

Ye Min Thu (Shan United), David Htan (Shan United), Soe Moe Kyaw (Yan-

gon United), Hein Htet Sithu (Yangon United) and Thein

Than Win (Free Agent).

Midfielders are Yan Naing Oo, Maung Maung Lwin, Nyein Chan Aung, Lwin Moe Aung and Maung Maung Win from Yangon United, Tin Win Aung from Free Agent, Hlaing Bo Bo from Sukhothai FC, Myat Kaung Khant from Yadanarbon FC and Htet Phyo Wai from Shan United.

Strikers are Pyae Moe and Win Naing from Yangon United, Than Htet Aung from Ayeyawady United and Suan Lam Mang from Ranong United.

Myanmar team has scored six points in five matches and standing at fourth place while Japan has secured first in Group F with all wins of 15 points garnered in five games.

— GNLM

Zidane resigns as Real Madrid coach: club

ZINEDINE Zidane has resigned as Real Madrid manager with immediate effect, the Spanish club said Thursday, just days after they were beaten to the La Liga title by Atletico Madrid.

"It is now time to respect his decision and show our appreciation for his professionalism, dedication and passion all these years," Real Madrid said in a statement on its website. "Zidane is one of Real Madrid's great myths and his legend beyond his role

as coach and player at our club."

The Frenchman's departure comes at the end of a disappointing campaign for the 13-time European champions, who also lost to Chelsea in the Champions League semi-finals as they failed to win a trophy for the first time in 11 seasons. Only 10 days ago Zidane, who has a contract until 2022, denied press speculation he had already told his players he would be leaving at the end of the season.

"How am I going to tell my players that I am going now? It's a lie," he said after a 1-0 win at Athletic Bilbao.

"I'm focused on this season. There is a game left and we are going to give everything. I only care what happens in this finale," he said at the time. But, perhaps tellingly, he added: "The rest, we will see at the end of the season." The announcement marks the end of Zidane's second spell in charge of the Spanish giants. — AFP ■



The 2021 edition of the clay-court Grand Slam gets underway in Paris on Sunday, just seven months after the end of the 2020 tournament, which was pushed back from May/June to September/October. File image of Rafael Nadal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Delaying 2021 French Open saves 'tens of millions of euros'

THE decision to delay Roland Garros for a second successive year has saved "tens of millions of euros", the head of the French Tennis Federation told AFP. The 2021 edition of the clay-court Grand Slam gets underway in Paris on Sunday, just seven months after the end of the 2020 tournament, which was pushed back from May/June to September/October. This year's event is also starting a week later than normal in an effort to capitalize on the French government's phased easing of COVID-19 restrictions. — AFP ■

Villarreal bask in 'special' Europa League triumph

VILLARREAL midfielder Francis Coquelin hailed his side's "special" maiden major trophy, secured in stunning fashion with victory over Manchester United in the Europa League final on

Wednesday. Playing their first ever major European final, Unai Emery's men clinched a memorable triumph 11-10 on penalties in Gdansk.

"It feels really good. It's

been a very tough competition," Frenchman Coquelin told BT Sport. "What an end." The match finished 1-1 after extra time, with Man United striker Edinson Cavani having cancelled out Gerard

Moreno's first-half opener. Villarreal finished seventh in La Liga, but the win over United sees them jump from next season's inaugural Europa Conference League into the Champions League group stage.

"We didn't manage to get to the Champions League through the league so to get through with our first title is amazing," added former Arsenal midfielder Coquelin. "Obviously to beat them in the final was something special." "We will try to celebrate (despite Covid) because it's something special for the club."

Villarreal's only previous silverware had been the Spanish third division in 1970 and two Intertoto Cups in 2003 and 2004.

"We had a great match against one of the best teams in the world," left-back Alfonso Pedraza told RMC Sport. — AFP ■



Villarreal celebrate their Europa League victory. **PHOTO: MICHAEL SOHN POOL/AFP**