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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 52, 1st Waxing of Nayon 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Thursday, 10 June 2021

All stakeholders need to work in concert for multiple administration and management of coastal resources: Vice-Senior General

CONSERVATION, extraction and utilization of natural resources in the coastal areas must be harmonious between the users and founders, remarked Chairman of the National-Level Central Committee on Administration and Management of Natural Resources in Coastal Areas, 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 first meeting of the central committee at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Myanmar's coastal area is 1,200 miles long. Coastal natural resources are valuable to the countries possessing coastal lines. The State-Level Central Committee on the Administration and Management of Natural Resources in Coastal Areas was formed on 30 November 2016 to implement ten assigned duties. It held seven meetings to adopt 54 points of decisions. Among them, 47 points were implemented, and seven points underway.

Global countries, including Myanmar, are carrying out the tasks in line with 17 sustainable development goals. Among them, the 14th goal is related to the coastal areas and the development of the marine regions.

Maritime water tempera-



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the 1st meeting of the National-level Central Committee on Administration and Management of Natural Resources in Coastal Areas, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ture at the coastal, current in the sea, water living creatures and marine biodiversity are basic factors as primary support to the survival of humanity. Livelihoods and jobs of more than 3,000 million of the global population depend on the sea coasts and marine biodiversity. It was reported that some 30 per cent of the world's fish resources, including fish resources from Myanmar coasts, has been extremely exploited.

Consequently, the coastal areas face extreme exploitation. Likewise, water pollution at the seas imposes threats to fish resources and ecosystems.

About 80 per cent of waste found in the seawater came from the inland area.

The waste that causes

pollution in coastal areas and marine areas spreads from the poles to the equator; the international water territories, and

the sea's bed via water surface, destroying biodiversity, habitats, and ecosystems. Most of the waste discarded into the seawater are plastic wares such as packaging wares and disposable plastic equipment, and waste fishing nets. Drainage of the waste solution, fertilizers and chemicals cause pollution in the coastal areas and marine water. Seawater pollution harms the seawater, which threatens sustainable extraction of fish resources, food sufficiency, plentiful biodiversity and health and socio-economic development of humans.

Global countries, including Myanmar, are carrying out the tasks in line with 17 sustainable development goals. Among them, the 14th goal is related to the coastal areas and the development of the marine regions.

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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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee
Declaration of Terrorist Groups
Notification No 2/2021

12th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME
8 May 2021

The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has issued this order with the approval of the State Administration Council in exercising sub-section (e) of Section 6 and sub-section (b) of Section 72 of the Counter-Terrorism Law.

- 1. Unlawful Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH and National Unity Government-NUG formed by CRPH constantly incited Civil Disobedience Movement-CDM participants to commit violent acts. Many riots occurred in many places of the country due to their incitements. They perpetrated bombing, arson, manslaughter, and intimidation to disrupt the state administrative machinery due to the influence of the leaders of CRPH and NUG. Moreover, NUG established People Defence Force-PDF. Violent acts occurred in the name of regional defence forces instigated by NUG and PDF. It is found that their acts to join CDM, threatening non-CDMs, inciting students and teachers not to go to schools, supporting terrorist acts and perpetrating such terrorist acts violate Section 3 (b) and Sub-section 13 of the Counter-Terrorism Law – acts with the intent to cause fear in public, to force Government or any internal and external organization to do an illegitimate act or to refrain from doing a lawful act, and other acts, stipulated by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 23 on 4 June 2014.
- 2. Therefore, unlawful associations – Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH, National Unity Government-NUG, People Defence Force-PDF and all their subordinates have been declared as terrorist groups.

Chairman
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee

136 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 June, total figure rises to 144,715

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 144,715 after 136 new cases were reported on 9 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,655 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,233 after five died. — MNA

Encouragement must be given to public transport system

ACTION must be taken against the illegal import and distribution of motorcycles without licences with the supervision of relevant ministries. Encouragement must be given to the public transport system. Arrangements must be made for the running of circular trains, electric trains and electric buses.

(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 21 May 2021)

All stakeholders need to work in concert for multiple administration and management of coastal resources: Vice-Senior General

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As marine creatures eat waste materials such as plastic wares in the seawater, they die due to blocking the digest routes with plastic wares. Fish and sea creatures die at the discarded fishing nets. Likewise, waste is destroying coastal areas, marine natural resources such as mangrove forest, coral reefs, sea grass, deltaic area, and sandbanks.

The leak of fuel at the coastal areas and in the seawater threatens the coastal and marine water areas. Powerful retransmitter installed at the offshore oil and natural gas exploration ships are harmful to

the nature of whales and cause death to marine invertebrate animals.

According to the 2020 announcement of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature-IUCN, 25 per cent of marine mammals, 27 per cent of sea birds and 27 per cent of coral reefs are critically endangered. It is the danger as well as challenges faced along Myanmar coastal area.

As the equipment used in the prevention of COVID-19 are discarded into the seawater, it becomes a new type of pollution in the seas.

It is necessary to adopt long-term plans to enhance

response to capability against seawater pollution and related climate change. While joining hands with the international community in implementing the 14th goal, Myanmar adopted the sustainable development plan (2018-2030) and emphasized the implementation of the 5th goal to conserve the natural environment, including coastal areas and marine water. All citizens, including Tatmadaw (Navy), should shoulder the duty of protection of coastal areas and marine water.

Union ministers discussed administration, management and conservation of coastal area resources, mangrove

forest management and establishment of mangrove forest ecosystem, prevention of water pollution, environmental conservation, natural disaster management, conservation of fish resources and efforts for fish sufficiency, and educative tasks.

In conclusion, the Vice-Senior General said that conservation, exploitation and utilization of natural resources in the coastal areas must be harmonious between the users and founders for the sake of current and future generations. It is necessary to coordinate the issues. In so doing, it is necessary to take account of coastal

region development, which can affect the natural environment and socio-economy. The establishment of mangrove forests, forest reserves, protected public forests, and wildlife sanctuaries must be undertaken under the plans. Effective prevention must be taken for the tasks harming the mangrove forests. Undertakings of ten tasks of the Central Committee must be based on own experiences. For sustainability of coastal resources in Myanmar, all stakeholders need to work in concert for multiple administration and management of coastal resources. —MNA

Defence Ministry discusses measures to prevent recruitment of child soldiers

UNION Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, Chairman of Committee for the Prevention of Recruitment of Child Soldiers, presided over the (1/2021) committee meeting yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister firstly made an opening speech and discussed

the completed collaborative programmes and ongoing procedures between the committee and UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR).

Also present at the meeting were committee members and departmental officials. — MNA



State Administration Council's Information Team to hold press conference 6/2021

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference 6/2021 at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 2:00 pm on 12 June. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference.—MNA

Press conference 6/2021 of Information Team to be broadcast live

THE press conference 6/2021 of the Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on MRTV, MITV, MOI Website and MOI YouTube and aired live on Myanma Radio starting from 2:00 pm on 12 June, at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA

National-Level Committee discusses resettlement of IDPs, camp closure

THE second coordination meeting (2/2021) of the National-Level Committee on Resettlement and Closure of IDP Camps was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, in his capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Committee, discussed matters in connexion with work plans of the committees being undertaken in MraukU, Minbya and An townships, cooperation works with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Rakhine State Administration Council in order to provide the necessary assistance to the internally displaced persons in Shan and Kayin states, resettlement of Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp in Kyaukpyu Township, water and electricity supply, the



upgrade of roads and land compensations.

The Union Minister also instructed them to estimate the budgets to assist those who return to their native towns from IDP camps in a timely manner and effectively use cash contributions by foreign and local donors.

He also highlighted measures to eliminate social conflicts among the displaced persons, socio-economic development programmes, and establishing a safe and independent community.

Then, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine, Vice-Chair of the National-Level Committee, discussed the support for the displaced persons, community-and-training school-based vocational schools, social harmony, social cohesion, data collection status at DIP camps and other matters related to the closures of IDP camps.

The committee members also coordinated the discussion, and the heads of the Committee instructed the necessary things.

— MNA

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrives back in Nay Pyi Taw from Chongqing, People's Republic of China after attending Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meetings and Related Meetings



THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw by Special Flight yesterday morning from Chongqing, China, after attending the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings held from 6 to 9 June 2021.—MNA

MoC discusses import of electric vehicles

THE Ministry of Commerce held a meeting to import electric vehicles (electric cars, scooters and motorcycles) yesterday.

Deputy Minister U Nyunt Aung said that although the government permitted the import of electric vehicles to reduce fuel energy, carbon emission and environmental pollution and emerge clean transportation system in order to conform with the city's infrastructure, there was only a few import volume. Therefore, the department concerned should mention the ways to increase the electric vehicles import volume.

He continued that it should review the tax rate for the import of electric vehicles.

He then discussed matters in connexion with the import ratio for motorcycles and electric motorcycles with the opening of showrooms or sale centres, designation of regions for pilot projects, government-private collaborative programmes to establish charging stations and criteria for the import of electric vehicles. — MNA



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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo attends Preparatory Meeting on Inter-Governmental Russian-Myanmar Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation

A PREPARATORY Meeting on the Inter-Governmental Russian-Myanmar Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations yesterday afternoon.

U Aung Naing Oo, the Chairman of Myanmar side Commission, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Commission Members attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the Chairman of Myanmar side Commission, Union Minister, delivered the opening remarks. Then, Dr Wah Wah Maung, the Secretary of Myanmar side Commission,

Director- General for Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations updated the drafting process of the Strategy for the Development of Economic Cooperation between Russia and Myanmar. After that, Commission Members discussed the status of sectoral cooperation and made suggestions for future programmes.

The meeting was mainly focused on the preparation of the Inter-Governmental Russian-Myanmar Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation as well as bilateral Business Matching programme, and the future cooperation on bilateral strategy.

—MNA



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win receives chairpersons of Myanmar nurse and midwife council, Myanmar health assistance association



UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win separately received the Chairpersons and officials from the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council and Myanmar Health Assistance Association yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the responsibility to fulfil the duty of civil servants after graduating the nursing degree and signing the contract, as the healthcare services cannot be postponed. He continued that the Ministry is very proud of those who serve for public health. He called on the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council to develop and maintain the professional ethics of nurses. He added that the government is working to ensure all employees are entitled to benefits they receive such as dinner allowances for night-duty staff and rewards for a professional degree.

The Chairperson of the Council presented the council's activities and the process of screening applications for nursing and midwifery licences.

The Chairman of the Myanmar Health Assistance Association added the implementations of the association.

The Union Minister stressed to effectively use the foreign donation for public health, as per the topics of the healthcare services included in the MoU signed with the Ministry of Health and Sports. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun and officials. — MNA

Bamboo hat makers in Wuntho earn extra income

THE local people from Khat Cho village, Wuntho township, Sagaing region are making bamboo hats on a commercial scale throughout the year.

The bamboo hats are used to protect the people against the sunray and the rain. First, they down the bamboo in the water.

Then, the bamboo is cut into strips. The hats are then woven with the use of bamboo strips. By doing so, the hats

become more popular because they are more stylish and useful.

The bamboo hats with a painting are sold for K 900 per one piece, while the raw bamboo hats are sold for K500 per one. There are also the costs for necessary inputs to make the bamboo hats, such as bamboo strips, threads and plastics.

The bamboo hats made from Khat Cho village are last-

ing longer because they are woven with the plastic sheets put inside to make them waterproof. Then, the bamboo makers are sending the hats to Kachin State, Sagaing Region and Mandalay Region.

The Khat Cho villagers make bamboo hats as their family business to earn extra income in monsoon paddy cultivation season and the post-harvest season. — Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)/GNLM



Announcement of Union Election Commission
9 June 2021



- The Union Election Commission (UEC) has examined the voter lists and voting conditions in 49 townships in Shan State, regarding the multiparty democratic general election held on 8 November 2020.
- Of 3,634,283 eligible voters in 49 townships in Shan State, 2,421,348 voters, 66.63%, cast their ballots, and the candidates representing the following 31 political parties, and the independent parliamentary candidates have run in the general election.
 - National League for Democracy
 - Union Solidarity and Development Party
 - Union Betterment Party
 - National Unity Party
 - Shan Nationalities League for Democracy
 - Shan Nationalities Democratic Party
 - Ta-Arng (Palaung) National Party
 - Danu National Democracy Party
 - Peace and Diversity Party
 - Kachin National Congress Party
 - Wa National Party
 - People's Pioneer Party
 - Lahu National Development Party
 - Pa-O National Organization
 - Union Pa-O National Organization
 - People's Party
 - National Democratic Party
 - Inn National League Party
 - Inn National Development Party
 - National Democratic Force
 - National Development Party
 - Federal Union Party
 - Kayan National Party
 - Danu National Organization Party
 - Kachin National Party
 - Kokang Democracy and Unity Party
 - People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers
 - Lhaovo National Unity Party
 - Shan State Kokang Democratic Party
 - Ahka National Development Party
 - Lisu National Development Party
 - Independent candidates
- The Union Election Commission has carried out an inspection together with the respective township election sub-commissions, head of police force, heads of township immigration and population departments, township administrators and representatives of parties under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
- According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 3,634,283 eligible voters in these 49 townships in Shan State. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population list in November 2020 showed 3,055,597 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that 616,531 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 22,679 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 309,248 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- According to the inspection, a total of 3,591 polling stations took out 4,023,194 ballots and used 2,399,225. It left 1,574,907 ballots instead of 1,623,969. The difference was 96,666 ballots, and it found 47,604 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations.
- Findings on voter lists and ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw election in respective townships were as follows:

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Township sub-com-mission	List from Immigra-tion 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	Taunggyi	245	324,913	279,315	23,318	2,751	34,664
2	Nyaungsh-we	143	137,583	130,434	14,792	754	12,202
3	Kalaw	141	138719	116389	14,886	1017	13,880
4	Ywangan	52	61,937	56,963	3,027	329	5,762
5	Pinlaung	143	133,303	123,911	10,454	1,498	15,958
6	Kunlong	58	38,190	36,507	9,758	69	2,060
7	Tangyan	79	111,686	91,118	41,632	469	6,736
8	Kongyan	21	27,602	23,155	10,715	9	556
9	Kehsi	60	58,599	35,264	20,083	178	3,352
10	Hsipaw	111	136,021	103984	42,021	500	9,348
11	Pindaya	78	61,187	52,468	5,644	424	6,004
12	Pekhonn	110	66,773	60,004	2,485	410	7,078
13	Monghsat	58	59,703	44,340	17,734	281	4,218
14	Mongyan	20	6,587	28,909	117	3	210
15	Mongnai	31	28,817	29,000	1,698	72	1,582
16	Hsenwi	60	38,719	35,381	4,779	174	2,968
17	Kyaukme	99	118,095	86,164	14,779	726	10,724
18	Nawng h-kio	81	105,426	89,650	7,753	782	10,554
19	Mongmit	68	47,937	37,147	5,873	57	2,648
20	Mabein	44	32,918	24,352	3,609	58	1,720
21	Metmung	43	11,608	12,941	3206	59	856
22	Mongton	64	47,687	41,925	18,489	285	3,302
23	Muse	99	115,716	81,646	19,786	1,332	11,472
24	Kutkai	128	128,182	82,898	45,501	1,008	9,774
25	Monghkat	27	16,831	23,015	2,174	79	1,370
26	Kengtung	120	128,612	129,636	12,829	1,245	14,272
27	Mongyai	45	48,679	35,057	21,915	45	1,768
28	Hsihseng	93	106,163	93,880	9,836	902	11,956
29	Namsan	103	92,364	60,120	19,408	445	6,614
30	Mongpyin	55	45,476	43,560	12,543	278	3,656
31	Hopong	80	82,572	73,384	11,966	668	8,692
32	Loilem	81	96,504	80,651	20,763	762	9,560
33	Yaksawk	84	110478	101626	12802	635	9,798
34	Tachilek	70	134923	104904	6770	1035	14,132
35	M o n g -phyat	39	22,552	21,684	1,520	96	2,052
36	Lashio	145	220,399	138,965	52,931	1,103	1,4902
37	Langkho	39	26453	40614	1530	51	1,564
38	Laikha	36	39,684	29,364	9,415	66	1,790
39	Hopan	43	22,617	22,381	4,626	178	1,962
40	Namhkam	115	86,634	81,051	10,322	960	10,554
41	Laukkai	29	56,061	30,290	16,236	210	3,058
42	M o n g -yawng	68	27,191	46,080	212		62
43	Kunhing	44	45,750	25,699	15,522	106	2,658
44	Mongshu	45	52,444	29,296	17,016	104	2,060
45	Maukmai	32	22,203	19,888	1,450	73	1,550
46	Mongpan	26	13,346	17,499	1,072	24	572

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47	Namtu	48	33,658	32,936	2,572	163	2,736	
48	Namhsam	51	40,388	47,931	4,077	127	2,546	
49	Mantung	37	24,393	22,221	4,885	97	1,736	
	Total	3,591	3634,283	3055,597	616,531	22,697	309,248	

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remain-ing	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Taunggyi	245	343,671	243,362	100,309	96,209	7,870	3,770
2	Nyaungshwe	143	154,571	116,566	38,005	35,461	2,546	2
3	Kalaw	141	151,370	117,836	33,534	31,689	3,583	1,738
4	Ywangan	52	69,429	56,698	12,731	13,517	353	1,139
5	Pinlaung	143	148,897	114,752	34,145	34,204	1,181	1,240
6	Kunlong	58	42,983	19,473	23,510	22,333	2,710	1,533
7	Tangyan	79	128,034	58,215	69,819	67,725	3,175	1,081
8	Kongyan	21	29050	10591	18459	18385	74	
9	Kehsi	60	69,235	28,902	40,333	39,463	2,212	1,342
10	Hsipaw	111	154,853	88,051	66,802	66,223	941	362
11	Pindaya	78	69,007	56,603	12,404	11,430	1,476	502
12	Pekhon	110	77,959	5,6048	21,911	21,517	468	74
13	Monghsat	58	68,169	37,541	30,628	29,290	1,691	353
14	Mongyan	20	9,507	5,192	4,315	4,099	216	
15	Mongnai	31	31,383	22,445	8,938	8,915	51	28
16	Hsenwi	60	43,724	27,155	16,569	16,138	1,730	1,299
17	Kyaukme	99	144,822	70,464	74,358	74,105	1,207	954
18	Nawngkhio	81	114,014	79,132	34,882	34,442	650	210
19	Mongmit	68	55,670	35,338	20,332	19,655	982	305
20	Mabein	44	37,071	27,552	9,519	9,536	357	374
21	Metmung	43	14,611	9,431	5,180	4,933	443	196
22	Mongton	64	49,708	29,786	19,922	19,901	210	189
23	Muse	99	120,550	61,790	58,760	56,237	4,578	2,055
24	Kutkai	128	146,970	59,452	87,518	85,560	2,484	526
25	Monghkat	27	20,465	7,986	12,479	11,623	943	87
26	Kengtung	120	140,498	69,579	70,919	69,359	3,809	2,249
27	Mongyai	45	54,327	27,639	26,688	25,072	2,527	911
28	Hsihseng	93	110,408	81,156	29,252	29,155	795	698
29	Namsang	103	103,563	53,045	50,518	48,083	4,704	2,269
30	Mongpyin	55	50,212	27,584	22,628	22,455	346	173
31	Hopong	80	89,918	58,284	31,634	30,537	1,882	785
32	Loilem	81	106,558	48,056	58,502	55,637	8,013	5,148
33	Yaksawk	84	122,232	88,399	33,833	32,775	1,152	94
34	Tachilek	70	136,990	76,024	60,966	63,290	99	2,423
35	Mongphyat	39	26,890	15,924	10,966	10,910	58	2
36	Lashio	145	230,950	118,130	112,820	104,720	18,791	10,691
37	Langkho	39	29,686	22,185	7,501	7,501		
38	Laikha	36	45,167	18,798	26,369	25,931	507	69
39	Hopan	43	24,400	13,404	10,996	10,287	1091	382
40	Namhkam	115	97,350	60,680	36,670	29,886	7,651	867
41	Laukkai	29	61,226	17,938	43,288	42,993	295	
42	Mongyawng	68	32,704	21,391	11,313	10,059	1,379	125
43	Kunhing	44	50,546	22,078	28,468	28,603	86	221
44	Mongshu	45	57,015	25,385	31,630	31,842	822	1034
45	Maukmai	32	25,989	18,381	7,608	7,524	87	3
46	Mongpan	26	15,664	11,239	4,425	4,426		1
47	Namtu	48	35,878	24,389	11,489	11,398	191	100
48	Namhsam	51	51,000	25,238	25,762	25,562	200	
49	Mantung	37	28,300	13,938	14,362	14,312	50	
	Total	3591	4023,194	2399,225	1623,969	1574,907	96,666	47,604

7. Findings in the 49 townships in Shan State are as follows:

- (a) According to Section 6 (a) of the Hluttaw Election Law, any citizen, associate citizen, naturalized citizen or holder of a temporary certificate who has completed the age of 18 years on the day of commencement of election and who does not contravene the provisions of this Law. There are 616,531 non-identity voters. There were 22,697 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 309,248 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these 49 townships in Shan State.
- (b) A total of 3,591 polling stations withdrew 4,023,194 ballots and used 2,399,225 ballots. It left 1,574,907 ballots instead of 1,623,969. The difference was 96,666, and the extra ballot was 47,604. The missing/extra ballots were found at some polling stations. The exact numbers of ballots were granted to the polling stations, and such extra and missing ballots were found due to illegal activities.
- (c) There were 2,421,348 people who cast votes for Pyithu Hluttaw in 49 townships in Shan State in the 8 November election. They used 2,399,225 ballots, and 22,123 ballots were not used.
- (d) Of 2,421,348 voters in 49 townships in Shan State, 1,948,314 cast votes at the polling stations, while there were 473,034 advance voters. The percentage for casting votes at the polling station was 80.46 per cent and 19.54 per cent for the advance votes.

- (e) Some polling station bags containing receipt ballot papers were found missing, and the relevant polling station chief returned them only when the inspection was undertaken.
- (f) Without following the Hluttaw Election Law 66 (h), receipt ballot papers and reserved ballot papers were returned to the respective township election sub-commissions only after the election period.
- (g) Subsequent voters were allowed to vote by filling the voter registration Form (1) without submitting it to the relevant township election sub-commission. In some village-tracts, the original voter’s name was erased, and another voter’s name and profile were filled to vote.
- (h) People under 18 were allowed to vote.
- (i) It was found that ballots were issued only with a checkmark and no fingerprint of the voter on the Voter Registration Forms (1).
- (j) The signature of the ward/village-tract election sub-commission chairman and secretary were not included on every page of the Voter Registration Forms (1), which violates the Hluttaw Election Law 15 (a).
- (k) The ward/village-tract election sub-commissions failed to return the advance ballots and the extra ballots to the officials according to the Law.
- (l) The name of the voter, voter list number, polling station number, ward/village name, signature or fingerprint, were not completed in the receipt ballot papers, and they were allowed to vote.
- (m) The non-identity voters were found in the voter lists, and they were allowed to cast votes just with voter certificates without ID cards.
- (n) Illegal advance voting was found.
- (o) 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.
8. The frauds committed in the 8 November election were found as follows:

(a) The ward/village-tract administrators served as chairpersons in collecting the numbers of the population to compile the voter lists. In this process, the ward/village-tract administrators appointed by the NLD government and some NLD members jointly collected the numbers of the population. They did not inspect whether the people live in their ward/village-tracts and whether they are eligible voters under the Hluttaw Election Law. Therefore, there were many non-identity voters on the voter lists and some repeated on the voter lists two times or over three times with just one NRC card. Section (15) (c) of the Hluttaw Election Law, Chapter VI mentioned, “Preparation of Voting Roll”, and 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.” And it found activities that violate the Law. According to Section 19 (b), the names not eligible are included in the voting roll; delete such names from the voting roll. But they did not remove the names.

(b) The former UEC also released instructions that the advance voting process for people over 60 can be done starting 29-10-2020 before the election day. But some NLD members conducted door-to-door services in collecting advance votes in some places, and it caused voting frauds. According to COVID-19 health rules, the announcement and instruction for voters who were unable to return to their constituencies were released on 8-10-2020 and 11-10-2020, respectively, by the former UEC. Due to such directives, the voters were found repeated on the voter lists, and non-identity voters were also on the lists and were allowed to cast votes.

(c) The former UEC also released a statement for voters without any ID cards to cast their vote on 19-8-2020. The non-identity voters cast votes with voter certificates at the polling stations. Therefore, the non-identity voters, those who repeated on voter lists for two times or over three times, were allowed to cast votes without complying with Section 59 of the Hluttaw Election Law. Regarding the voting stamps, the instruction that the ballots with a tick without a UEC label will be recognized as valid votes also caused a complicated situation in counting the votes.

(d) It was found that NLD party candidates and election victory groups violated the Hluttaw Election Law, Rules and Regulations, Orders and Instructions, COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines and local orders during the campaign period, the advance voting day and the voting day at the polling stations for the 2020 multiparty democratic general election.

(e) Repeated voter registration appears to be an opportunity for electoral fraud, with more than one voter appearing in two or three ballots being investigated and prosecuted. Two or three times voting can be made in the following situations and are scrutinized in detail according to the evidence signed on the voter registration forms (1).

(1) It was found that voter could cast their advance ballots once on the advance voting day and another time on the actual election day.

(2) Advance voting was also possible in situations where the township or village where the voter has registered and the other townships or villages where the other voter lists are close to each other.

(3) On election day, voters cast their ballots and avoid touching the ink on their little finger so that they can vote at other polling stations.

Don't use words of hate speech among people on social networks

THE society must be built by global peoples residing in respective countries with loving-kindness. Building the society needs to be based on mutual trust. Hence, all should build the society while trying to confirm mutual trust.

In the opposition view, hate speech spreads among the global people. Most people hold the words of hate speech as an intangible tool to attack each other. They hide the words of hate speech in hand, but they fill their faces with pretended loving

kindness. Actually, they uphold the policy of bullying others with attacks based on hate speech.

Nowadays, social networks are the best field for applying hate speech. Now is a situation that it should not believe even the soul of close friends because they may use the words of hate speech behind you. Unscrupulous persons in groups use hate speech as a heavy weapon on social networks. It is because hate speech likes a spark that may cause burning everything without waiting for reasons to be shown.

Currently, governments of the global countries are trying to build trust among them, but destructionists are committing the talks of hate speech without thinking of consequences that may cause dangerous impacts as burdens, which may be packed on the back of people.

That is why we all need to ease the tension based on the words of hate speech as much as we can. On the other hand, we all need to avoid the talks of hate speech on the statuses from the social networks, amounting to the attacks on each other. So, all need to calm the hate speech users down their hatred in their souls, urging them not to post their hatred on

the statuses of the social networks which spread anything across the world in a short time.

Only when the world's human society is filled with loving-kindness will the global people build a peaceful and tranquil society for posterity. Hence, it is the onus for all the people to maintain the society to be peaceful and tranquil by creating a peaceful and prosperous society for all.



Moon formation: content a few folklore

By Dr

Conjectures and Refutations in Contemporary Science regarding the formation of the Moon

A NEWS item www.universetoday.com with the heading 'The Moon Might Have Formed a little later than Originally Believed' stated that there has been an ongoing debate of the timing of the impact [from a protoplanet named *Theia* with the then newly formed Earth] and how long the subsequent formation of the Moon took place. According to a new study by a team of German researchers, the Moon formed from a Magma ocean that took up to 200 million years to solidify.

This means that the Moon finished forming about 4.425 million years ago or 100 million years later than previously thought.

In my article on 21 May 2021 in GNLM yours truly did write that the Moon formation could have taken (roughly) 4.5 billion (4,500 million) years ago (plus or minus a few dozen million years). This news item which first appeared in July 2020, facilitates a brief mention and comment since the 'Super moon' or 'blood red moon' phenomenon (as viewed from the Earth) is in recent news.

The excerpt provided above indicates the generally (albeit not invariably) self-correcting nature of the scientific method or enterprise in contrast to political and religious doctrines. It might just be briefly added that the nature of the historical sciences (not 'history of science') such as astronomy (when one looks at the Sun from the Earth, one sees the Sun as it was 8 minutes and 20 seconds ago since the light from the Sun around 93 million miles away takes that long to reach Earth), palaeontology (the historical existence of the Dinosaurs cannot be proven time and again like the existence of gravity) is such that proof of, say the formation of mountains (on Earth) and formation of the Moon cannot be 'proven again and again'. At times (like in the proposed hypothesis or conjecture of the formation of the Moon), it has to be (to quote the title of a book by the late philosopher of science Karl Popper, 28 July 1902-17 September 1994) be in the form of *Conjectures and Ref-*

utations albeit some conjectures are on a more firm scientific basis than others.

Talking briefly about Dinosaurs, few scientifically literate persons the world over would seriously doubt that 'once upon a time' Dinosaurs *qua* Dinosaurs (Dinosaurs as Dinosaurs, not its putative or supposed descendants the birds) had existed. Though slightly less firm than the historical existence of the Dinosaurs, the years (indeed millions of years, 'mya') they had existed would, from the sources this writer has read, be somewhere around 160 to 165 'mya' (plus or minus 'a few million years'). The 'time frame' that the Dinosaurs had 'roamed' the Earth is around 160 million years (from roughly 225 million years ago to 66 to 65 million years ago), whereas it took the Moon 200 million years to form (according to the conjectures by the authors of the above article). And, of course, the 200 million-year-formation period of the Moon occurred around 4300 million years before the Dinosaurs came into existence!

'Birthday party' regarding the Moon's Age in a 'mocking' Letter to the Editor in *Time* magazine of 1 January 1973

From such a geological time scale of a VERY (very) long time ago to a much relatively recent past. On 16/17 December 1972, two Apollo 17 astronauts Harrison S. Schmitt (born 3 July 1935) and the late Eugene Cernan (14 March 1934-16 January 2017), left the Moon. More than 48 years later (in May 2021), the Moon has not been revisited by humans. There was a letter to the Editor in *Time* magazine in its 1 January 1973 issue that appeared sometime after the 'earthlings' most recent 'visit' to the Moon. This writer was able to retrieve from his own emails the letter by 'Edward T Basaman' of 'Elizabeth, NJ [New Jersey in the United States]' in the 1 January 1973 issue of *Time* magazine.

It reads:

QUOTE

.. Now that I understand that science has the age of the Moon to be 4.5 billion years and it only costs us \$30 billion to uncover that truly mind-blowing statistic, I and my family will be sure to keep track. Next year when the Moon is 4.5 billion



Anaxagoras: Pre-Socratic Greek philosopher

and one years old, we will hold a birthday party. You are invited. So are all the children with leukaemia, mental retardation, etc., who could have been helped with that 30 billion. We will have a large cake made of green cheese with 4.5 billion and one candles and an American flag in the centre.

UNQUOTE

The writer is reminded of the above letter when he reads the shifting estimates (by up to 100 million years) of the Moon's age by contemporary scientists more than 48 years after the letter writer to *Time* magazine made that mocking and perhaps – just a tad-cynical statement.

'Non-conformist' Socrates' assertion concerning the nature of the Moon

Reverting to much more recent human life-times a personage no less than Socrates (399 Before the Current Era to 329 Before the Current Era) considered to be the 'father' of (Western) philosophy had postulated (or shall one say) pontificated about the Nature of the Moon. In his one-day trial in ancient Athens, among quite a few others, Meletus, one of Socrates' accusers, claimed that Socrates was 'an atheist' [sic, that is exactly as it is translated].

The following dialogue between Socrates and one of his accusers translated by Benjamin Jowett is 'copied and pasted' from

Temporary conjectures and ideas juxtaposed

Myint Zan



opher.

an online source.

QUOTE

[Socrates to his accuser Meletus] *Do you mean that I do not believe in the godhead of the Sun or Moon, which is the common creed of all men?*

[Meletus] *I assure you, judges, that he does not believe in them, for he says that the Sun is stone and the moon earth. [Socrates] Friend Meletus, you think that you are accusing Anaxagoras; and you have but a bad opinion of the judges, if you fancy them ignorant to such a degree as not to know that those doctrines are found in the books of Anaxagoras the Clazomenian, who is full of them. And these are the doctrines which the youth are said to learn of Socrates when there are not infrequently exhibitions of them at the theatre ...; and they might cheaply purchase them, and laugh at Socrates if he pretends to father such eccentricities. And so, Meletus, you really think that I do not believe in any god?*

UNQUOTE

(Emphases added)

Apparently miffed, irritated by his accuser's alleged misinformation and recklessness in making that accusation, the 'gadfly' 'non-conformist' Socrates was recorded to have said whether his accuser (wrongly), carelessly and indeed (Socrates seemed to have implied) callously confused

between him, Socrates, with his earlier contemporary Anaxagoras (circa 500 Before the Current Era-428 BCE). Socrates condescendingly, mockingly (in the translation provided by the classicist Benjamin Jowett, 15 April 1817-1 October 1893) called the theories supposedly espoused by the intellectually and scientifically more adept and superior Anaxagoras as 'eccentricities' and to be 'laughed at'. From the tone of Socrates' dismissive, indeed contemptuous reply Socrates perhaps thought how 'laughable' Anaxagoras' views regarding the Sun and the Moon were. To make sure his accuser and the jury which tried him get him right, Socrates said he believed that the Sun and the Moon were 'gods'. One could add 'Athenian gods' since he, Socrates, believed together with the 4th century Before the Current Era Athenians ('all men' according to Benjamin Jowett's translation; indeed, perhaps women's views or women did not count during those days) that these extra-terrestrial bodies were 'gods'.

Socrates, the gadfly in the matter of cosmology (or shall we dare say-now- Athenian folklore), was, alas, well and truly a run-of-the-mill conformist. And from the hindsight of 2,400 years, if Anaxagoras had actually stated that the Moon was (in a sense) a piece of the Earth, Anaxagoras was right, and Socrates was wrong or at least Anaxagoras was

less wrong than Socrates. (If the *Theia* hypothesis is presumed to be correct and if both parts of the *Theia* protoplanet and part of the core or indeed the surface of the Earth were the early ingredients of the Moon all those 4500 million years ago, is to be considered or assumed to be a feasible scientific hypothesis).

The Moon arose as a result of humans yearning for light in the night sky?

One could add that in almost every major cultures of the world, there were and there are myths or folklores concerning the Sun and the Moon. This writer recalls reading in a Burmese translation (from the Pali) မနုကျယ် ဓမ္မသတ် *Manugye Dhammathat* (apparently first compiled in the 1750s) stated that primordial humans (ကမ္ဘာဦးလူသား: *kabar oo lu thar*) yearned for light during the day and also at night and as a result *presto!* The Sun and the Moon appeared! To take the scientific ('poetic') licence, albeit with hindsight, that statement was '(in)gloriously wrong'. Modern science indicates that the Sun originated at least a few million years before the Earth, and the Earth was formed up to 200 million years before the Moon. *Homo sapiens* were very, very late comers (about 4500 million-plus years after such formations of Sun, Earth and Moon) to the scene, so to speak.

Both Socrates and the compilers of the *Manugye Dhammathat*, who flourished about 2100 years apart, were mistaken in their 'assertions'. To be fair, not only them almost all *eminent scientists the world over in the mid 18th century* would not be privy to almost all the scientific information regarding the formation of the Moon, which tens of thousands of scientifically literate persons the world over could be aware of in the early 21st century.

That said, in terms of ethics, philosophy, civics, political, legal and moral theories, moderns have a lot to learn and (in a few parts like, say, cosmology) to unlearn from the works of Plato (since Socrates did not write anything and most of what Socrates supposedly discoursed we learn mainly from the translations of writings of Plato) and compilers of the *Manugye Dhammathat*.

SEE PAGE -10

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 9 June, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 10 June, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago Regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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 (7- 10) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 June, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 June, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Moon formation: contemporary...

FROM PAGE-9

And of course concerning the Moon at least some Burmese children had learned about the ‘rabbit in the Moon and an old man pounding rice’ (ရွှေလမှာ ယုန်ဝပ်လို့ ဆန်ဖွပ်သည့် အဘိုး[ယခင်သတိပုံ ‘အဖိုး’]အို *Shwe la hmar yoan wut loat hsan phut thi aboe oh*). In contrast, since perhaps the year 1970, hundreds of thousands of school children and adults had seen in museums in the United States and quite a few countries around the world, including in Cambodia (according to a 2018 online source) specimens of the real moon rocks brought back from the Apollo moon missions. **Theia hypothesis regarding the formation of the Moon and folklores briefly juxtaposed**

posed

The author Michael Allaby (born 18 September 1933), in his book *Facing the Future: The Case for Science* (first published 1995), is dismissive of certain post-modernists who sort of stated or at least implied that the ‘the Moon is made of green cheese’ (or) for that matter (added by this writer) the ‘Moon is the abode of the Moon goddess’, and the ‘Moon arose as a result of primordial humans yearning for light in the night sky’ and the statement based on science that ‘at its furthest the distance between the Earth and the Moon is 252,088 miles and there is a far side of the Moon which humans cannot see’ are equally ‘valid’ statements! (One should add that the People’s

Republic of China, on 3 January 2019, landed a spacecraft on the far side of the Moon and on 7 October 1959, the then Soviet Union had first taken photographs on the far or ‘dark, side of the Moon’). Current scientific hypotheses or conjectures regarding the formation of the Moon, including but not limited to the *Theia* hypothesis, are not yet firm, incontestable scientific facts as, say, the distance(s) between the Earth and the Moon and the statement that there is a far side of the Moon which humans on Earth cannot see. It is more than a truism, though that notwithstanding the lack of full scientific certainty the *Theia* hypothesis is much more valid than the statements that the ‘Moon is made of green cheese’

and the ‘Moon arose as a result of humans yearning for a source of light in the night sky’.

Dr Myint Zan, a retired Professor of Law, has published in 2015 in the Myanmar language (in translation) ဆော့ခရတ္တိုရ် လူလုပ်ပြဋ္ဌာန်းဥပဒေလိုက်နာရေး နှင့် တမလွန်အယူအဆ Socrates’ Concepts of Obligation to obey the law and the after-life. In that monograph, in a few paragraphs, he discussed and stated that Socrates’ older contemporary Anaxagoras was, in the context of his times, a scientist who roughly correctly guessed the nature and formation of the Moon.

Dr Myint Zan has also established at one of his alma maters, The Australian National University (ANU) Myint Zan

Fellowship in Philosophy for the years 2018 to 2021 for early career researchers, and three researchers have visited the ANU on the Myint Zan fellowship. He had also established the Myint Zan Philosophy of Science prize for undergraduate students at the ANU in perpetuity, and the inaugural Myint Zan prize in philosophy of science was awarded to a student in February 2020.

This article commemorates the passing of my late mother, Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin, retired Professor of Medicine (15 December 1923-19 June 2014), who had established the Myint Myint Khin Scientific Literary Prize for Myanmar writers’ contributions towards scientific literacy.

FROM PAGE-7

9. The voting frauds were supposed to be intentionally committed. Moreover, they also interfere in collecting voter lists, election campaigns, advance voting processes and voting processes even on the election day with their power. Then, the former UEC also misused their authorities and violated the Law and rules.
10. Regarding the multiparty general election held on 8 November 2020, the officials inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in 49 townships in Shan State. NLD party misused the COVID-19 restrictions and State power in election processes, including election campaigns of contesting parties and Hluttaw MPs, to win the election and form a government. The party also arranged to seize power in advance. According to the above analysis, it was found that the election was not in conformity with the relevant Hluttaw Election laws/rules, so the election was not free and fair.

Union Election Commission

26 mln fingerlings to be added into lakes or dams in Yangon Region

ACCORDING to the department, the Department of Fisheries earmarked to add 26 million 2-inch fish into the rivers or dams of the Yangon Region this rainy season. The department adds fish species yearly protect fishery resources, promote fish species, fisheries and fish consumption rate. They added 2.5 million fish into Nga Moe Yeik Dam, the lake in Phaunggyi University, Bant Bway Gone Dam in Kyauktan Township, Bar Lar creek and Hline River in May and June.

Similarly, the officials arrange to add fish at 34 places, including Bar Lar creek, Bawle creek, Hline River, Zee Phyu Gone creek, lake in Taikkyi Township, lake in Htantabin Township, Shwe Kathit creek, Thawun Taw creek, Thaman Gyi lake, Moe Makha creek,

Phoo Gyi, Hlawga and Thadu dams. The government will add 26 million fish into the lakes or dams by using its budget this year.

“The people should avoid using electric-shocking methods and poison to catch fish. They all need to cooperate with us. The department also arranges to take actions and conduct education programmes. The aim of adding these three fish species is that the Labeo Rohita is an export fish, and they can grow well in natural waters. The remaining two fish species: Common Crap and Barbus fish are also marketable fish and so we add such species every year,” said U Tin Htut, deputy head of region fisheries department.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation makes



The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation makes concerted efforts in order to provide adequate fish resources as the local fish consumption rate is increasing daily amid the growing population in the country.

concerted efforts in order to provide adequate fish resources as the local fish consumption rate is increasing daily amid the growing population in the country. And, some private fish farms also produce fish yearly. The ministry plans to add 101.2075 million fish in regions and states this year and 26 million fish in Yangon Region with high fish consumption. — Nyein Thu/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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Noticeable facts to file complaint to Anti-Corruption Commission

1. Anybody may send information and complaints on matters pertaining to corruption and wealth in bribery to the commission or the commission’s office or the working committee formed under this law or the preliminary scrutiny body and any investigation team or relevant government department or government organization.
2. Filing of the complaints must directly be sent to the commission without the need to sending a copy.
3. The complaint must comprise the complainant’s name, signature, copy of citizenship scrutiny card, full address and telephone number.
4. The complaint must be submitted with the important evidence such as witnesses, documents, photos, audio files, and video files.
5. If the complaint is intended to cause grievance or discredit against anyone, action will be taken against the complainant under Section 59 of this law.

Address
Anti-Corruption Commission
Office No 56, Zeyahtani Road,
Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw,
post box: 144
Tel: 067-8103347, 067-8103334
Email address: acem@acem.gov.mm
Website address: <http://www.acem.gov.mm>

Ex-state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, ex-chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, ex-deputy mayor, ex-member of development committee charged under Anti-Corruption Law

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has inspected corruption cases against ex-state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

According to the inspection, the corruption body found that ex-state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi illegally accepted \$600,000 and seven visses of gold from the former Yangon Region Chief Minister.

Then, she misused her authority in renting 1.86 acres of land and building at No (60) of University Avenue in Bahan Township to open Daw Khin Kyi Foundation headquarters, where

she served as chairperson. According to the data of the Yangon Region Auditor-General Office, the country lost more than K5,200 million for her wrongdoing.

Moreover, in applying for 101.33 acres of land in Ottarathiri and 23.855 acres of land in Pobbathiri townships of Nay Pyi Taw in order to establish La Yaung Taw Horticulture Vocational School of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation at Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, they removed them from being the Playgrounds, Parks and Gardens Department-owned land and

estimated land area for Paung laung-Pyinmana-Shar Pin Gone water pumping station project. The land use permit and land grant were permitted at the No (7/2020) Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee meeting. These moves were not carried out in line with the procedures but with her power and authority. She paid lower than the reasonable prices for land lease. According to the interim inspection of the Union Auditor-General Office, the government lost more than K19 billion for 125.185 acres of land.

Contrasting with the main

goals of the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation to promote health, education and living standard of people, a residence for foundation chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was constructed using over K1.6 billion out of the cash contribution of people. Therefore, she was found guilty of committing corruption using her rank. So she was charged under Anti-Corruption Law section 55.

The ex-chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and ex-mayor Dr Myo Aung, ex-deputy mayor U Ye Min Oo and ex-committee member U

Min Thu were also charged under Section 55/63 of the Anti-Corruption Law for granting land use permit and land grant by violating the procedures at No (7/2020) meeting held on 18-2-2020 for 101.33 acres of land in Ottarathiri Township and 23.855 acres of land in Pobbathiti Township in order to implement La Yaung Taw Horticulture Vocational School of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

The case files were opened against them at the respective township police stations yesterday, according to ACC.—MNA



One Irrawaddy dolphin found near Nandaw Kyaung village, Pwintbyu

ONE Irrawaddy dolphin was found habiting the Ayeyawady River, near Nandaw Kyaung village, Pwintbyu township in Magway region on 8 June 2021, said Ko Moe Nan Wai, a local villager from Nandaw Kyaung village.

The local villagers went to the scene because they wanted to see the dolphin.

“One of the fishermen found a dolphin which is habiting Ayeyawady River near our village. It has been habiting there for three or four days already. We have never seen or heard about the dolphins that are habiting

near our village. We are really amazed when we see the dolphin ourselves. But, we do not see the dolphin playing in the water,” said a fisherman from the village.

The Fisheries Department is implementing the Irrawaddy Dolphin Conservation Project in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Maritime Police, the local fishermen and the CSO team in order to reduce the extinction of Irrawaddy dolphin in Myanmar. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)/GNLM

Ethnic armed group’s military and bombing trainees arrested



SECURITY forces arrested three men named Lu Chaw, Kyaw Naing Oo and Zwe Pyae Maung, who attended basic military and bombing training by ethnic armed groups, in Yankin Township, Yangon Region on 8 June.

According to the confession of Lu Chaw, he and the other three men attended the first batch of the training held from 14 to 16 March. They

went to Zayatkyi from Kyonpyaw through Yangon and Toungoo. They arrived at the ethnic armed group’s area by motorbike from Zayatkyi. He stayed there after completing the training.

According to the confession of Kyaw Naing Oo and Zwe Pyae Maung, they attended the third batch of the training held from 18 to 21 May and both of them and Lu Chaw, with three

other trainees, arrived back in Yangon on 26 May.

Zwe Pyae Maung confessed that he was involved in the explosion near the school’s fence in Sangyoung Township and station street bus stop on Yangon-Insein road.

It is reported that they will be taken effective action under the law and other suspects will be identified and prosecuted. — MNA

Police arrest six suspects in Magway



THE police arrested four men who completed explosive training at armed insurgents in the Kanma Township of Magway Region and two people who sent trainees.

On 8 June, according to the tip-off, those who completed the

explosive training at armed insurgents’ devise explosives in the forest about 2 miles from Htan Pyu Village of Kanma Township. Police inspected the place and arrested Shine Aung from Kyi Mee village and Aung Zaw Moe from In Gyi Gone Vil-

lage together with their explosive materials.

Then, the security members also found another tent and arrested Chit Moe Lwin and Daw Htay Htay Win from Nat Mee Tauk Village with their homemade gun and other materials.

According to their testimony, Zaw Win, former region (1) Hluttaw MP of NLD from Kanma Township, gave them K100,000 each to join the training at the armed insurgents.

Therefore, they went to the armed insurgents to join the 10 April to 10 May training. After they completed the training, they returned and made explosives.

The necessary materials were sent by Pyae Phyto Aung (aka) Ko Phyto from Yaynatha Village. Therefore, the police arrested former NLD MP Zaw Win and Pyae Phyto Aung (aka) Ko Phyto at their homes.

The detainees will face actions under the law. —MNA

Woman shot dead in Kayin State



AN insurgent shot one female member of Mon Unity Party in Kya-in-Seikkyl Township of Kayin State on 8 June.

Security forces received the information that a woman was shot and went to the incident place. Then, they found Daw Mi Wai Thi Phyto, from Ywar Thit Village, got gun injuries in her car. She was sent to Phayathonzu

hospital and died at the hospital.

According to the investigation, a man riding a motorcycle chased the car of Daw Mi Wai Thi Phyto and shot her.

The victim contested in No (4) Constituency of Amyotha Hluttaw from MUP in the 2020 General Election.

Police are investigating to arrest the suspect. — MNA

Trainee of KIA’s basic military training and bombing arrested in Sagaing Region

A 26-year-old man named Soe Wunna, who had attended basic military and bombing training at KIA, was arrested on 7 June during a surprise inspection of motor vehicles on the Mandalay-Myitkyina road in Zayat Kwin village of Thabeikkyin Township in Sagaing Region.

According to the investigation, he and his two friends travelled to Myitkyina from Yangon on 25 March by “Shwe Muse” bus. On 27 March, two other men joined them to Laiza by Hiace car arranged by the KIA. On 28 March, they, along with seven other men, were taken to the KIA training school located on the east mountain of Laiza.

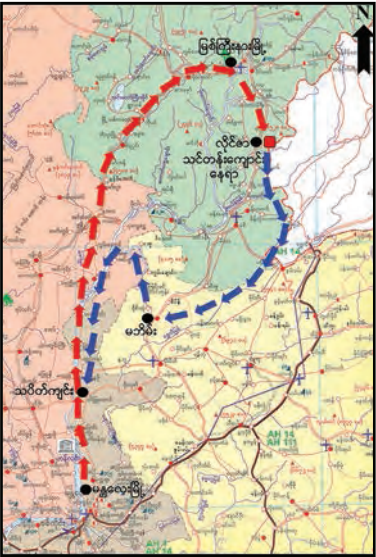
There were reportedly two training dormitories for 60 people each and nine tents for 20

people each at the training area. Trainees were trained to make mines and explosives and shoot small arms.

The graduation ceremony was held on 15 May, and trainers, including one KIA official and three NLD members, U Myo Zaw Aung (Former Pyithu Hluttaw MP in Kawlin Township).

Soe Wunna was detained while he was on the way to Mandalay from Mabein town by “Sein Asia” bus.

It is reported that effective legal action will be taken against him and other suspects who attended military training at ethnic armed groups’ areas to undermine the peace and stability of the country and the rule of law. —MNA



Myanmar mineral exports slump amid impacts of global pandemic

THE value of Myanmar's mineral exports has drastically plunged to US\$620.5 million as of 28 May in the current financial year 2020-2021 since 1 October. It reflects a severe drop of \$622.7 million as against one year ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

The mineral exports hit over \$1.24 billion in the corresponding period of last FY.

The coronavirus related disruptions led to the slump in mineral exports this FY. The heightened COVID-19 measures also shut down the events like gem emporium and expo last year, a trader said.

So far, excavation of over 1,250 mining blocks has been permitted on a manageable, small, medium, and large scale, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Due to the limited extraction of natural resources, exports of forest products and minerals had dropped significantly in the previous years. Permits for mining blocks were suspended in 2016. However, after two years, Myanmar's mining sector has now been opened to local and foreign investors, according to the ministry.

Within two years of implementing the Myanmar Mining Law, the Mining Department has approved more than 140

out of 3,000 proposed mining blocks. Many more blocks are to be granted the permit.

The Myanmar Mining Law was enacted on 24 December 2015. However, the law came into force when the rules were issued on 13 February 2018.

Under the new regulations, foreign firms can invest in large blocks covering up to 500,000 acres (about 202,000 hectares). In contrast, local firms can invest in all kinds of blocks. Investors can seek a permit to mine for minerals such as gold, copper, lead and tin. The licences cover prospecting, exploration, and production.

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar's mineral exports have shown a remarkable increase in the previous FY2019-2020, touching \$1.87 billion, an increase of \$405.48 million compared with the year-ago period.

In the FY2018-2019, mineral exports were pegged at just \$1.465 billion.

Myanmar's mineral products constitute 10 per cent of overall exports. About 80 per cent of mineral products are shipped to external markets through sea trade. At the same time, 20 of them are sent to neighbouring countries through border trade channels. —KH/GNLM

Domestic rice prices up by K2,000 per bag



At present, rice worth K32,000-35,000 per bag is highly demanded in the market.

THE rice prices in domestic markets have increased by K2,000 per bag, said U Than Oo, secretary of Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

At present, rice worth K32,000-35,000 per bag is highly demanded in the market.

"The prices of high-quality rice move in the range of K27,000-35,000 per bag. The figures show an increase of K2,000 per bag," U Than Oo continued.

It is expected that the rice fetches at a lower rate before Thingyan Festival (Myanmar New Year Festival in April).

Shortly after that, the price usually goes up, he added.

"During the early monsoon, the rice stocks are commonly found in the hands of millers instead of farmers. Consequently, the price hike occurs amid low supply. The rice prices usually hit a peak in Thadingyut and Tazaungdaing festivals (Oct-Nov). When the newly harvested rice enters the market, the price declines," U Than Oo elaborated.

The price is unlikely to fall this month, Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre reported.

"The price possibly remains high for now. The farmers also set the rice crops higher. The demand in the retail market is not that good. The export is not strong as well. As a result, the sharp price hike is not expected amid the low demand," U Than Oo stated.

About 80,000 rice and broken rice bags were earlier traded per day at the Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre. In contrast, the trade volume plummeted to about 30,000 bags at present.—NN/GNLM

Individual trades through land border exceed K10.85 bln in four months

ACCORDING to data released by the Ministry of Commerce, trade conducted by Individual Trading Card (ITC) holders reached over K10.85 billion through the land border in the first four months of the current financial year 2020-2021.

The Trade Department issued 23 cards in the Oct-Jan period this FY. Imports exceeded K9.19 billion, and exports were valued at just K1.658 billion.

The Myawady border recorded the highest trade value at K7.77 billion, according to the Commerce Ministry. Nevertheless, the figure only reflected imports as individual trading cardholders did not export goods through the Myawady gate.

The value of trade carried out by individual cardholders stood at K144 million at Tamu

post, K116 million at Tachilek, K704 million at Kawthoung, K2.09 billion at Mawtaung and K14.2 million at Kengtung, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

At present, individual traders are no longer permitted to import the soap, detergent powder and toothpaste through the land border with the Individual Trading Card (IRC) starting from 4 June 2020, with a view to safeguarding the interests of local SMEs and helping them survive in a highly competitive market.

Nevertheless, the restriction does not impact the regular traders with import/export licence.

"Fifty per cent of soap, detergent powder and toothpaste imports through Myanmar-Thai-

land border are done with ITC cards. Another 50 pc is carried out with the regular import/export licence. The import ban will hike the prices and cause negative consequences to the consumers and traders engaged in border market," a market observer shared his opinion.

Additionally, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce notified that four food commodities are to be temporarily restricted for import via the Myanmar-Thailand border starting from 1 May, Myawady Trade Zone reported.

The restricted items include various beverages, coffee mix and tea mix, instant coffee, and condensed milk and evaporated milk. However, they can be imported through maritime trade.

Individual trades topped

K737 million from 21 November 2012 to 31 March 2013 and exceeded K6.6 billion in the FY2013-2014. They reached K9.37 billion in the 2014-2015FY and stood at over K6.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY. They rose above K18.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY and touched K45.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, with K22.5 billion during the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September) and K59 billion in the 2018-2019FY. They drastically plunged to K43.32 billion in FY2019-2020.

The individual traders who cannot establish their own company can trade with the ITC in the border area. However, trading volume is limited. The card validity is set for only one year. The cardholders need to extend the card at the respective bor-

der posts one month before the expiry date.

Trading with the use of ITC is based on local currency. Hundreds of exports and imports items have been allowed for individual trading via the border posts. The traders can seek the ITC at the offices of Tamu, Muse, Myawady, Tachilek, Lwejel, Sit-tway, Maungtaw, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti, Myeik, Kawthoung, Reed, Htantlang, Mawtaung, Hteekee, Kyainglat, Meisei and export/import offices in Mandalay, Kengtung and Myitkyina.

The trade department has issued 1,798 cards so far, intending to boost trade. People in business can trade goods worth K3 million per day using ITCs. The Trade Department has permitted trade of up to K15 million per day over five days.—KH/GNLM

Japan eyes regional revitalization with transfer of 10,000 workers

THE Japanese government will pledge Wednesday to promote regional revitalization by preparing a list of 10,000 workers interested in moving to rural areas and working at local firms, government sources said.

By compiling the list of potential workers at local companies and promoting teleworking from rural areas, the government will “rectify” the Tokyo-centric economy and population to help revive regional areas, according to a draft of its annual economic policy guideline seen by Kyodo News.

The chance to move to a rural area has been attracting greater attention in Japan, with more people working from home amid the coronavirus pandemic and the high number of infections reported in the populous Tokyo metropolitan area.

There have been



The Japanese government will pledge Wednesday to promote regional revitalization by preparing a list of 10,000 workers interested in moving to rural areas and working at local firms, government sources said. PHOTO: KYODO

moves among major Japanese companies to relocate their headquarters to regions away from the Tokyo area, including staffing firm Pasona Group Inc. and entertainment agency Amuse Inc.

The government plans to expand the existing list of people interested in moving to rural areas prepared by the Region-

al Economy Vitalization Corporation of Japan, a public-private investment fund, according to a policy blueprint to be presented at a key government economic and fiscal policy panel meeting later in the day.

The government is also set to “start discussions soon” to set up a new agency in charge of issues

surrounding children such as child poverty, abuse and bullying -- a policy Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has shown an eagerness to promote. An “administrative organization” is needed to comprehensively deal with the challenges related to children, and to eliminate the sectionalism of policies, the draft said. — Kyodo News ■

UK urges EU ‘flexibility’ for post-Brexit Nireland trade

BRITAIN and the European Union hold key talks on Wednesday about implementing the Brexit deal, with London urging “flexibility” from Brussels over trading arrangements in Northern Ireland blamed for sparking violence.

The EU on Tuesday warned the United Kingdom against further unilateral actions that override the so-called protocol of the divorce agreement covering the province, having already accused London of illegally breaking it.

Brexit minister David Frost will co-chair Wednesday’s London meeting, which will cover issues including fishing, trade facilitation and law enforcement.

But the key focus of the Partnership Council and Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee, which supervises the op-

eration of the divorce deal at a political level, will be Northern Ireland. “I hope this will be a productive forum where we can address shared challenges by working together in the spirit of mutual trust and cooperation,” Frost said late Tuesday.

“First among these challenges is the damaging impact the Protocol is having on the ground in Northern Ireland,” he added. “I look to the EU to show flexibility and engage with our proposals so that we can find solutions that enjoy the confidence of all communities.” The EU has already launched legal proceedings against the UK after it delayed custom controls on some goods arriving in Northern Ireland from mainland Britain -- England, Scotland and Wales. — AFP ■

Bitcoin proves double-edged sword for criminals

REGULATORS have repeatedly criticised the growth of cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin because of their popularity with criminals but the technology’s transparent transactions can also work against law breakers. The lesson is one that has been learnt by cybercriminal hackers Darkside the hard way after the organisation extracted a \$4.4 million ransom from oil company Colonial Pipeline in bitcoin. Following the ransomware extortion, which forced the shutdown of a major fuel network in the eastern United States last month, the US Justice Department said it has clawed back \$2.3 million of the funds by tracing financial transactions.

“Following the money remains one of the most basic, yet powerful, tools we have,” US Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said on Monday. — AFP ■

Amazon may prove exception to global tax rules

THE Group of Seven wealthy nations may have endorsed a plan to ensure the world’s biggest companies pay a minimum global tax rate, but US tech behemoth Amazon may escape it.

The landmark deal is supposed to help put an end to top multinationals shopping for countries with low corporate

tax rates in which to book their profits instead of paying where they conduct their business. By introducing a minimum tax rate of 15 per cent without exceptions proponents of the plan hope multinationals will have less incentive to go through complex efforts to shift where they pay taxes.

Top 100 There is a second “pillar” in the plan: countries would be allowed to tax a share of the profits of the most profitable companies in the world, regardless of where they are based. The caveat: it applies only to companies whose profit margins exceed 10 per cent. That would affect

about 100 companies, including US tech giants such as Facebook and Google, but as some experts have pointed out, not Amazon. Despite Amazon’s colossal footprint and market capitalisation of more than \$1 trillion, its profit margin last year amounted to just 6.3 percent. It did not take long before the first

brickbats were aimed at the deal by Britain’s Fair Tax Foundation. “Just one more reason for the G20 to revisit and embolden the package” when the group of the world’s top industrialised and emerging nations look to sign off on the arrangement next month, the group said on Twitter. — AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(34/2020-2021)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-218(20-21)	100% Coverall Cotton, Safety Shoes & Rain Coat (3) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **10 June 2021** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 10 July 2021**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time **9-7-2021, 12:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Trademark Caution

09 251 022 355

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (2157W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (2157W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-6-2021** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINES

Biden leaves Washington to meet allies — then Putin

JOE Biden departs Washington early Wednesday on the first foreign trip of his presidency, launching an intense series of summits with G7, European and NATO partners before a tense face-to-face with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Biden, 78, heads from the White House first to Britain ahead of a G7 summit in a Cornish seaside resort from Friday to Sunday.

From there, in rapid succession, the veteran Democrat will visit Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle, fly to Brussels for summits with the NATO military alliance and European Union, then finish up in Geneva, where he meets Putin next

Wednesday.

With the world still crawling out from under the wreckage of Covid-19, Biden is casting his diplomatic marathon as a return to badly needed US leadership.

But beyond the immediate challenges of boosting vaccine donations to poorer regions and reinvigorating post-pandemic economies, Biden's agenda features the even bigger task of shoring up a somewhat-tattered group of democracies against Russia and China.

"This is a defining question of our time," Biden wrote in The Washington Post ahead of his trip.

"Will the democratic alliances and institutions that



US President Joe Biden flies to Europe this week to meet allies ahead of a summit with President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

shaped so much of the last century prove their capacity against modern-day threats and adversaries? I believe the answer is yes. And this week in Europe, we have the chance to prove it."

Biden's pitch marks a return to a traditional US worldview after four years during which Donald Trump flirted with autocrats and recast multilateralism as a dirty word. — AFP ■

Iranians to vote as ultraconservatives eye easy victory



In total, seven candidates are running in the June 18 election. PHOTO: AFP

IRANIANS will vote for a new president on June 18 in a poll many see as decided in advance, with ultraconservatives expected to strengthen their grip on power amid record low turnout.

Just seven men have been

approved to run: five ultraconservatives and two reformists.

With his main rivals excluded from the final list of candidates, judiciary head Ebrahim Raisi is the clear favourite in the 13th presidential poll since Iran's 1979

revolution.

Campaigning kicked off in late May with little fanfare. Few campaign posters are visible in Tehran apart from those of Raisi, who took 38 per cent of the vote in the last election in 2017.

The mood has been dampened by coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings, and observers expect many voters to abstain — something that tends to favour the conservative camp. Last year's parliamentary elections saw 57 per cent abstention and allowed conservatives to dominate the legislature, after thousands of reform or moderate candidates were disqualified.

Ahead of the presidential poll, the Iranian press had widely

predicted a showdown between Raisi and moderate conservative Ali Larijani, an adviser to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. But after the powerful Guardian Council barred Larijani and other heavyweights from the poll, those who remain appear unlikely to pose a serious challenge to the ultraconservative judiciary chief.

Economic crisis

The office of president has limited powers in Iran, where ultimate power lies with the supreme leader. Current President Hassan Rouhani is nearing the end of two consecutive four-year terms, meaning he is constitutionally barred from running this year. — AFP ■

Greens' election hopes hitting east German wall

LONG popular in western cities, Germany's Greens are bumping up against a wall with voters in the ex-communist east that could cost them the chance to snatch Chancellor Angela Merkel's crown when she retires this year.

The now 40-year-old centre-left ecologist party will gather from Friday for a congress to plot the course toward September's general election after a bruising performance last Sunday in Saxony-Anhalt state.

The poor vote showing cemented an image of lost momentum for the party, which for the first time in its history is staking a claim to the chancellery.

"The Greens are still both: potentially the strongest political



The youthful Baerbock has energised the party's base. PHOTO: AFP

force in the country and a small niche party, depending on the place, time and situation," news weekly Der Spiegel said.

Despite ambitions for a double-digit result, the Greens notched up just six percent in the country's poorest state — less

than a point higher than their 2016 score.

"It wasn't what we had hoped," admitted a dejected Annalena Baerbock, also 40, the Greens' chancellor candidate.

"Some of our messaging on climate protection failed to cut

through to the voters," she said, despite devastating droughts in the rural region in recent summers.

"In the east, which is still marked by the shock of reunification, potentially costly ecological measures are not a big draw for voters," political scientist Hajo Funke told AFP.

The election handed Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) a resounding win with 37 per cent of the vote, pushing the far-right AfD into a distant second place with 21 per cent. The strong outcome put wind in the sails of CDU leader Armin Laschet, Baerbock's main opponent to run Europe's top economy after 16 years of Merkel at the helm. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi Kurds in border zone flee Turkey's hunt for PKK

ONE fine day in May, Yohanna Khushfa gathered his 200 sheep and took off, along with 120 other villagers in Iraqi Kurdistan, fearful of the Turkish drones hunting Kurdish separatists.

"Shrapnel blew out our windows and furniture," the mayor of Jelki, a village in the Al-Amadiya area, told AFP.

"We were afraid for our lives and we left," said the 71-year-old, reached by telephone from a rugged strip near the Turkish border.

Since Turkey launched a new military campaign in northern Iraq on April 23, three civilians have been killed and four wounded.

Amongst those, according to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was a senior official from Turkey's outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). — AFP ■

'Disinformation efforts' to discredit Belarus activist

NOT long after Belarus diverted an international flight, forced it to land in Minsk and then arrested activist journalist Roman Protasevich on board, an online campaign to discredit him began.

Stories alleging that Protasevich had ties with neo-Nazis appeared initially in Russian-language media and quickly spread in dozens of languages.

Photos of young men doing Nazi salutes or wearing SS insignia began to pop up on social media, falsely claiming to show Protasevich in his younger years in what experts called a disinformation campaign similar to others against Kremlin critics.

AFP tracked down the man in the Nazi salute photo.

Konstantin Akhromenko, a young Belarusian, confirmed his identity and said the picture was taken "10-12 years ago".

"We were never Nazis. We took such photos just for laughs, because the Belarusian state propaganda called us Nazis," he told AFP. — AFP ■

Twelve teams to compete in Pro Futsal League 2021

TWELVE teams will take part in the Pro Futsal League (PFL) 2021, which will be held in Indonesia in upcoming July.

The decision to set the contestants was made by the Indonesian Futsal Federation (FFI) Coordination Meeting previously.

The PFL tourney was

postponed during the previous outbreak of the COVID-19 but football authorities

have decided to hold the tournament back in July.

“Other than having 12 teams taking part, it will also be a one-group system, unlike the two groupings they had in 2020. The competition format

will be a home and away system with teams to see action for at least eight months,” said ASEAN Football officials.

The twelve teams participating in the tourney are Black Steel Manokwari, SKN FC Kebumen, Bintang Timur Surabaya, Vamos Mataram, MAS Young Rior Luwu Utara,

Halus FC Jakarta, Giga FC Kota Metro, Jeck Kato 86 Be-
rau, Cosmo FC Jakarta, Kancil BBK Pontianak, and IPC Pelindo II Jakarta.

Black Steel Manokwari team is the defending champions after beating SKN FC Kebumen in the previous tourney final.—GNLM

Vietnam to postpone SEA Games until next year: state media

VIETNAM plans to postpone this year’s Southeast Asian Games, state media said Wednesday, as the country grapples with a new virus outbreak. The regional Olympics are due to be held in Hanoi and 11 other locations—some of them at the epicentre of the fresh Covid-19 wave—from November 21 to December 2. But Vietnam reportedly wants to move the 31st SEA Games to next year.

“The Vietnam Olympics Committee, the host for SEA Games 31, has sent a letter to countries informing them of its proposal to postpone SEA Games 31 to July 2022 due to the complicated situation of the Covid-19 pandemic,” according to Phap Luat Online. The SEA Games Council, based in Bangkok, will meet Wednesday to make a decision, it added. The Vietnam Olympics Committee confirmed to AFP that a meeting would take place Wednesday. Virus cases have more than tripled in Vietnam since April to over 9,000.



Vietnam last hosted the SEA Games in 2003. PHOTO: AFP

Although the number is low in comparison to most of its Southeast Asian neighbours, Vietnam’s vaccination rate per capita is the lowest in the region and among the lowest in Asia, according to an

AFP tally. SEA Games events are due to take place in some of the worst affected provinces including Bac Ninh and Bac Giang, in the country’s northeast.

One badminton venue in Bac

Giang has been turned into a field hospital. Vietnam previously hosted the multisports competition in 2003. It has allocated a budget of around \$69 million for the Games. — AFP ■

Brazil’s players say ‘against Copa America’ but won’t boycott

BRAZIL’S national footballers said Tuesday they are against hosting the troubled Copa Amer-

ica, but will not boycott the tournament.

The regional championship

is being organized on Brazilian soil in a last-minute, pandemic-defying rush after organizers

withdrew it from Argentina over a Covid-19 surge.

“We are against organizing the Copa America, but we will never say no to the Brazilian national team,” the players said in a joint statement on social media.

“We have a mission to accomplish in the historic green and yellow jersey of the five-time world champions,” they said, five days from the opening match of the South American football championships.

Brazil’s players were reportedly unhappy over their country’s late decision to host the tournament.

Brazil is itself reeling from the pandemic, with a death toll of more than 475,000, second only to the United States. — AFP ■



Brazil’s players were reportedly unhappy over their country’s last-minute decision to host the tournament after a Covid-19 surge led organizers to withdraw it from Argentina. PHOTO: AFP

Euro 2020 Group C: Dutch back in the big time



After failing to qualify for Euro 2016 or the 2018 World Cup, the Netherlands are back in the big time and aiming to make a big impression in this European Championship in a group also containing Austria, Ukraine and debutants North Macedonia. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

ENGLAND manager Gareth Southgate has spoken of how his grandfather’s service in World War II shaped his own identity and values, expressing his pride in representing his country on the eve of Euro 2020. Southgate’s side launch their campaign against Croatia at Wembley on Sunday, with the manager aiming to build on their run to the World Cup semi-finals in 2018. All three of England’s group matches are at home and Wembley is hosting some of the knockout matches at the delayed tournament, including both semi-finals and the final.

Former England international Southgate, writing in the Players’ Tribune, said different people had different ideas of what it “means to be English”. “For me, personally, my sense of identity and values is closely tied to my family and particularly my granddad,” he wrote. “He was a fierce patriot and a proud military man, who served during World War II. The idea of representing ‘queen and country’ has always been important to me. “We do pageantry so well in Britain, and, growing up, things like the queen’s Silver Jubilee (in 1977) and royal weddings had an impact on me.” Southgate, early in his tenure as England boss, took his players to train with the Royal Marines. “Because of my granddad, I’ve always had an affinity for the military and service in the name of your country—though the consequence of my failure in representing England will never be as high as his,” he said. — AFP ■