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Saturday, 29 May 2021

Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, being the State's capital where the government opens offices, must be a role model in neatness and tidiness: Senior General

STATE Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon inspected the situation to expand the Mingalar Lake circular roads in Nay Pyi Taw and land preparations for landscaping beauty grass along Yarzahtani Road.

At the site to expand the Mingalar Lake circular roads near Thabyegon roundabout in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, the Senior General viewed the public recreation area, the site to hang souvenir key chains, the floating desk in Mingalar Lake, and the site to take physical exercise. The Senior General said that **being the State's capital where the government opens offices, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory must be a role model in neatness and**

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State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is inspecting expansion works of the Mingalar Lake circular roads in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 May 2021.



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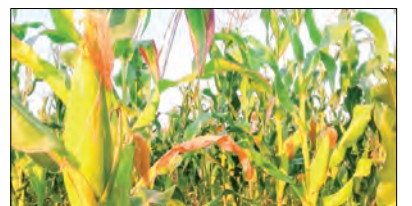
Price of Seintalone mango exported to China plummets this year

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Corn export tops \$246.9 mln in five months

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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.

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Order No 116/2021

3rd Waning of Kason 1383 ME

28 May 2021

Ministry of Health and Sports

THE Ministry of Health and Sports hereby announced the order by exercising the authority stipulated in Sub-Section (b) of Section 21 of the Prevention and Control of the Communicable Diseases Law.

- 1. Since the Ministry of Health and Sports has been taking preventive measures against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in real-time, people from some townships need to stay at home as the number of the confirmed patients is rising in Chin State and Sagaing Region.
- 2. Hence, the people residing in the following townships of Chin State and Sagaing Region are involved in the Stay-at-Home programme:
 - (a) Chin State
 - (1) Tonzang Township
 - (b) Sagaing Region
 - (2) Tamu Township
- 3. The people inclusive of the Stay-at-Home programme from these two townships need to abide by the following disciplines:
 - (a) Reside at their homes only (except for the persons going to government departments, organizations, companies, factories and workplaces for serving duties);

- (b) Only one person from each house to go out shopping;
- (c) Only two persons per house to go to hospitals and clinics;
- (d) Wear masks if they go outside the homes;
- (e) Allow ferries of transporting returnees from workplaces to pass the wards;
- (f) Allow one person only in addition to a driver in a vehicle for shopping in the community; and two persons with the driver for going to hospitals or clinics.

- 4. People need to report to relevant ward administration bodies and seek approval for going outside their house when they have reason in order to increase limited numbers of participants in the measures and other emergency issues mentioned in sub-paragraph (b), (c) and (f) of Paragraph 3. Relevant administration bodies need not allow ingoing and outgoing persons, except for officials and those returnees from duty.
- 5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by the order under the existing laws.
- 6. The order came into force at 4 am on 29 May 2021.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister

Request to the Public

3rd Waning of Kason 1383 ME

28 May 2021

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

- 1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has announced the final date to pay electric bills to the people.
- 2. Now, action is being taken against the people who do not pay the charges of electric bills for 12/2020 and 1/2021 by cutting off electricity supply under the electricity law.
- 3. As such, the electricity consumer people are reminded with goodwill to pay charges of electricity bills before the final date.

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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72 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 May, total figure rises to 143,486

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 143,486 after 72 new cases were reported on 28 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,279 have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

For reducing edible oil consumption

EDIBLE oil crops are involved on the list of primary export items of Myanmar. As individual people of Myanmar consumes 4.5 visses of edible oil per year, its consumption rate is too high. Import of edible oil abroad spends much foreign exchange because edible oil cannot be produced at home sufficiently. As it is necessary to ensure edible oil sufficiency at home, efforts must be made for thriving edible oil crop plantations in the respective areas so as to increase the per-acre yield of edible oil crops. The Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Information must continuously perform the educative tasks for reducing edible oil consumption.

(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)

Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, being the State's capital where the government opens offices, must be a role model in neatness and tidiness: Senior General

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tidiness. As the lake is a public relaxation area, arrangements must be made for them to relax tranquilly. **Monsoon will fall in the near future, so it is necessary to make preparations for proper water flow in roads and residential areas of the capital and keep the area clean and tidy without garbage.** The Senior General attended to the needs.

The Senior General inspected land preparations to grow a beautiful lawn in front of rain-tree plants along Yarzahtani Road. He instructed officials to carry out the tasks according to capital characteristics and timely



completion of tasks. Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory is a hub of government office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It was formed with eight townships that are home to some 1.1 million urban and rural population. No 1 circular road of Mingalar Lake is 4,960 feet long and eight feet wide, and No 2 facility, 11,660 feet long. These two roads will be expanded with two more feet wide on both sides, and the 12 feet wide concrete roads will be constructed on them. The area where land preparations are being made to grow beautiful grass is some 4,600 feet long. — MNA



Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 220,000 outpatients

TATMADAW keeps providing healthcare services for patients at the military hospitals and temporary treatment hospitals in the townships of regions and states. Tatmadaw medical teams, which comprise Tatmadaw doctors, specialists, medical assistants and nurses, have given medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 224,233 outpatients and 67,613 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medics, medical assistants

and nurses have conducted 10,482 major operations and 5,357 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment the severe cases. These hospitals managed for the birth of 13,206 babies to date. Of those, 5,365 cases are done in the caesarean section and 7,841 cases in ordinary delivery. In addition to providing medical care to patients in need of hospitalization, Tatmadaw is making arrangements for the well-being of hospitalized patients and caregivers. Northern Command Commander Brig-Gen

Myat Thet Oo and party encouraged patients – locals, military officers, other ranks and their families and members of Myanmar Police Force – who took medical treatments at the station military hospital in Myitkyina Town, Kachin State. He also presented foodstuffs to the patients yesterday. Similarly, Commanders of South-West Command and Southern Command clutched comfort blankets onto patients with medical treatments at the respective station military hospitals. — MNA

All statistic data sent by ministries must be accurate, firm and correct: Vice-Senior General

ONLY when they fully cooperate with one another to collect accurate statistic data will the country obtain the correct data and quality of statistics, said Chairman of the Central Committee on Data Accuracy and Quality of Statistics Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting 1/2021 of the Central Committee at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office yesterday morning.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said the Central Committee for Data Accuracy and Quality of Statistics was reconstituted when the State Administration Council held the first meeting. The central committee was reconstituted on 12 July 2013 depending on cooperation with partners, decisions on practices and adoption of policies based on the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation adopted in the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in 2013. The central committee was reconstituted in 2016 and 2018. The central committee was re-formed on 4 March 2021 again. It adopted a six-point national statistic policy. The Vice-Senior General stressed the need for the Central Committee to do its tasks in a quick process. Clusters 1, 2 and 3 under the Central Committee are to theoretically and



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the meeting 1/2021 of the Central Committee on Data Accuracy and Quality of Statistics yesterday.

practically coordinate with each other in respective ministries.

Expression of actual situations is essential for respective countries. In this regard, it is necessary to express the condition with accurate statistic data, and departments and ministries need to cooperate with each other. Only when they fully cooperate with one another to collect accurate statistical data will the country obtain the correct data and quality of statistics. Work guidelines can be given correctly in reviewing the international community's trust, the people's reliance on information and data of the entire nation, and correct statistics can be submitted to the Head of State. All the stages of the procedure of the central committee are important, so all

committee members should do their tasks systematically. The Vice-Senior General urged all to implement the work procedures to contribute to the Myanmar Statistical Yearbook published by the Ministry of Planning and Finance on a yearly basis.

Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein reported on the implementation of the current tasks and statistics by the central committee, issuance of the firm and quality statistic data, better statistical coverage, and responsibility, accountability and cooperation of relevant organizations and ministries including the private sector.

Officials reported on the implementation of the clusters,

reformation of the clusters, the accomplishment of the minutes of the meeting 1/2020, capacity enhancement of statistics, meeting and capacity enhancement training, collection of census population and surveys, survey calendar, and issuance of statistics.

Members of the central committee, Union ministers and region and state administration councils presented the implementation of the national strategy for the development of statistics, efforts of relevant ministries and region and states in order to obtain correct statistics, the plans to decide minutes of the meeting 1/2021 of the central committee and sought the approval.

Later, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to compile

the statistic data meeting the international standard as the statistics of Myanmar are being solved in the global statistic system. It is necessary to turn out qualified scholars in order to specialize in the requirements of technologies in the collection of statistic data and modern data collection techniques by doing their works with the least reliance on foreign countries. In sharing data with the international community, statistical data must be correct, and modern technologies must be applied to collect and send the data. All statistic data sent by ministries must be accurate, firm and correct. As such, Myanmar can join the world statistic system. —MNA

Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

From 24-5-2021 to 28-5-2021, local/foreign donors contributed K0.1 million to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA 013733 and foreign currency account EDC 600012 opened at Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 28-5-2021 is as follows:

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List		COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List	
	Kyat		USD
Account opening balance on 24-5-2021	30,807,093,615.39	Account opening balance on 24-5-2021	178,140,149.53
Received amount of money from (+) 24-5-2021 to 28-5-2021	100,000.00	Received amount of money from (+) (24-5-2021 to 28-5-2021)	-
Closed balance on 28-5-2021	30,807,193,615.39	Closed balance on 28-5-2021	178,140,149.53

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.

SAC Member Jeng Phang Naw Taung attends preliminary archery competition for SEA Games



THE finals and awards-giving ceremony of the preliminary archery competition for participation in the XXXI Southeast Asian Games was held yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.



The ceremony was attended by State Administration Council Member Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports U Myo Hlaing, Acting Director-General of Department of Sports and Physical Education U Tun Myint Oo, President of the Myanmar Archery Federation U Zay Thiha, Deputy Directors-General, Directors and officials.

The final competitions for compound individual, mix team and recurve individual were held at the ceremony and winners were awarded medals and cash rewards. – MNA

Ceremony to mark 3rd anniversary of Myanmar Law Information System held

UNION Attorney-General Office organized the 3rd anniversary of the Myanmar Law Information System (MLIS) establishment yesterday. Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo pointed out that MLIS had been developed at www.mlis.gov.mm with the help of KOICA and the Ministry of Legislation (MOLEG) of Korea on 24 May 2018 to provide law-related information. Now, it reaches its third full year. The free MLIS is the very first system established in Myanmar among the ASEAN

countries. A total of 10,761 data are added to the system to date, and there are 1,260,000 views. She then highlighted the objectives for the establishment of MLIS as a Law Library for the people, including law researchers, law students and lawmakers, and the new category of Legal Translation Commission containing the law terms translated by the commission. The efforts of the UAG Office to establish MLIS can assist the government when it implements an e-government system. Therefore, the ministry concerned should send their law-related data in a timely manner to be able to express on MLIS as an e-Law Library. Present at the ceremony were Deputy Attorney-General U San Lwin, the Permanent Secretaries of Ministries, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and Directors of the UAG Office. – MNA



Present at the ceremony were Deputy Attorney-General U San Lwin, the Permanent Secretaries of Ministries, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and Directors of the UAG Office. – MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

28 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 Kalay, Htigyaing, Wuntho, Bamauk, Pinlebu, Katha and Indaw townships in Sagaing Region.
2. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 807,928 eligible voters in these seven townships in Sagaing Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 629,835 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 51,799 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 6,783 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 87,212 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
3. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on Township-wise voter lists							
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	Kalay	195	285,409	182,500	21,579	3,361	36,980
2	Htigyaing	92	95,768	78,431	7,444	893	11,258
3	Wuntho	53	55,821	40,095	1,658	189	4,452
4	Bamauk	111	71,664	57,452	729	33	1,904
5	Pinlebu	128	84,266	66,143	5,181	783	9,902
6	Katha	110	122,527	111,555	1,3549	1,170	13,738
7	Indaw	84	92,473	93,659	1,659	354	8,978
	Total	773	807,928	629,835	5,1799	6,783	87,212

4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Kalay, Htigyaing, Wuntho, Bamauk, Pinlebu, Katha and Indaw townships in Sagaing Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators in accordance with Section 53 of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law.
5. According to the inspection, a total of 773 polling stations in these seven townships took out 912,725 ballots and used 601,080 ballots. It left 304,153 ballots instead of 311,645 ballots. The difference was 33,378 ballots and it found 25,886 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	Kalay	195	319,256	196,478	122,778	123,584	2,936	3,742
2	Htigyaing	92	105,724	71,802	33,922	30,879	7,915	4,872
3	Wuntho	53	63,648	44,684	18,964	18,862	1,360	1,258
4	Bamauk	111	82,250	59,881	22,369	21,932	2,918	2,481
5	Pinlebu	128	98,552	68,360	30,192	28,643	2,969	1,420
6	Katha	110	137,455	89,241	48,214	46,107	13,558	11,451
7	Indaw	84	105,840	70,634	35,206	34,146	1,722	662
	Total	773	912,725	601,080	311,645	304,153	33,378	25,886

6. According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships of Sagaing Region, the numbers of eligible voters are more 178,093 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 51,799 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI, “Preparation of Voting Roll” stated, “Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time.” But, there were 6,783 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 87,212 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of Shan State.
8. According to the respective Hluttaw Election Rules 15 (a) which states, “Two sets of voter lists of the relevant ward or village-tract, signed and approved by the chairman and secretary of the ward or village-tract sub-commission on each page of the voter list, shall be sent to the township sub-commission. Township sub-commissions shall collect by constituency.” However, it was found that the voter list Form (1) of 30 village-tracts in Kalay Township were not signed by the chairperson and secretary of the relevant ward or village-tract sub-commission.
9. It was found that the signature or fingerprint of the voters were not included and marks and underlines and colorful scratch on the voter list Form (1) of the polling station (2) of Choontaung village-tract and polling station (2) of Aung Zeya ward in Htigyaing Township. It was also found suspicious that the name of the voter, voter list number, polling station number, ward/village name and the voter’s signature were not filled out in the receipts of a used ballot paper book of the polling station (3) of Mehin village-tract, Htigyaing Township.
10. It was found that the advance voters were not underlined by red colour ink in the voter list Form (1) and “advance vote” was written with blue colour ink in the permanent signature box, and no signature of voters were found on the Form (1) of the polling station (1) in Tonehlaw village-tract, Bamauk Township.
11. Findings from the inspection of voter lists and casting of votes of Pyithu Hluttaw ballot papers in Katha Township are as follow:

(a) Name of the voter, voter list number, polling station number, ward/village name and voter’s signature were not filled in the receipts of used ballot papers in polling station (1) of Lankhwa village-tract, Katha Township.

(b) It was found that voter list Form (1) books of the polling station (1) and (2) of upper Waigyi village-tract in Katha Township were lost.

(c) Advance votes were not marked as “advance” in the voter list Form (1) and names were circled with a blue ink with signature in the polling station (1) of Peinnegon ward.

(d) Although every page of the voter list Form (1) must be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the ward/village-tract sub-commission in accordance with the respective Hluttaw Election Rules 15 (a), most of the polling stations didn’t follow the rule. It was found complication and disorganizations with underline by red ink and colourful inks, circle with pencil and black ink in the voter list Form (1) to confuse the voter and the advance voters.
12. It was found that marks were made on the voter name and permanent signature or fingerprint was not included after casting the vote in the voter list Form (1) of the polling station of Kyaung Kone village-tract and polling station (1) of Nantha village-tract in Indaw Township.
- Findings in these seven townships of Sagaing Region were as follows:

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- (a) There were 605,190 voters and they used 601,080 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 4,110 less than the numbers of voters.
 - (b) A total of 33,378 ballot papers were missing.
 - (c) 25,886 extra ballot papers were found in some polling stations.
 - (d) Ward/village-tract sub-commission's chairman and secretary didn't sign every page of the voter list Form (1) in accordance with the Hluttaw Election Rules 15 (a).
 - (e) Signature of the voter or his or her fingerprint was not included in the voter list Form (1) and marking with colourful inks and highlighting were carried out.
 - (f) Some polling stations allowed voters to cast the ballots without filling the voter's name, voter list number, polling station number, village/ward name and the voter's signature in the receipt of ballot paper.
 - (g) Some ward/village-tract election sub-commission failed to submit the ballot paper receipts and extra ballot papers in accordance with the law.
 - (h) Voters without national identification card were included in the voter list and they were allowed to vote just with the voter ID cards.
 - (i) Illegal advance voting was found.
 - (j) They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.
13. It found voting frauds in Kalay, Htigyaing, Wuntho, Bamauk, Pinlebu, Katha and Indaw townships in Sagaing Region. The excess/shortage ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of the Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Union Election Commission

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo meets Magway Region Investment Committee members

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Aung Naing Oo met the Magway Region Administration Council and region investment committee yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed prioritized sectors to improve investment in the manufacturing industry, farming and breeding sectors, renewable energy and SMEs to grab positive achievements in a short period.

He then said it should examine investment-related propos-

als within a fixed term according to the law.

Region Administration Council/Investment Committee Chairman presented the region's investments, including further work plans and cooperation work with the ministries concerned.

The Union Minister and party also inspected a solar power plant of GEP (Myanmar) Co., Ltd in Min Hla Kyin village of Minbu Township of Minbu District.

The officials finally inspected the Man Thi Tar (MTT) concrete pole factory of Kyaw & Than Ltd in Kanyay Village-tract. — MNA



Myanmar delegation joins virtual Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Health Ministers' meeting



A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister Prof Dr Aye Tun of the Ministry of Health and Sports participated in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Health Ministers' meeting through videoconference on 27 May.

Health Minister of Azerbaijan Mr Teymur Musayev first made a greeting speech while Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of WHO spoke via his video message.

The officials of NAM member countries then discussed cooperation works in conducting COVID-19 prevention and control activities, ways to solve health challenges, Universal Health Coverage, Sustainable Development Goals, fair use of COVID-19 Vaccine in member countries, priorities of WHO in sharing the methods of making vaccines in developed countries for the developing countries and collective strength to control the global pandemic.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Health Ministers' meeting will be organized from 24 May to 1 June via videoconferencing in Geneva, Switzerland, along with the 74th World Health Assembly. During this assembly, the Chairman of NAM will release a statement of NAM on behalf of member countries. — MNA

Public information

Yangon Region Administration Council is working with relevant departments to help the businesses in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their small and medium-scaled businesses and investments which are facing some delays and working to do new businesses.

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council

Unite strengths of national people to overcome natural disasters

NOWADAYS, Myanmar manages manpower, money and materials to mitigate the impacts and risks of natural disasters across the nation all year round for easing tensions of the people whenever disasters fall.

In history, despite having experiences with severely dangerous natural disasters such as cyclonic storms, floods, torrential rains, earthquakes, Myanmar could overcome them successfully.

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.

The National Natural Disaster Management Committee operates the disaster management tasks in all seasons. Moreover, training courses on disaster risk reduction are conducted in relevant regions and states as well as districts to realize the motto: all survivors must be alive.

Not only Tatmadaw members but also volunteers and departmental staff perform rescue and relief tasks whenever disasters fall in any parts of the nation as soon as they have information.

When the rescue works end, the national committee arranges the distribution of relief supplies to the victims from disaster-affected areas. Hence, two central warehouses, 15 region and state warehouses, 46 district warehouses and 51 township warehouses store relief supplies so as to provide them to the victims in time.

The Department of Disaster Management warehouses distribute 22 items of relief supplies, including clothes, sheets of tarpaulin, plastic boxes, packets of instant noodles, women sanitary napkin and underwear, and mosquito nets to the victims on time.

As part of preparations to supply relief aid in time, the central warehouse in Yangon Region stores 17 items of relief supplies and regional development equipment for 15,000 households, whereas Yangon Region Disaster Management Department stockpiles relief items for 5,000 homes. These warehouses are ready to deliver the relief supplies to the affected people.

All the entire national people need to make concerted efforts to safely overcome the challenges of natural disasters in all seasons. In line with the motto: “Unity of strength”, no matter how dangerous the natural disasters are, it is sure that the entire people would overcome them successfully.

■ ■ ■

When ‘Tauktae’ Batters the Land

By Maung Hlaing

ALMOST everyone knows ‘gecko’ which is defined in the dictionary as ‘a lizard of the warm region, with adhesive pads on the feet’. However, we call ‘gecko’ (တောကီတုံ) ‘Tauktae’ in Myanmar.

According to the traditional belief of Myanmar people (especially of the children), gecko, or ‘Tauktae’ is regarded as a ‘meteorologist’ who can forecast the weather. When it makes a sound, we children ask him the questions – ‘Is it the rain?’ or ‘Is it the wind?’ when its shouting ends with the question ‘Is it the rain?’, we believe that we may have a rainy day. Or when its shouting ends with the question ‘Is it the wind?’, we believe that we may have a windy day.

Believe it or not. But Myanmar children love to do so. In this way, ‘gecko’ or ‘Tauktae’ becomes a friend of Myanmar children. They really love ‘Tauktae’ very much. They love to listen to the shouts of ‘Tauktae’.

However, I was flabbergasted when I came across a news story carried by the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) of 19-5-2021. According to the news, the Cyclone ‘Tauktae’ battered swathes of India, sending huge waves crashing onto its shores,

turning streets into rivers and forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee.

The colossal swirling system – the biggest to hit the region in decades – claimed lives in Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat as savage winds swept through flimsy homes and uprooted trees and electricity pylons. Mumbai authorities closed the airport and urged people to stay indoors, shifting about 600 Covid-19 patients in field hospitals “to safer locations” while sea levels swelled as high as three metres (10 feet) near the seaside town of Diu.

The cyclone made landfall in Gujarat on 17 May 2021 as an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm packing gusts of up to 185 kilometres (115 miles) per hour, the Indian Meteorological Department said. It had been downgraded to a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm by Tuesday (18 May 2021) morning.

It was ‘Tauktae’ that carried the evils. It was ‘Tauktae’ we hate most. How very bad ‘Tauktae’ is!

The AFP news made me recall the Cyclone Nargis that pounded Myanmar on 2 May 2008. In the city of Yangon, the streets were full of fallen trees. Many buildings were seen roofless. All the roads and streets were not a

position to cope with vehicles. No sound of vehicles could be heard in the whole city, which was like a ghost town.

We faced the evil consequences of Cyclone Nargis. We ran out of electricity and water. There was no supply at all. To make matters worse, a transport service was not available. Due to the lack of power supply, filling stations could not work.

We have put ourselves in the place of the people living in India.

What I feel in my heart was that the Indian state of West Bengal, stricken by coronavirus after mass rallies were held for a key election, ordered a two-week lockdown in a bid to halt the spread. AFP also said: the cyclone interrupted the vaccine programme the country urgently needs to get its spiralling Covid-19 outbreak under control. The deadly weather system to exacerbated India’s embattled response to a coronavirus surge that is killing at least 4,000 people daily and pushing the health system to breaking point. All offices, stores and public transport are told to close after the region reported its biggest surge yet in deaths and infections.

Cyclones are not uncommon along the South Indian coast and neighbouring regions, and they

wreak major havoc when they strike. The region of the sub-continent which juts out into the Indian Ocean is an open area which rain-bearing winds lash. This region is an annual target of storms and cyclones. Indeed, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar annually take lashings from the monsoon and end-of-monsoon storms, which frequent their coasts, and sometimes move far inland.

As in the case of India, whenever a disaster strikes, our sympathy goes to the stricken, for we in Myanmar have suffered the devastating action of natural disasters. We never forget the cyclones which hit the Ayeyawady Region and the Rakhine State in the 1970s and Cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar in the late 2000s. ‘Tauktae’ also reminded me of the storm-born heavy rains which precipitated flash-floods and general flooding in the flatlands and low-lying areas of states and regions.

Whenever a disaster strikes a country, its government will surely have to give the victims the immediate attention they need to alleviate their suffering.

After relief measures are applied with the help of international agencies, there will have to be widespread rehabilitation

work, including the rehabilitation of the survivors, livestock, and agriculture.

Bringing relief to the stricken millions is no small matter. There is the mammoth task, for, the survivors are physically too weak and mentally too dispirited to take adequate care of those who have passed away, especially in their decomposed state. Relief workers, military personnel, police, volunteers and all who are able to pitch in to help will be mobilized, as has been the general rule.

The rehabilitation of villages along the river banks, after relief measures have been applied, will be another mammoth task, what with hundreds of them totally flattened. Though the supply of food and clothing to the survivors may not be difficult, the procurement of building materials, transportation, and actually helping the survivors rebuild from scratch requires mobilization of more volunteers and public-service personnel.

Damage done to millions of hectares of crops is substantial loss, for agricultural rehabilitation in the wake of a cyclone of such strength may prove too great a task. Sometimes, the problem of irrigation may crop up.

While we think of the unfor-

tunate thousands and flash back on similar experiences here in our country, we hope the timely relief and rehabilitation measures will alleviate suffering and put our unfortunate neighbours back on the road to recovery.

Now, hotter days are still with us.

Water is diminished

In the month of Tagu ...

Water is dried up

In the month of Kason ...

Myanmar people say so. Before the monsoon sets in, the heat is unbearable. Due to the intense heat, we are looking forward to seeing the rain clouds to release some showers.

If it rains, we’ll have a bath.

When Mom comes, we’ll suck her breast.

When Dad comes, we’ll split the coconut to eat.

In our childhood days, we were happy when it rained. We sang the childhood song while playing in the rain. The rain, indeed, is our friend.

We still love ‘Tauktae’, who invites fragrant rains to our agricultural country but not the Tauktae’, an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm.

Reference: AFP news (The Global New Light of Myanmar, 19 May 2021 & 25 May 2021).

Transforming regional frameworks into national actions

AS the world enters its second year of living with the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus has shifted from containing the spread of the disease towards recovering from socio-economic disruptions. COVID-19 recovery frameworks have been articulated throughout much of the last 12 months, with emphasis on streamlining regional and national development strategies across all levels. Most notable among regional plans is the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework launched by South-East Asian countries as an exit strategy from the pandemic. Yet, to truly move ahead with the recovery, further efforts to align national actions with regional and international implementation can have a stronger impact. To better understand the support required by South-East Asian countries, the South-East Asia Policy Dialogue was organized in line with the launch of ESCAP’s



A trial of bicycle lanes on EDSA, Manila’s main arterial road, is one of the Philippines’ only green infrastructure to emerge post-Covid. PHOTO: BASILIO H. SEPE/GREENPEACE

2021 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific: Towards Post-COVID-19 Resilient Economies.

Dr. Shuvajit Banerjee of the ESCAP Macroeconomic Policy and Finance for Development Division, a co-author of the report,

emphasized how socio-economic impacts of the pandemic amplified the need for targeted investments in strengthening people and the

planet. Thus, he called for continuity in policy support to build resiliency and invest in the 2030 Agenda, and applying a more integrated risk management approach to planning and policymaking. These core messages are reflected in the report, which outlines a “Building Forward Better” policy package that calls for investments in social services, digital access and green development, using fiscal space and a range of financing options.

Speakers Ms. Diandra Pratami, SDG Coordination Officer and economist from the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Indonesia, Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director of the Mekong Institute, and Dr. Kensuke Tanaka, Head of the Asia Desk of the OECD Development Centre provided insights on actions required to effectively recover from the pandemic. Ms. Pratami highlighted the importance of obtaining buy-in from the Indonesian

Government to implement policy packages aimed at building back better, while Dr. Tanaka shed light on policy responses such as real-locating resources towards digital health, e-learning, and industry 4.0 for South-East Asia.

As one of the major subregions of South-East Asia, the Mekong region faces distinct challenges. Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn underscored how the Mekong Institute has supported Mekong country representatives by enhancing their skills in translating regional policy frameworks and packages into actions suited to their national development strategies. Mekong Institute’s peer-to-peer learning experiences and sharing of good regulatory practices across Cambodia, China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam were also spotlighted as useful measures in building resilient and forward-looking economies.

SOURCE: ESCAP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

The State Administration Council has appointed Dr Khin San San Win, Pro-Rector of Mandalay University of Higher Education Department under the Ministry of Education, as Rector at the same university on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနေ့အထိမ်းအမှတ်ဂိုဝဏ်



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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 28 May, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few cloudelsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29 May, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Eastern Shan, Kayin, Mon States, fairly widespread in Bago Region and Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, AyeyawadyRegions and (Northern and Southern) Shan, Chin, Kayah 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 (30-35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (6-9)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate to strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 May, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29May, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 May, 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Isolated rain or thundershowers in Naypyitaw and Mandalay Region and scattered in Yangon Region.

The Third Month of the State Administration Council Government

By Kanaung

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Also on 8 April, the Union Minister for International Cooperation and other officials held a brief presentation on the current developments in Myanmar to diplomats and heads of UN agencies. The officials presented matters pertaining to taking State's responsibilities by the State Administration Council according to the stipulations of the 2008 Constitution, and the plans to hold a free and fair multiparty general election in line with the 2008 Constitution, following which State power would be transferred to the winning party in accordance with democratic norms. Following the meeting, participants viewed the weapons, including homemade guns used by National League for Democracy supporters, displayed at the meeting hall.

On 9 April 2021, the Tatmadaw Information Team met the foreign Military Attachés based in the country and briefed them on the current political situation and the duties of the State Administration Council, and then replied to the questions raised at the meeting.

From 12 to 16 April 2021, the



Tatmadaw. The guidance given to various stakeholders highlights these new roles and directions.

- Tatmadaw officers, other ranks and their families are kept informed on the various steps in state-building and nation-building being undertaken, and on the findings of the newly formed Union Election Commission (UEC), which is scrutinizing the details of voter lists for each township and regularly releasing its findings on electoral fraud during the 2020 general

elections. The guidance given to various stakeholders highlights these new roles and directions. - Tatmadaw officers, other ranks and their families are kept informed on the various steps in state-building and nation-building being undertaken, and on the findings of the newly formed Union Election Commission (UEC), which is scrutinizing the details of voter lists for each township and regularly releasing its findings on electoral fraud during the 2020 general

administration Council members, and departmental staff. The Chairman gave a briefing on the country's current political situation and highlighted the need to improve food security in Magway Region, increase agricultural productivity, develop more farmland, prioritize the reopening of schools, promote community-based tourism and adapt the 'One Village-One Product' system for Myanmar. - On 8 April and 10 April respectively, the Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met with officers, other ranks and families of Taunggyi Station and Yamethin Station. Discussions focused on new and renewable sources of energy, such as solar power and hydropower plants, and on the health, education, public transport and living standards of the people.

- On 9 April 2021, Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the passing-out parade of the 124th intake (Thura Company) of the Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School in Bahtoo. He stressed unity within and among units and urged Tatmadaw members to strictly follow the military moral ethics. He then visited the military hospital in Bahtoo with gifts of food to encourage both military personnel and civilians taking medical treatment at the hospital. The Vice-Chairman also inspected the agriculture and livestock activities within the Tatmadaw grounds and met with trainees for the Infantry Platoon Commander Training in Bahtoo.

- On 11 April, the State Administration Council Chairman met with officers, other ranks, and families of Yangon Station. He explained that the voting lists were under inspection, and that the findings of electoral fraud would be released. Based on the inspection results, actions would be taken under the law. He also briefed the Yangon Region Administration Council members and departmental staff on the transfer of State responsibilities from the Pro Tem President as a result of these circumstances. Government employees were requested to understand the situation and to continue to carry out their duties. He highlighted certain political issues and the Five-Point Road Map of the Council. The Chairman inspected the damage in the industrial zones of Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships, which had been burned and destroyed by violent mobs. Residents of those areas were provided with food assistance.

- On 30 April 2021, the State Administration Council Chairman inspected Oil Refinery No. 1 in Thanlyin and the municipal operations in Yangon Region. The inspection tour focused on measures to resume operations in state-owned factories and to meet the country's fuel demands. Inspection tours were also conducted of the drainage system and river outlets in Botahtaung, Kyauktada and Lanmadaw townships, with a view to prevent or mitigate the impacts of flooding in Yangon.

Additional findings of electoral fraud

The newly appointed UEC

had embarked on an examination of voter lists used in the 2020 general elections since its appointment. It has been conducting on-the-ground checks in each township of the country. Starting from February, the UEC has been releasing — with full transparency — its findings on voter lists and the status of ballot papers (issued, received, used, and remaining, as well as shortage/loss and excess ballots) in the respective townships. Table 1 shows the townships for which UEC issued the outcomes of their examination in April.

The findings may be summarized as follows:

- Ballot papers were issued to each election sub-commission in exact numbers, comprising people on the voting roll. However, ground inspections showed missing ballots and extra (and used) ballot papers in significant numbers. These indicate illegal activities, such as ballot papers filled up and cast as votes by real voters, but now disappeared, and fraudulent ballot papers added to the real voting results outside of official channels.
- Significant numbers of ballot papers had the wrong candidates, while some non-NLD candidates were missing from ballot papers.
- Significant numbers of voters in the lists had no national identity cards (or citizenship scrutiny cards).
- The same citizenship scrutiny cards with identical identification numbers were recorded as "voters" in two or more locations, which is impossible without fraud; in other words, the citizenship scrutiny cards numbers were duplicated il-

Progress is being made towards multiparty democracy, led by the new government and the Tatmadaw. The guidance given to various stakeholders highlights these new roles and directions.

Myanmar delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs joined the 64th Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drugs held in Vienna, Austria via videoconferencing. The officials discussed the fight against illegal drugs and drug trafficking, including measures in Myanmar to reduce poppy cultivation and production rate. The government considers such measures to be a national duty.

Engagement of stakeholders

Progress is being made towards multiparty democracy, led by the new government and the

elections.

- On 3 April 2021, at a meeting with officers, other ranks and families of the Meiktila Station, State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing emphasized that the main task of the Tatmadaw is not only national defence, but also individual and collective efforts based on goodwill to elevate the Tatmadaw's image, the country and Myanmar people. - On 4 April 2021, the State Administration Council Chairman met with the officers, other ranks and families of Magway Station, the Magway Region Ad-

gally and used for fraudulent voting.

All of the above constitutes electoral fraud.

explore possible options for national priority projects.

The Social Security Board had provided social security

expected to be launched in January 2022, according to the original schedule. This will give impetus to the coun-

Table 1. Townships for which the new UEC issued investigation outcomes in April 2021			
Date	Township/ Region	Date	Township/ Region
1/4/2021	Budalin township, Sagaing Region and Myittha township, Mandalay Region	16/4/2021	Minhla and Aunglan townships, Magway Region
2/4/2021	Monywa township, Sagaing Region and TadaU township, Mandalay Region	17/4/2021	Thayet and Sinbaungwe townships, Magway Region
3/4/2021	Yenangyaung township, Magway Region and Sintgaing township, Mandalay Region	18/4/2021	PyinOoLwin and Singu townships, Mandalay Region
4/4/2021	Chipwe and Tanai townships, Kachin State	19/4/2021	Thabeikkyin and Ngazun townships, Mandalay Region
5/4/2021	Seikphyu, Pauk and Taungdwingyi townships, Magway Region	20/4/2021	Pyay township, Bago Region and Kanma township, Magway Region
6/4/2021	Yinmabin township, Sagaing Region and Natmauk township, Magway Region	21/4/2021	Myawady, Hlaingbwe and Thandaunggyi townships, Kayin State
7/4/2021	Seven townships, Kayah State	22/4/2021	Hpa-an, Kawkareik and Kya-in-Seikkyi townships, Kayin State
8/4/2021	Gyobingauk, Nyaunglebin and Nattalin townships, Bago Region	23/4/2021	Sumprabum, Shwegu and Bhamo townships, Kachin State
9/4/2021	DaikU and Waw townships, Bago Region	24/4/2021	Kyauktaga, Shwegyin and Thanatpin townships, Bago Region
10/4/2021	Bago and Zigon townships, Bago Region	25/4/2021	Myingyan, Taungtha and NyaungU townships, Mandalay Region
11/4/2021	Kyaukpadaung and Mahlaing townships, Mandalay Region	26/4/2021	Mohnyin, Moegaung and Mansi townships, Kachin State
12/4/2021	Yamethin township, Mandalay Region	27/4/2021	Kawa, Letpadan and Okpo townships, Bago Region
13/4/2021	Putao and Machanbaw townships, Kachin State	28/4/2021	Madaya, Mogok and Wundwin townships, Mandalay Region
14/4/2021	Sagaing and Myinmu townships, Sagaing Region	29/4/2021	Kanpetlet and Thantlang townships, Chin State
15/4/2021	Thayawady and Minhla townships, Bago Region	30/4/2021	Myaung and YeU townships, Sagaing Region

try’s efforts to develop a cash assistance programme for social protection, since effective targeting and identification of poor households are linked to the robustness of the social protection management information system. At the same time, training of the workforce will be required in new technology and approaches.

Since 2017, there has been no progress on the draft law to prevent violence against women. Work on the draft law has now resumed led by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the law is expected to be finalized and adopted in the near future.

In the third week of April, the government held discussions on the draft national report for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services delivered a New Year message on 20 April for Myanmar New Year 1383. He emphasized that the State Administration Council was trying to restore peace and stability and generate socio-economic development, which are the two aspirations of the Myanmar people. He highlighted that the State Administration Council would join hands with all National ethnic peoples and exert utmost efforts to ensure a peaceful and stable socio-economic life for all, together with the unity and development of the State.

Nation-wide efforts would be necessary to rebuild the national economy, reform existing important economic institutions, and build new ones to strengthen the economic infrastructure. He called for people’s cooperation in the process.

On 21 April 2021, the Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication held a coordination meeting. The State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win addressed the meeting in his capacity as Committee Chairman. Child labour in Myanmar is driven by poverty and the need to earn income for the family. Child labour is common in many sectors and is a challenge for any developing country.



Socio-economic development

On 2 April 2021, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations held a coordination meeting with the respective ministries and organizations on development projects being implemented with the assistance of the European Union. The meeting emphasized the importance of information exchange and the need to update the respective development partners on implementation constraints and

benefits to insured workers in private industries and workplaces during the COVID-19 outbreak. As of the end of March 2021, about 1.6 million insured workers had been paid up to K68,715.14 million during the COVID-19 pandemic. The current government has been able to continue the process.

On 5 April 2021, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held a meeting on the development of the social protection management information system, which is

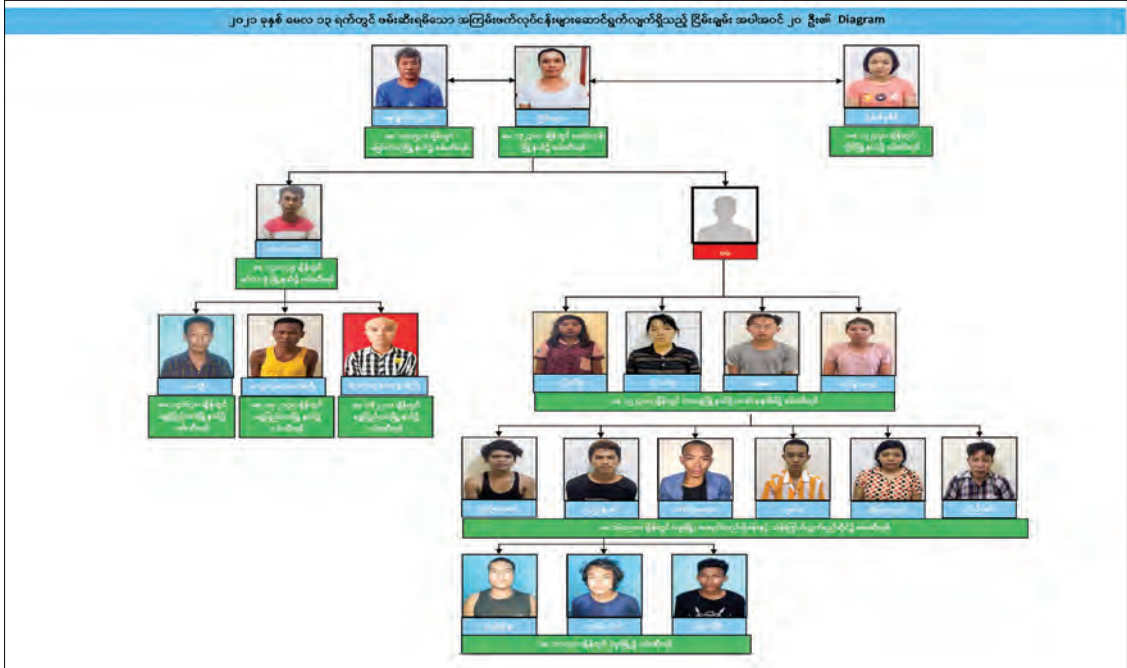
... the State Administration Council would join hands with all National ethnic peoples and exert utmost efforts to ensure a peaceful and stable socio-economic life for all, together with the unity and development of the State.

Nonetheless, the government is trying its best to address the problem.

Social relief work was undertaken by the government in April. A total of 30 million kyats were provided to more than 2,000 cyclone victims in Pwintphyu Township and 30,000 kyats each to 470 persons with disabilities under the Disability Support Programme of the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan on 25 April.

TO BE CONTINUED

Police arrest those who complete explosive training at ethnic armed groups-controlled areas



THE security forces investigate to expose insurgents and NLD supporters/members who intentionally commit explosions in some cities of the country.

According to the tip-off, some arrange to conduct training for the bombing, transport arms and explosives and send the youths to ethnic armed groups controlled areas. Therefore, the police made a surprise check at Thiri Condo at 9-mile on Pyay road of No (4) ward in Mayangon Township on 13 May. They arrested Nyein Chan (aka) Khine Ko Mon, who completed explosive training courses at ethnic armed groups-controlled areas, together with passports, computers and other materials.

The police also arrested Shun Seint Seint at Royal Thukha Condo in Dhamma Thuka Kyaung street in Hline Township based on the testimony of the suspect Nyein Chan. Both of them completed

the bombing training and made arrangements to send others to ethnic armed groups-controlled areas for training. They also contacted Nay Myo (aka) Charlie, follower of U Thein Naing, former NLD MP from Dagon Myothit (South) Township, to transport the arms.

According to the words of suspect Nyein Chan, police arrested those who completed explosive training courses: Aung Thet Paing and Thet Oo in Shwepyitha Township on 14 May, Kyaw Thu Lay in Shwepyitha Township on 15 May, and Ye Htet Tun on 16 May, respectively. They also arrested Nay Myo (aka) Charlie, who arranged to transport firearms/explosives in Yangon at Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 17 May.

According to his words, the police raided the house of Pa Pa in Tamway on 15 May. They did not find Pa Pa and arrested four people: Thein Sin, Su Myat Noe, Khin Pyone Kyaw and Khine Khin Moe, who completed training, with arms used in riots.

According to the testimony of Thein Sin, he participated in the riots in Bago on 16 May. The police arrested other trainees: Pyae Phyo Naing (aka) Mafia, Pyae Sone Aung (aka) Caspa, Thet Phyo Naung, Lu Min and Ei Myat Thwe at Ewarat guest-house in Ottha Myo Thit of Bago Township, and Thura Kyaw Swar (aka) Nyi Nyi Zaw at Than Kywe teashop in Ottha Myo Thit of Bago Township.

According to the words of Pyae Phyo Naing (aka) Mafia, the security forces arrested Pyae Sone Pyo in Bago on 17 May, and Thurein Ko Ko and Myint Ko Oo. They completed explosive training at Aung Yadana Monastery in Kyun Tha ward of Bago.

A total of 20 suspects, including Nyein Chan, were found guilty of conducting destructive acts to affect the State tranquillity and the rule of law. So they will face actions under the law. — MNA

Persons arrested with explosives in Yangon region

SECURITY forces have been conducting necessary investigations to ensure that there is no terrorist attack in the country and confiscating weapons and related items of the terrorists.

According to the report, on 21 May, Kyaw Zeya Thein, 38, was arrested at Grand Hanthar hospital located on Nanattaw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region. According to his confession, Tun Tun Hline, Khine Lin Thu, Wai Yan Maung Maung and Sithu Tun were arrested.

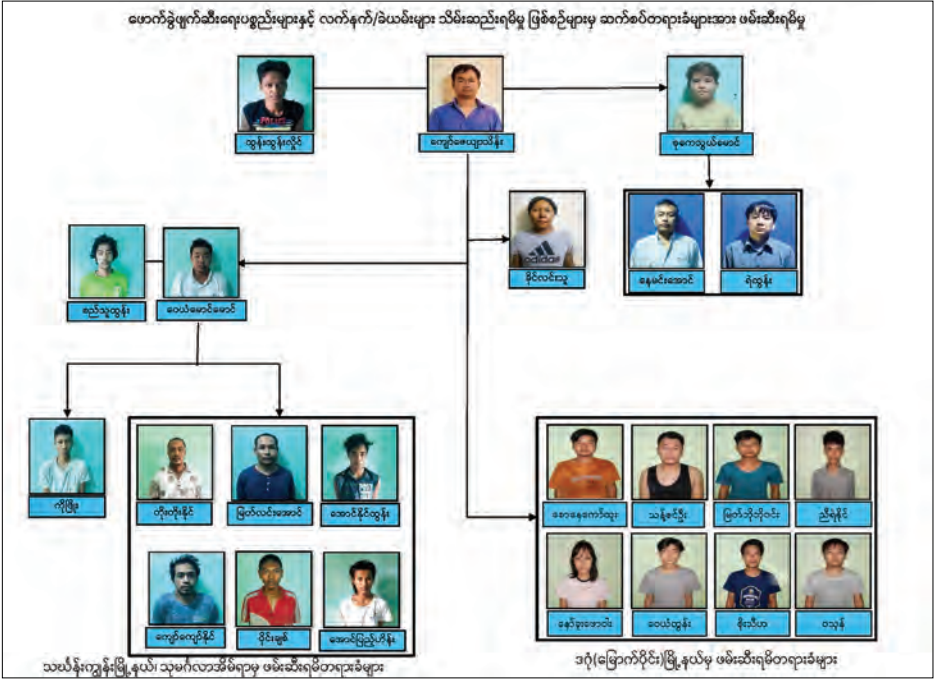
According to the confession of Wai Yan Maung Maung, Ko Phyo (a) Wai Phyo Maung was arrested together with two homemade bombs attached to a keypad phone in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region on 22 May.

According to the information received, security forces searched house number (65), 4th Thunanda Street, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region. They arrested Aung Naing Tun, Kyaw Naing, Wine Chit, Aung Pyae Hein, Toe Toe Naing and Myat Lin Aung with guns, bullets, air guns, and a massive amount of homemade mines and bombs, gunpowder and related items used in making explosives.

On 23 May, Myat Bo Bo Win, Thant Zin Oo, Soe Thiha, Nay Kaw Htoo, Nyi Ye Naing, Wathone, Wai Yan Tun and Narkhu Phaw War were arrested at the LONE WAY Co. Ltd in North Okkalapa, together with 46 homemade mines, 944 time bombs, 31 homemade mines linked with keypad phones, homemade gun, gunpowder and related items used in making explosives.

According to the confession of Kyaw Zeya Thein, Soe Kay (a) Su Kay Thwe Maung was arrested in Thingangyun on 24 May together with explosives and related items, including three smoke bombs and various kinds of gunpowder.

According to her confession, Nay Min Aung (a) Min Tha Gyi and Ye Tun were



arrested with two .32 pistols, one silencer, 19 bullets and three magazines in Bahan Township on 26 May.

A total of 23 suspects were arrested together with three pistols, three bullet cases, 25 rounds, 24 homemade guns, 2080 homemade bombs and mines, 20 sound bombs, 44-time bombs, three grenades, 58 fire bottles and gunpowder and related items used in making explosives.

Terrorists who threaten the lives, property and social security of the people who want to live in peace will be taken actions effectively under the law. — MNA

Military tribunal sentences murderers, rapist in Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya



Htun Ko Ko (or) Ko Ko Wai Moe Aung (or) Akyikaung

THE military tribunal has sentenced five men to death for murdering a man who lived in No (12) ward, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region, on 27 May.

Htun Ko Ko, Thiha Kyaw Tint, Kyaw Pu, Zarni and Aung Kyaw Myint tortured and stabbed Kyaw Htay to death on 14 March. They were sentenced to death under Section 302 (1) (b)/ 34 of the Penal Code after the investigation by the military tribunal.

Thiha Kyaw Tint, Kyaw Pu, Zarni and Aung Kyaw Myint are on the run, and an arrest warrant has been issued under Section 87/88 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The military tribunal has also sentenced Wai Moe Aung to 20 years in prison with labour under Section 376 (1) of the Penal Code for raping a young woman on 22 April at “Myint Mo” motel near the bus stop in front of the Hlinethaya Township office, Yangon Region. — MNA



Photo shows Daisuke Horiguchi, vice-president of Kagoshima Horiguchi Seicha Co., a large tea farm in Shibushi, Kagoshima Prefecture, in April 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

Kagoshima overtakes Shizuoka in green tea output for Japan’s top spot

KAGOSHIMA has overtaken Shizuoka in output equivalent to green tea sales, gaining the top spot in Japan, with differences in cultivation methods between the two prefectures and changes in consumer tastes behind the shift.

Kagoshima had output equivalent to 25.2 billion yen (\$2.32 million) worth of green tea leaves sales in 2019, compared to Shizuoka’s 25.1 billion yen, according to data released in March by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. Shizuoka thus lost the position as Japan’s leader in tea output it

had held since 1967 when data was first compiled.

Output in Shizuoka has decreased more than 40 per cent over the past decade, while Kagoshima’s has remained constant.

As Kagoshima has extensive areas of flat land as compared to the rest of Japan, local tea farmers have promoted large-scale cultivation and capitalized on the growing demand for bottled tea.

In contrast, Shizuoka has continued to focus on high-grade tea.

Given the persistent contraction of the domestic market, how-

ever, both prefectures are stepping up efforts to increase exports.

At Kagoshima Horiguchi Seicha Co. in the city of Shibushi, one of the biggest tea producers in the southwestern prefecture, large unmanned, sensor-controlled tea-picking machines slowly move through the approximately 300-hectare farm harvesting leaves each April.

“Smart farming using advanced technology has given us leeway to promote other operations,” said Daisuke Horiguchi, 38, vice president of the company. — Kyodo News ■

US hands Swiss bank red card in FIFA bribe scandal

SWISS Bank Julius Baer admitted it participated in money laundering of \$36 million in bribes in the “FIFagate” scandal over television broadcast rights, US officials announced on Thursday.

The bank admitted in federal court that it conspired to launder the funds through the United States to officials with FIFA and soccer federations in the Americas.

“Their behaviour has earned them the equivalent of a red card, and the money the bank now owes the US government is more than double what it admits to laundering,” FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge William F. Sweeney Jr said in a statement.

It was the latest twist in the scandal which

shook up the international footballing body, forcing long-time chief Sepp Blatter to step down in 2015.

The legal saga began with the arrests in May 2015, and involves “racketeering” by officials in the two continental federations in the Americas, CONMEBOL and CONCACAF, in exchange for the rights to broadcast continental competitions.

Julius Baer admitted the wrongdoing and entered into a three-year deferred prosecution agreement with US authorities. As part of this agreement, the bank has agreed to pay more than \$79 million in penalties, including a fine of \$43.3 million, the Justice Department statement said. — AFP ■

Airbus to raise plane production, sees aviation post-COVID recovery

AIRBUS said on Thursday it will produce more single-aisle planes in 2023 than before the coronavirus crisis as the European aerospace giant sees the aviation sector ascending from the pandemic.

The aircraft maker had slowed its production early on in the pandemic last year as COVID-19 and border closures caused a massive drop in air traffic, severely denting the earnings of airlines.

“The aviation sector is beginning to recover from the COVID-19 crisis,” Airbus chief executive Guillaume Faury said in a statement. The company said it expects the commercial aircraft market “to recover to pre-COVID levels be-



An Airbus aircraft. PHOTO: AFP

tween 2023 and 2025, led by the single-aisle segment”.

Airbus is “therefore providing suppliers with an update of its production plans, giving visibility in order to schedule necessary investments and secure long term capacity

and production rate readiness, in line with the expected recovery,” it said.

Airbus shares soared at the Paris stock exchange following the announcement.

Airbus is currently producing 40 planes of the A320 family per

month but the company said it would increase the average rate to 45 during the last three months of this year. It added that suppliers should “prepare for the future by securing a firm rate” of 64 A320 planes by the second quarter of 2023. — AFP ■

Nike says split with Neymar over refusal to cooperate with sex assault probe

NIKE said Thursday it parted ways with Neymar last year after the superstar Brazil attacker “refused to cooperate in a good faith investigation” as the company probed an employee’s claim that he sexually assaulted her. The apparel giant said in a statement that its investigation into the alleged 2016 incident — which was reported to the company in 2018 — was inconclusive. “No single set of facts emerged that would enable us to speak substantively on the matter,” the company said. In a Wall Street Journal article reporting the assault allegation, a spokeswoman for Neymar said the player denies the claim. “Neymar Jr. will vigorously defend himself against these baseless attacks in case any claim is presented, which did not happen so far,” she said in a statement, adding that Nike and Neymar split for commercial reasons. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC NINGBO VOY. NO. (120N/120S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC NINGBO VOY. NO. (120N/120S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY. NO. (225N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY. NO. (225N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

Construction of new Mingalar Market completed 63%



ACCORDING to the officials, the government is constructing a new Mingalar Market in Mingala Taungnyunt Township spending K68 billion, and about 63 per cent of the market has been completed.

The market will be a 17-storey building with a two-storey basement car park and is being constructed by modern machinery, expert engineers and skilled labourers following the COVID-19 health rules of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

There will be banks, restaurants and supermarkets on the ground floor. From 6th to 13th floor including two-storey basement car park can accommodate more than 700 cars. There will also be shops and warehouses on the 9th and 10th floors while the offices will be on 11st and 13th floors. There will be more than 1,000 shops from the 5th to 8th floors managed by the construction companies. The YCDC will relocate the vendors from the ground floor to the 4th floor who lost their shops in old Mingalar Market, which caught fire.

The officials now speed up the building construction. If the new Mingalar Market is completed, it can benefit more than 40,000 people, including vendors, staff, and customers, so the market will become alive more than before. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

Construction site of new Mingalar Market.

Maize price rises due to strong demand from Thailand, local buyers

MANDALAY pulses traders say prices of maize in the Mandalay market have risen in recent days due to strong demand from Thai and local buyers.

The price of maize has risen sharply since the first week of May, from K28,000 per three-basket bag before Thingyan to K31,000 today, according to U Soe Win Myint (Soe Win Myint brokerage) from Mandalay.

In addition to the foreign demand, the resumption of the operation of feedstuff mills that use the maize as the raw materials has made the price increase, he added.

Both maize farmers and traders are reportedly satisfied with the current price. Farmers are reminded to take care of the maize fields as they are often infested with FAW insects this season.

At this time when maize prices are good, maize grown from various regions is actively entering the Mandalay market, and it is reported that maize from YeU, Kyunhla townships in Sagaing Region and Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon, Pyinmana townships will enter the market in the coming July. — Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



Farmers are reminded to take care of the maize fields as they are often infested with Nga Myaung Taung insects this season.

Japan takes top source of FDI in Myanmar this FY

JAPAN is the largest foreign investor in Myanmar so far, with three Japan-based companies putting the foreign direct investment of US\$518.76 million in the past seven months (October-April) of the current financial year 2020-2021, as per data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

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.

Japan focuses more on responsible businesses. Therefore, it thoughtfully considers and learns before they make investments. It is expected that

investments from Japan will increase this year, DICA stated.

Additionally, Thilawa Special Economic Zone is a symbol of development in Japan's investments in Myanmar. Besides, Japan is a development partner of Myanmar.

Japan has been providing comprehensive support in developing the infrastructure, including railway, road, and research in Myanmar through the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Since the 2016-2017FY, FDI of over \$440.367 million has flowed into the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) from 15 Japanese businesses under the Special Economic Zone Law.

The DICA's data showed

that Japan's investment in Myanmar stood at \$768.456 million in the last FY2019-2020, \$42.77 million in the 2018-2019FY, \$134.5 million in the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), \$384 million in the 2017-2018FY, \$60 million in the 2016-2017FY and \$219.79 million in the 2015-2016FY, respectively. — KK/GNLM

Price of Seintalone mango exported to China plummets this year

GENERAL Secretary U Kyaw Soe Naing of the Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association said that the price of Seintalone mango (Diamond Solitaire) exported to neighbouring China has plummeted this year compared to that of last year.

Last year, Seintalone mangoes fetched around 120 Yuans per 16 kg basket. But this year, the price of Seintalone mangoes dropped down to under 100 Yuans per 16 kg basket.

“The price of mangoes plunged this year compared to that of the previous year. The traders received only around or less than 100 Yuans per basket. This could not make the profit under the market condition,” said U Kyaw Soe Naing.

“Besides, more than thousands of mango loaded trucks are stranded in Kyin San Kyawt checkpoint at the Myanmar-China border. As a result, the quality of Myanmar mangoes exported to China is declining, and the prices are also dropping exponentially. The export of Seintalone mango to China has also fallen by half this year than last year,” he added.

The price of Seintalone mango exported to China has plummeted because China has closed some checkpoints because of COVID-19. Their inspection of the products is taking a longer time than previously.

At present, Myanmar has been exporting around 10 or 15 mango loaded trucks to China daily. Those mangoes are from Sagaing and Katha townships, according to the association.

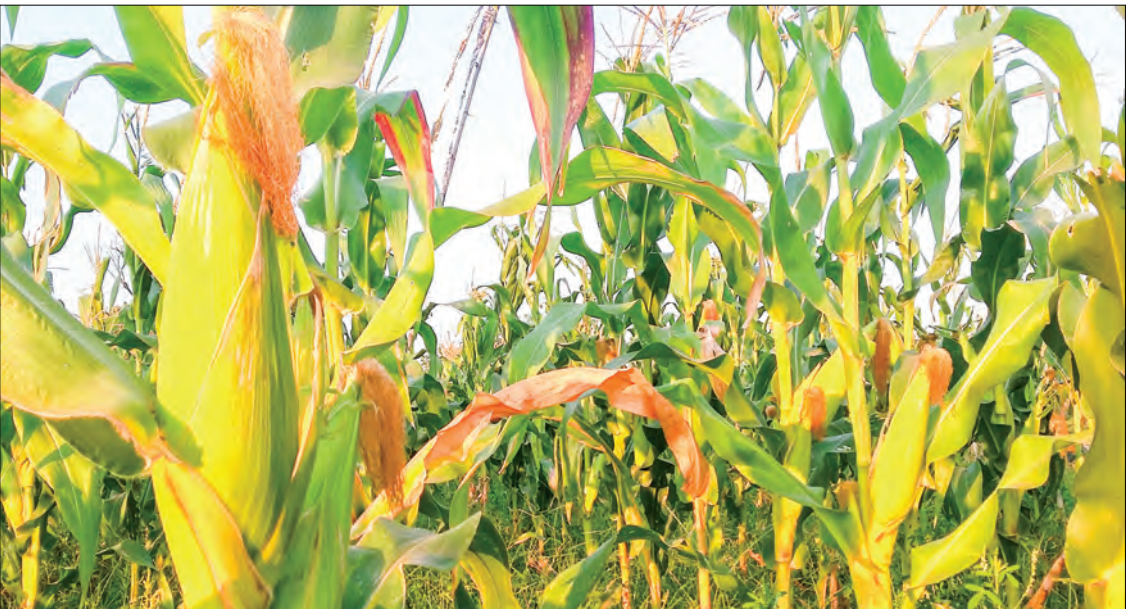
There are more than 200 mango species in Myanmar. Among them, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Nga-Mauk, Yinkwe and Machitsu mango species are grown chiefly. Also, Myakyauk and Kyauk-taing mangoes from Monywa, Sagaing region are also produced from the area.

Mangoes are grown primarily on the Ayeyawady region on about 46,000 acres of land, followed by the Bago region with 43,000 acres and the Mandalay region with 29,000 acres. Besides, there are more than 24,000 acres of mangoes in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in the Sagaing region. — NN/GNLM



At present, Myanmar has been exporting around 10 or 15 mango loaded trucks to China daily. Those mangoes are from Sagaing and Katha townships, according to the association.

Corn export tops \$246.9 mln in five months



Thailand gives the green light to corn imports through Maesot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

MYANMAR Customs Department’s statistics showed corn exports to foreign countries had generated over US\$246.9 million in the first five months (October-February) of the current financial year 2020-2021.

Myanmar corn exports by sea have come to an end due to the lack of demand, Chair U Min Khaing of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said.

Myanmar has been delivering corns to the neighbouring countries Thailand and China via the land border. The shipment to Singapore, Malaysia and Viet Nam abruptly stopped owing to zero demand, he added.

“The lack of demand by sea is attributed to the political changes and disruption in the logistic sector,” said U Min Khaing.

Myanmar is conveying corns to Thailand through the land border, with a tonne of maize fetching up about 8,000 baht.

As Myanmar revoked the two-per-cent withholding tax exemption on corn exports during the new wave of coronavirus, the corn price is expected to fall, he added.

The withholding tax exemption status for corn exports to

Thailand duly expired amid the pandemic. The two per cent WHT had to be paid starting from 1 May.

“The two per cent WHT was levied on corn exports through the land border. During the pandemic, the tax was temporarily exempted. At present, the exempt status is revoked. Consequently, the lower commodity price is likely to happen,” U Min Khaing said.

Thailand gives the green light to corn imports through Maesot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

Thailand has granted tax exemption on corn imports between February and August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn import in order to protect the rights of their growers if the corns are imported during the corn season of Thailand, as per the notification of the World Trade Organization regarding corn import of Thailand, said a corn exporter.

With the local corn consumption growing, Myanmar’s corn export to foreign markets is expected to reach 1.6 million tonnes this year, the association stated. Myanmar is the

second-largest exporter of corn among regional countries. At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.

Myanmar has three corn seasons- winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corns.

The corn crop is mostly demanded by the feedstuff processing business. Therefore, it is the potential business for both domestic and external markets, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

During the last FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, the country exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to the external market, with an estimated value of \$360 million, the Ministry of Commerce’s data showed.

As per data from the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar exported 1.5 million tonnes valued at \$270 million in the 2018-2019FY, 1.4 million tonnes of corn worth over \$290 million in the 2017-2018FY, 1.2 million tonnes of corn worth \$250 million in the 2016-2017FY, and, 1.1 million tonnes of corn worth \$300 million in the 2015-2016FY. — HH/GNLM

Farmers to get monsoon paddy cultivation loans of K150,000 per acre in 2021

MYANMAR Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) announced that the bank would provide the monsoon paddy cultivation loans amounting to K150,000 per acre in 2021 with a five per cent interest rate. The bank will provide the loans as of the end-September.

The bank has extended the repayment period of April 2021

for its agricultural loans for the 2020 winter crop season by the end-July 2021 for the convenience of the farmers, according to MADB.

The 2021 monsoon paddy cultivation loans will be available from 26 May to 30 September at MADB’s branch banks across the country.

The farmers need to pay

out the old lands to get the new 2021 monsoon paddy cultivation loans. Those who wish to have the new loans need to contact the bank’s relevant district and township branches as soon as possible. Under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank has been providing agricultural loans annually to

farmers from across the country since 1954.

Nearly 18 million acres of monsoon paddy and summer paddy are cultivated annually in Myanmar. In the 2019-2020 financial year, about 17.31-million acres of paddy were cultivated. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, this budget year is

the lowest year for paddy cultivation in five years.

The country cultivated 17.82 million of summer and monsoon paddy in 2015-2016FY, 17.70 million of paddy in 2016-2017FY, and 17.93 million paddy in 2017-2018FY 17.86 million of paddy in 2018-2019FY and 17.31 million of paddy in 2019-2020FY, it is learnt. — ACM/GNLM



Myanmar and Japan team players vie for the header during the World Cup Qualifiers, played yesterday at Fuku-Ari Stadium in Chiba, Japan. **PHOTO: JAPAN FOOTBALL**

Myanmar suffer 0-10 defeat to Japan in World Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR men's national football team faced a 0-10 loss to the Japan team in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, played yesterday at Fuku-Ari Stadium in Chiba, Japan.

Myanmar head coach Antoine Hey picked youth stars mixed with veteran players for the lineup list. The eleven players included in the list are goalkeeper San Satt Naing, Zaw Ye Tun, Ye Min Thu, David Htan, Maung Maung Win, Lwin Moe Aung, Soe Moe Kyaw, Yan Naing Oo, Captain Mg Mg Lwin, Win

Naing Tun and Htet Phyo Wai.

Myanmar launched with slow action, but Japan made turbo-play even in the kickoff.

With significant differences between the two teams in FIFA rank, Japan used every opportunity to grab the sweet victory.

With Daichi Kamada's assist, Takumi Minamino scored an icebreaker for Japan at the 7-minute mark.

Next, Yuya Osako scored second for team Japan with the assist of Yuto Nagatomo at 22 minutes.

The third goal came in with a penalty, shot by Yuya Osako at 30 minutes.

Six minutes later, Yuya Osako again scored the fourth with the assist of his teammate Yuto Nagatomo. Japan led team Myanmar 4-0 after the first half.

The second half saw the brighter skills of the Japanese players.

Yuya Osako scored the fifth goal for Japan over an assist of Takumi Minamino at 50 minutes.

Next, Hidemasa Morita scored the sixth at 57 minutes

by an assist of Sei Muroya.

At 66 minutes, Takumi Minamino scored the seventh goal with the assist of Yuya Osako.

Daichi Kamada made the eighth with the assist of Sei Muroya at the 84-minute mark.

At 88 minutes, Yuya Osako scored the ninth goal with a beautiful assist from Takumi Minamino.

Next, Ko Itakura scored the final or tenth goal over an assist of Takumi Minamino at a 90-minute play. The Myanmar team's defeat to Japan (0-10) was

the record for the biggest loss in the team's history. The previous big loss was a 0-9 away defeat to Kuwait in the 2018 World Cup Qualifiers on 3 September 2015.

Japan, who are top of Group F, has won all six matches. With 18 points, team Japan has advanced to the third round of the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers and also won the 2023 Asian Cup qualification. On the contrary, the Myanmar team has garnered 6 points with two wins and four losses, and the team is standing in fourth place. — GNLM

Tottenham hold talks with former boss Pochettino: reports

TOTTENHAM have made contact with former manager Mauricio Pochettino —currently boss of Paris Saint-Germain — about a return to the club, according to widespread reports in the British press on Friday. The 49-year-old left Spurs in November 2019 after five years in charge and was replaced by Jose Mourinho, who was sacked last month. Media reports say it is understood the London club have spoken to the Argentine, who replaced Thomas

Tuchel at PSG in January, regarding the potential prospect of a second spell in charge in London. PSG missed out on the Ligue 1 title for only the second time in nine seasons and lost to Manchester City in the Champions League semi-finals but won the French Cup. The French club on Thursday issued an interview on their interview featuring Pochettino, who has 12 months left on his contract, talking about doing "great things in the future". — AFP ■

Man City, Chelsea eye Champions League glory in Porto final



Manchester City and Chelsea's Champions League final clash in Porto will be their third meeting in six weeks. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

PEP Guardiola's Manchester City are 90 minutes away from the trophy they so desperately crave but a Chelsea side transformed in recent months stand in their way in Saturday's all-English Champions League final in Porto, the Portuguese city which was named as a last-minute host. It is the third final of Europe's elite club competition to be played between two Premier League sides, and the second in just three seasons, and so this is a match-up that underlines the strength of the cash-rich English game. And these are the two clubs whose own transformations in the last two decades under mega-rich foreign owners have done the most to change forever the landscape of the Premier League. Not so long ago, the idea of Chelsea and City meeting in the biggest club game of all would have been laughable. Their only previous encounter in a final came in 1986 in the short-lived Full Members Cup, when Chelsea won 5-4 at Wembley. That was before the Premier League and modern Champions League existed, before Roman Abramovich bought Chelsea in 2003 and before the Abu Dhabi takeover of City in 2008. — AFP ■

Nadal, Djokovic and Federer in same half of French Open draw



Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, the three most successful men in Grand Slam tennis history, were on Thursday all drawn in the same half of the French Open. **PHOTO: AFP**

RAFAEL NADAL, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, the three most successful men in Grand Slam tennis history, were on Thursday all drawn in the same half of the French Open.

Having slipped to number three in the world, it was always likely that Nadal, the 13-time champion, would face top-ranked Djokovic before the final.

The two great rivals could

now meet in the semi-finals this year.

Djokovic has lost three finals to Nadal at the French Open in 2012, 2014 and then last year, when the Spaniard swept to victory, 6-0, 6-2, 7-5.

Djokovic, the 2016 champion, is top seed and could possibly face 2009 winner Federer in the quarter-finals. All three men are chasing history at the French Open which starts on Sunday.

Nadal and Federer, seeded eight, are locked on 20 Grand Slams each while Djokovic, who has 18, can become the first man in over half a century to win all four majors on more than one occasion. — AFP ■