

NATIONAL

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs holds video conference with Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs II

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

60th graduation ceremony held in Yangon

PAGE-12

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Chairman of State Administration Council Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses Council's meeting (6/2021)



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the Council meeting (6/ 2021) in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 March 2021.

THE meeting (6/2021) of the State Administration Council took place at the meeting hall of the Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The meeting was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Commander-in-Chief (Army), Vice-Senior General Soe Win, council members General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, General Maung Maung Kyaw, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Mann Nyein Maung, U Thein Nyunt, U Khin Maung Swe, Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moug Har, U Sai Lone Hsai and Saw Daniel, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dway, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and Union

Minister for Home Affairs Lt-

Gen Soe Htut. Addressing the meeting, the Senior General said the protests staged by winning party supporters to show their dissatisfaction with the actions against the 2020 election results have now turned into riots and violence. Myanmar Police Force was assigned duties to subdue the protests according to democratic norms by exercising utmost restraint. The Tatmadaw is helping the police troops as

rearguards in required places to solve the difficulties and obstacles. Although there have been fewer protests, violent acts emerged in some areas, such as burning public property and factories. So, security forces had to handle the situation very hard. The protesters raided police stations and administrative offices and burned factories.

Meanwhile, the shooting had to disperse the protesters, resulting in some security forc-

es and protesters' casualties. Therefore, martial law was imposed in Shwepyitha and Hline-thaya townships in Yangon on the night of 14 March. The martial law imposition was extended to the townships of Dagon Myothit (South and North), North Okkalapa and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) yesterday morning. Control measures were taken only through democratic means and with patience.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Announcement of Union Election Commission

PAGE-2

NATIONAL
MoALI to establish agro-based industry across the nation

PAGE-5

NATIONAL
Illegal cash flow from George Soros and Alexandra Soros to Open Society Myanmar frozen

PAGE-12

NATIONAL
Innocent people killed in Hline-thaya, Shwepyitha townships

PAGE-13

NATIONAL
Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win attends 34th Chairs' Meeting of ASEAN capital markets forum

PAGE-14

Announcement of Union Election Commission 15 March 2021

- Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Htantabin, Insein and Dawbon townships in Yangon Region.
- According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 140,760 eligible voters in Htantabin Township of Yangon Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 70,792 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 20,059 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 291 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 7,276 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- The previous election commission released 237,230 eligible voters in Insein Township of Yangon Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 177,687 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 17,440 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 255 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 9,054 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- The previous election commission released 70,753 eligible voters in Dawbon Township of Yangon Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 58,708 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 7,746 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 39 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 2,084 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists of respective township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CSC
1	119 polling stations in Htantabin Township of Yangon Region	140,760	70,792	20,059	291	7,276
2	196 polling station in Insein Township of Yangon Region	237,230	177,687	17,440	255	9,054
3	63 polling stations in Dawbon Township of Yangon Region	70,753	58,708	7,746	39	2,084

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Htantabin, Insein and Dawbon townships in Yangon Region, together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrator according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.
- According to the ground inspection, a total of 378 polling stations of these three townships took out 486,870 ballots and used 314,564 It left 155,584 ballots instead of 172,306. A total of 22,323 ballots were missing and it also found 5,601 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective poll stations. The extra ballots were found and so it seemed to print the ballots illegally. The findings in each township are as follows:

Findings on ballots for Pyithu Hluttaw election in each township

Sr	Subject	Polling stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Htantabin Township	119	147,433	104,454	42,979	42,158	2,336	1,515
2	Insein Township	196	261,350	165,510	95,840	82,806	16,526	3,492
3	Dawbon Township	63	78,087	44,600	33,487	30,620	3,461	594
	Total	378	486,870	314,564	172,306	155,584	22,323	5,601

- According to the inspection, a total of 119 polling stations in 54 village-tract at No (5) Ward of Htantabin Township of Yangon Region withdrew 147,433 ballots and used 104,454 ballots. It left 42,158 ballots instead of 42,979 ballots. The shortage/extra ballots were found at each polling station The findings in each township are as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Htantabin Township

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact Remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/Village-tract ballots	144,200	104,111	40,089	37,988	2,336	235
2	Township ballots	3,233	343	2,890	3,486	-	596
3	Township remaining (Ward/village-tract returned ballots)	-	-	-	684	-	684
	Total	147,433	104,454	42,979	42,158	2,336	1,515

- 2,336 ballots were missing at the polling stations of 23 wards/village-tracts of Htantabin Township and 10 village-tract polling stations used 235 extra ballots. The township sub-commission left 3,486 ballots instead of 2,890 ballots and so there were 596 extra ballots. Moreover, township sub-commission received 684 ballots returned by ward/village-tract.

Findings in each ward/village-tract of Htantabin Township are as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-tract	Polling station	Issued	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Missing	Extra
1	No (1) Ward	1	1,950	1,477	473	454	19	-
2	No (2) Ward	1	1,350	1,115	235	235	-	-
3	No (3) Ward	1	2,500	1,657	843	794	49	-
4	No (4) Ward	1	1,200	906	294	294	-	-
5	No (5) Ward	1	750	542	208	208	-	-
6	Ka Lane Village-tract	1	1,150	995	155	155	-	-

7	Kyar Hone Village-tract	1	800	673	127	127	-	-
8	Nhat Thike Village-tract	2	1,750	1,397	353	353	-	-
9	Sate Kalay Village-tract	1	1,050	897	153	153	-	-
10	Tuu Chaung Village-tract	3	6,550	4,080	2,470	2,422	48	-
11	Tat Thit Village-tract	2	2,800	2,089	711	716	-	5
12	TadaU Village-tract	1	1,800	1,244	556	538	18	-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Martial Law Order 2/2021

3rd Waxing of Tabaung 1382 ME
15 March 2021

1. In order to effectively provide security, the rule of law and community peace, the State Administration Council has transferred the executive and judicial power (Martial Law) to the Commander of the Yangon Command to exercise the martial law in the Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and North Okkalapa Township of the Yangon Region under the Yangon Command in accord with Article 419 of the Constitution.
2. Depending on changing situation in the region, the commander shall exercise the Martial Law by himself or shall transfer the power to the regional military commanders.

By order

Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Chairman of State Administration Council Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses Council's meeting (6/2021)

FROM PAGE-1

However, there have been disturbances and insults even to monk folk. Behind the protests are instigators and financial supporters. So, the demonstrations have turned into violence.

Health staff are mainly responsible for public healthcare. Despite the closure of some hospitals, the majority have reopened to give treatment. Non-CDM doctors are under pressure now in the efforts to reopen the hospitals. Generally, doctors are considerate ones, so they need to respect the ethics of providing healthcare.

Plans are being made to reopen universities and colleges. There are education staff joining the CDM at some universities and colleges. Efforts are also being made to reopen basic education schools. As schools and universities' closure causes many losses to students and parents, the Senior General expressed his willingness to reopen them as quickly as possible. Permission has been granted to issue matriculation mark lists to join the university. For university entrance, students should be allowed to choose the subjects they are suitable for. Then, they will be able to gain credit in their respective subjects. So, the ministry concerned has been instructed to take such measures. It is necessary to learn respective subjects and pass examinations outstandingly at universities. Good libraries are also required, and tertiary education must be promoted. Only through better education will the

country develop. Therefore, education must be promoted, the Senior General said.

According to the statistics collected, it was learnt that the outbreak of COVID-19 in Myanmar has dropped. The decreasing rates of infection in townships are desirable prospects. Similarly, the death rate of the pandemic has also decreased. As the New Year of Myanmar is around the corner, it is necessary to organize the New Year event under certain restrictions.

In questioning people from the NLD, we treat them properly. Some of their revelations during the process have been announced. At the same time, there are plans to announce further revelations. Action will be taken against responsible officials at the state, region and union levels involved in corruption. It is also essential to serve the country's interest without corruption when the SAC is discharging duties.

Although not all banks have been reopened yet, instructions have been given to reopen banks by taking necessary security measures. Banks have agreed to operate in accordance with the monetary policies adopted by the State since they were established. In accordance with rules and regulations, action will be taken against banks that cannot reopen. It is necessary to find out possible ways and means to reopen banks. As violations of rules and regulations adopted by the State in dealings with foreign currencies and lending limits were found out in the scrutinization of banking operations, it is

necessary for the central bank to take measures for routine banking operations.

As all electricity generated is being consumed, it can be concluded that there are shortages of electricity. In generating electricity, solar power projects are being implemented. It is necessary to emphasize generating electricity from Paunglaung Hydropower Dam to establish smokeless industries in Nay Pyi Taw. It is required to invite local and foreign investment for garment factories and other factories and workshops that operate with electricity and manufacturing value-added products based on agriculture.

Several irregularities found out in the scrutinization of voter's lists have been announced at the press meet. Therefore, it is crucial to take measures to ensure freeness, fairness and order in the upcoming elections. While the UEC is responsible for elections, it is necessary for relevant ministries to take systematic measures for proper voter's lists. It is necessary for members of the Council to cooperate by taking respective responsibilities in preparation for the elections.

Afterwards, members of the Council U Thein Nyunt, Mahn Nyein Maung, U Khin Maung Swe, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Daw Aye Nu Sein, U Sai Lone Hsai and Saw Daniel reported to the Senior General on the extension of martial law in more regions for the rule of law, security and stability of the State, disclosure of corruption, reopening of banks and acceleration of

currency circulation, increased supports for teachers of national race's languages, effective protection for the public, releasing news with firm evidence, taking action against those who involved in the illegal CRPH, offering assistance for development of ecotourism, allowing to operate manageable level oil fields to private entrepreneurs and cooperatives system, prevention of political manipulation of religion, countering media attacks with media, taking action against financing violent protests and cash transfers for them, appointing efficient ward and village-tract administration council members and protection for them, reopening factories and workshops, taking measure for smooth transportation and effective operation of the administrative mechanism.

The Vice-Senior General then explained the mine-clearing work in Kachin and Rakhine states.

In response to the presentations, the Senior General said the State's management and administrative affairs are being carried out most gently according to democracy. People of the townships sharing a common border with the townships where martial law is in force now are expected to control one another. Normal demonstrations later turned into riots and vandalism because of the financial support and instigations from behind. As the cash assistance from specific foreign organizations and some banks' involvement in cash transfers are found, the issue is under

investigation. Coordination will be made with the relevant ministries to provide well-deserved aids to all teachers, including the ethnic language teachers.

The improvement of the qualifications of the teachers of the ethnic areas will be prioritized for the promotion of their education standard, and assistance will be provided for the monastic education schools, he said.

As agriculture and farming are the primary sources of livelihood for the country's majority, value-added farm-based goods have become a requisite, and the government will encourage the SMEs. Arrangements are underway to provide agro loans, but the loans must be used wisely. Bagan, Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Ngapali and Chaungtha are the priority destinations for the resumption of the local tourism industry soonest. Old oil fields will be tapped again under a cooperative or private system, he said.

Area-wise security awareness is required these days because of the possible attempts to grab the current situation as an opportunity. Efforts are being made to reach the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement with all the EAOs. From that point, further measures will be taken to restore permanent peace. EAOs should have a clear view while embracing the spirit of peacefully working together in weal and woe in the nation's affairs. The Council members should encourage all to join hands in the interest of the country, he said.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Martial Law Order 3/2021

3rd Waxing of Tabaung 1382 ME
15 March 2021

1. With the State Administration Council's Martial Law Order 1/2021 dated 14 March 2021 (2nd Waxing of Tabaung, 1382 ME) and the Martial Law Order 2/2021 dated 15 March 2021 (3rd Waxing of Tabaung, 1382 ME), the council has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of Yangon Command to exercise the Martial Law in accordance with Article 419 of the State Constitution to enforce security, the rule of law and community peace in Yangon Region's townships Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) and North Okkalapa.
2. Local administration bodies in the areas which have been placed under the Martial Law shall carry out the tasks concerned with them under the command of the Commander of Yangon Command.
3. The Commander of Yangon Command shall designate the martial law areas in the Yangon Command's region, and with the martial law orders, the Commander of Yangon Command can appoint commanders for the martial law areas with the approval of the State Administration Council.
4. The Commander of Yangon Command shall accomplish the following tasks by himself, or commanders of the martial law areas or an appropriate person or a body he transferred the power.
 - (A) **Administration**
 - (1) security issues
 - (2) social issues
 - (3) trade issues
 - (4) transportation issues
 - (B) **Judiciary**
 - (1) **Formation of courts:** The Commander of Yangon Command shall decide criminal cases that occurred during the martial law period at courts formed under the existing law or courts-martial.
 - (2) **Deciding cases at Court-Martial:** Criminal cases can be heard and decided at summary courts-martial.
 - (3) **Punishment:** Following punishments shall be sentenced by a court-martial in accordance with the existing laws for anyone who is found guilty for crimes mentioned in Appendix (A)
 - (AA) Death Sentence
 - (BB) Prison sentence with hard labour for unlimited years
 - (CC) The highest punishment designated in accordance with respective crimes
 - (4) **Approval:** The decisions and sentences handed down by courts-martial shall be final. However, a death sentence shall be approved only with the approval of the State Administration Council's Chairman. An unlimited years-prison sentence shall be approved with the approval of the Commander of Yangon Command. Following are the rights for exercising the rights for approval.
 - (AA) Abolishing a decision of a case
 - (BB) Commuting a sentence
 - (CC) Changing a sentence to another lesser one
 - (DD) Approving the conviction
- (5) **Appealing: No appeal for decisions or convictions handed down by courts-martial**
- (6) **Applying for reversal of decisions: If a death sentence is handed down by a court-martial, applying to the State Administration Council's Chairman can be made for reversal of the decision within 15 days from the day of conviction. Reversal for other punishments can be applied to the Commander of Yangon Command within 15 days after the convictions.** The State Administration Council Chairman or the Commander of Yangon Command can reverse the decision. Following the rights for exercising power for reversal of the decision.
 - (AA) Abolishing a decision of a case
 - (BB) Commuting a sentence
 - (CC) Changing a correction to another lesser one
 - (DD) Approving the conviction
- (7) The Chairman of the State Administration Council or the Commander of Yangon Command not only can exercise the rights mentioned in the above sub-para (6) but also can increase the punishment.
5. The Commander of Yangon Command can form an advisory body for martial law to get assistance for performing his duties.
6. The Commander of Yangon Command shall report to the Chairman of the State Administration Council on the situation of the martial law areas.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Crimes to be heard by Court-Martial

1. High Treason (Section 122 of the Criminal Procedure Code)
2. Attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government (Section 124-A of the Penal Code)
3. Sabotage or hinder the performance of the Defence Services of the Union or law enforcement organizations (Section 124-C of the Penal Code)
4. Disrupts or hinders Defence Services and Government employees (Section 124-D of the Penal Code)
5. Section 505 of the Penal Code
6. Cause fear, spread false news, agitate directly or indirectly criminal offence against a Government employee (Section 505-A of the Penal Code)
7. Cases against unlawful associations act
8. Cases against weaponry act
9. Murder cases
10. Death cases
11. Rape cases
12. Robbery cases
13. Banditry cases
14. Corruption cases
15. Cases against Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993)
16. Cases against protection of public properties act
17. Cases against protection of public properties law (1963)
18. Cases against press and media law
19. Cases against printing and publishing law
20. Cases against Myanmar Immigration (provisional) act (1947)
21. Cases against electronic communications law
22. Cases against ward or village-tract administration law
23. Cases against anti-terrorism law

The measures it is taking are even softer than the ones in other countries

THE State Administration Council has been discharging the duties of the State for a month now. The nation was peaceful during the first week of its administration, but riots and protests have been occurring since the second week. Those demonstrations are caused by the persons who are disgruntled by the action taken against the vote-rigging amidst the COVID-19 prevention and containment restrictions. The Myanmar Police Force is controlling the situation by using minimum force and through the least harmful means. The MPF is doing its work in accordance with democracy practices and the measures it is taking are even softer than the ones in other countries.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting of the State Administration Council made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 2 March 2021)

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs holds video conference with Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs II

U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a bilateral video conference from Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam at 1:30pm on 15 March 2021 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the two Ministers exchanged views on matters pertaining to

ASEAN and ASEAN's relationship with its Dialogue Partners. Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin also briefed recent development in Myanmar including the government's efforts to address the violent protests by exercising utmost restraint to maintain law and order.

Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the Meeting. — MNA ■



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin holds talks with the Brunei counterpart via videoconference yesterday.

MoALI to establish agro-based industry across the nation



THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation organized a coordination meeting yesterday to draft plans to establish agro-based industries across the nation to improve the value-added production sector, to narrow the gap between the urban cities and villages and to create job opportunities in different regions and states.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo also discussed the establishment of agro-based industries across the nations and the designation

of area for the pilot project.

He then stressed the need to produce value-added farming products, create job opportunities for residents. He added other matters to designate the pilot project area.

Then, the Leader of Myanmar Social and Economic Development Centre, Dr Zaw Oo, presented the strategies and basic framework for the projects, and other Directors-General of respective departments, including Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi, coordinated the discussion. —MNA

Union Minister chairs coordination meeting for the establishment of the agro-based industry across the nation. PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-2

Sr	Ward/Village-tract	Polling station	Issued	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Missing	Extra
13	Htane Kone Village-tract	2	2,750	2,028	722	471	251	-
14	Htane Hna Pin Village-tract	4	5,600	4,313	1,287	1,216	71	-
15	Date Kone Village-tract	2	4,000	2,951	1,049	1,049	-	-
16	Dani Ye Village-tract	2	3,150	2,447	703	703	-	-
17	Payut Village-tract	2	1,500	1,254	146	264	-	18
18	Pat Inn Kalay Village-tract	1	650	591	59	59	-	-
19	Rakhine Yoe Gyi Village-tract	11	23,950	12,141	11,809	11,665	144	-
20	Yoe Khwa Village-tract	1	900	757	143	143	-	-
21	War Tayar Village-tract	2	5,500	3,849	1,651	1,501	150	-
22	Thanpaya Khone Village-tract	2	2,700	2,350	350	352	-	2
23	Asu Gyi Village-tract	2	3,250	2,789	461	461	-	-
24	Ka Htwal Village-tract	3	3,500	2,973	527	528	-	1
25	Chaung Nyi Ako Village-tract	2	1,200	1,016	184	182	2	-
26	Sanda Yaw Village-tract	2	2,950	2,252	698	300	398	-
27	Daunt Gyi Village-tract	2	1,300	1,184	116	166	-	50
28	Ne Byaw Village-tract	2	750	619	131	131	-	-
29	Pan Tine Village-tract	2	2,700	1,815	885	585	300	-
30	Ma Shwe Oo Village-tract	2	2,850	1,960	890	850	40	-
31	Mya Ge Village-tract	1	1,300	917	383	383	-	-
32	Kyane Pike Village-tract	1	850	747	103	203	-	100
33	Yay So Village-tract	1	1,350	1,121	229	231	-	2
34	Kamyaing Village-tract	2	2,150	1,098	1,052	802	250	-
35	Kone Hle Sate Village-tract	1	1,200	878	322	322	-	-
36	Kyu Taw Village-tract	2	2,500	1,860	640	640	-	-
37	Kya Man Village-tract	1	850	643	207	207	-	-

38	Kyar Inn Village-tract	3	1,900	1,478	422	322	100	-
39	Kywal Kuu Village-tract	4	3,700	2,874	826	797	29	-
40	San Kin Gyi Village-tract	2	1,150	901	249	249	-	-
41	Nyunt Paung Village-tract	1	800	677	123	123	-	-
42	Taline Mhi Village-tract	4	3,100	2,505	595	601	-	6
43	Taw La Te Village-tract	1	900	711	189	189	-	-
44	Dat Taw Gone Village-tract	1	1,000	768	232	232	-	-
45	Ne Tha Mane Village-tract	3	2,750	2,239	511	511	-	-
46	Phoe Nat Pay Village-tract	1	750	634	116	116	-	-
47	Baw Lal Village-tract	2	2,600	2,094	506	506	-	-
48	Mae Pali Village-tract	2	1,850	1,309	541	391	150	-
49	Yay Twin Gone Village-tract	2	1,600	1,219	381	346	35	-
50	Yay Phyu Village-tract	4	3,300	2,717	583	558	25	-
51	Yay Paw Thaug Village-tract	1	450	367	83	85	-	2
52	Bu Tha Noot Village-tract	3	2,050	1,796	254	254	-	-
53	Shwe Kyar Byaik Village-tract	3	2,950	2,172	778	777	1	-
54	Lamu Tan Village-tract	2	2,500	2,082	418	417	1	-
55	Hle Sate Village-tract	2	1,650	1,038	612	412	200	-
56	Tha Bot Chaung Village-tract	2	1,350	872	478	478	0	-
57	Atwin Yay Kyaw Village-tract	2	2,750	2,398	352	350	2	-
58	Apyin Yay Kyaw Village-tract	1	450	425	25	74	-	49
59	Alane Lal Village-tract	2	1,600	1,210	390	337	53	-
	Ward/Village-tract total	119	144,200	104,111	40,089	37,988	2,336	235
	Township ballots	-	3,233	343	2,890	3,486	-	596
	Township remaining (Ward/village-tract returned the ballots)	-	-	-	-	684	-	684
	Township total	-	147,433	104,454	42,979	42,158	2,336	1,515

11. According to the inspection, 196 polling stations in 21 Wards of Insein Township of Yangon Region withdrew 261,350 ballots and used 165,510 ballots. It left only 82,806 ballots instead of 95,840. The shortage/extra ballots were found at each polling station. Findings were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Insein Township

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/Village-tract ballots	247,850	162,550	85,300	69,728	16,526	954
2	Township ballots	13,500	2,960	10,540	10,540	-	-
3	Township remaining (ward/village-tract returned the ballots)		-	-	2,538	-	2,538
	Total	261,350	165,510	95,840	82,806	16,526	3,492

12. A total of 16,526 ballots were missing at the polling stations of 18 Wards in Insein Township and the polling stations in 3 Wards used 954 extra ballots. The township sub-commission received 2,538 ballots returned by some wards.

Findings on ballot paper for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Insein Township were as follows:

Sr	Ward	Total polling station	Issued	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Missing	Extra
1	Kwet Thit	4	2,450	1,397	1,053	814	239	-
2	Pauk Taw	4	4,700	3,753	947	1,647	-	700
3	Saw Bwar Gyi Gone	12	17,450	11,198	6,252	6,142	110	-
4	Ywar Ma (west)	26	28,100	18,821	9,279	5,497	3,782	-
5	Phawt Kan	19	20,450	14,285	6,165	6,415	-	250

6	Sint Ngu	14	18,900	12,053	6,847	4,732	2,115	-
7	Aung San	11	15,700	10,067	5,633	4,919	714	-
8	Danyin Gone	10	18,650	11,385	7,265	6,627	638	-
9	Kan Nar (west)	5	6,600	4,662	1,938	1,342	596	-
10	Kan Nar (middle)	10	13,100	7,125	5,975	4,816	1,159	-
11	Zay Gone (west)	2	2,150	1,536	614	618	-	4
12	Zay Gone (east)	5	6,750	4,480	2,270	1,683	587	-

13	Pane Nel Gone	6	8,100	5,317	2,783	2,348	435	-
14	Myo Thit (a+b)	10	13,950	9,580	4,370	3,839	531	-
15	Myo Thit (c)	5	6,200	4,820	1,380	1,119	261	-
16	KyoGone (west)	9	10,100	6,942	3,158	2,669	489	-
17	Kyo Gone (east)	10	10,950	7,513	3,437	2,844	593	-
18	Nant Thar Gone	8	10,350	6,019	4,331	3,581	750	-
19	Taung Thu Gone	12	17,450	10,824	6,626	5,633	993	-
20	Ywar Ma (east)	11	12,250	8,083	4,167	1,733	2,434	-

21	Ywar Ma (middle)	3	3,500	2,690	810	710	100	-
	Total Ward	196	247,850	162,550	85,300	69,728	16,526	954
	Township ballots	-	13,500	2,960	10,540	10,540	-	-
	Township remaining (ward/village-tract returned ballots)	-	-	-	-	2,538	-	2,538
	Total	-	261,350	165,510	95,840	82,806	16,526	3,492

14. There were 63 polling stations in Dawbon Township and they took out 78,087 ballots and of these ballots, they distributed 75,637 ballots for ward/village-tracts, 500 for township advance ballots and 1,950 for township remaining (reserve).

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Dawbon Township

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village-tract ballots	75,637	44,100	31,537	28,670	3,461	594
2	Township ballots	500	500	-	-	-	-
3	Township remaining	1,950	-	1,950	1,950	-	-
	Total	78,087	44,600	33,487	30,620	3,461	594

15. According to the inspection, Dawbon township took out 75,637 ballots and used 44,100 ballots. They left only 28,670 ballots only 31,537.

16. A total of 3,461 ballots were missing at 37 polling stations and found 594 extra ballots at 17 polling stations.

17. They used 500 ballots as township advance ballots and it found 1,950 unused township remaining ballots (reserve) and so there was no difference on it.

18. Dawbon township used 44,600 ballots out of 78,087 ballots and if found 30,620 unused ballots.

Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/village-tract	Polling station No	Issued	Findings			Missing	Extra
				Used	Re-remaining	Total		
1	Bamar Aye	1	1,250	780	420	1,200	50	
		2	1,300	778	474	1,252	48	
		3	1,350	828	572	1,400	-	50
		4	1,300	774	474	1,248	52	
		5	1,400	715	545	1,260	140	-
2	Nwal Aye	1	1,400	625	574	1,199	201	
		2	1,350	582	628	1,210	140	
		3	1,350	722	578	1,300	50	
		4	1,250	472	731	1,203	47	
		5	1,750	892	809	1,701	49	
		6	1,250	596	554	1,150	100	
		7	1,350	718	432	1,150	200	
		8	1,650	1,004	446	1,450	200	
		9	1,850	802	898	1,700	150	
		10	1,400	695	607	1,302	98	
		11	1,900	1,025	975	2,000		100
		12	1,450	735	615	1,350	100	
3	Bo Tun Zan	1	950	121	758	879	71	
		2	1,150	709	447	1,156		6
		3	1,150	683	469	1,152		2
		4	1,150	786	366	1,152		2
		5	1,200	768	132	900	300	
		6	1,000	604	296	900	100	
		7	900	415	285	700	200	
4	Su Kyi	1	1,100	608	492	1,100		
		2	1,800	1,128	674	1,802		2
		3	1,300	747	503	1,250	50	
		4	1,450	925	527	1,452		2
		5	1,500	869	581	1,450	50	
5	Myo Thit	1	1,100	741	409	1,150		50
		2	900	611	239	850	50	
		3	900	561	339	900		

6	Say Set	1	1,100	726	372	1,098	2	
		2	1,100	616	536	1,152		52
		3	850	498	354	852		2
7	Pathein Myay	1	850	570	280	850		
		2	900	593	307	900		
		3	850	559	291	850		
8	Warso	1	1,050	665	185	850	200	
		2	1,050	673	377	1,050		
		3	1,050	710	340	1,050		
9	Aung Chan Tha	1	950	497	303	800	150	
		2	750	466	334	800		50
10	Lamu Tan	1	1,250	830	432	1,253		3
		2	650	391	158	549	101	
11	Yamone Na (2)	1	1,550	976	626	1,602		52
		2	1,250	744	506	1,250		
		3	900	541	307	848	52	
		4	950	547	353	900	50	
		5	1,000	599	351	950	50	
		6	1,350	808	539	1,347	3	
12	Yamone Na (1)	1	1,000	729	471	1,200		100
		2	1,000	664	340	1,004		4
		3	1,350	899	456	1,355		5
		4	1,000	625	251	876	124	
13	Zeya Thiri	1	1,250	827	373	1,200	50	
		2	1,400	870	479	1,349	51	
		3	1,800	1,129	623	1,752	48	
14	Thinbaw Gyin	1	1,037	716	433	1,149		112
		2	800	468	332	800		
		3	1,200	783	416	1,199	1	
		4	1,150	745	322	1,067	83	
		5	1,050	617	383	1,000	50	
	Total		75,637	44,100	28,670	72,770	3,461	594

Understanding FB standards helpful for avoiding conflicts

FACEBOOK has been a part of our daily life for several years back.

In Myanmar, the number of social media users has increased from 7 million in 2015 to 21 million in 2020. Coupled with the increase in the number of social media users, it is getting harder and harder for people to distinguish between correct news and fake news on social media platforms.

Fake news, hate speech, and disinformation on popular social media platforms are rampant in this misinformation age, causing challenges for the world's countries.

Fake news, hate speech, and disinformation on popular social media platforms are rampant in this misinformation age, causing challenges for the world's countries.

With the development of Facebook and other social media and information technology, the world becomes a global village. The people in every part of the world contact and exchange information with each other in a timely manner. However, with the freedom to use social media, there are dark sides and bright social media sides.

Some standards of the Facebook social network have prohibited hate speech, bullying and threatening online. FB has also banned posts connected with terrorism and threats and has protected personal data, and urged the users to respect people's individual rights. It has also invited the reports on violating its rules by users. When our country is experiencing unrest, the hate speech and posts which violate the Facebook standards and rules have caused the conflicts bigger. Despite facing a great danger of unrests nationwide, the country's internet connection has been working for communications of the people, except sometimes.

With the unrest, about 80 per cent of the Facebook users in our country have turned to social media's dark side. According to human psychology, what people see on the social media platform amplifies fake news and hate speech. We must prevent using its platform to undermine the rule of law and community peace by tackling fake news and releasing correct information. We need to be on the alert about their potential to disrupt the community peace. We need to prevent them, and when they occur, we need to be quick to react.

The most important and effective way is avoiding hate speech of one kind of another and following the Facebook standards not to cause conflicts in communities.



The Birth of 'National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement'

By Maung Hlaing

LITERARY scholars and those from the world of Myanmar literature may know that literary awards have been presented since 1948. With a view to bringing about the development of Myanmar literature, Sarpay Beikman, formerly known as Burma Translation Society (on behalf of the State), started to present the 'Sarpay Beikman Contemporary Novel Award' (စာပေဗိမာန်ကာလပေါ်ဝတ္ထုဆု) in 1948.

In the following years, the names of the awards have been changed as 'Sarpay Beikman Award' (စာပေဗိမာန်ဆု), 'Fine Arts Literary Award' (အနုပညာဆိုင်ရာစာပေဆု) and 'National Literary Award' (အမျိုးသားစာပေဆု) in accordance with the situations of the periods we have passed. It was in 2002 that the 'National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement' (အမျိုးသားစာပေတစ်သက်တာဆု) was successfully introduced. (In this article, I will use the term 'Lifetime Literary Award' instead of using 'National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement'.)

Since then, the award has been presented to one writer or literary scholar whose literary works have contributed enormously to the nation and the people. To date, 31 veteran writers and literary scholars have won the Lifetime Literary Award.

Regarding the Lifetime Literary Award, most of the men of letters have acquaintance with it. However, apart from those who made efforts to implement the scheme, no one knows how the award came into being. The key figure of the scheme was then-Minister for Information Maj-Gen Kyi Aung. Those who chalked out the scheme were U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), Dr Sithu Thaw Kaung (U Thaw Kaung), Dr Kyaw Sein (ex-Minister for Education), U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), and the author of this article.

Among them, late Saya Maung Hsu Shin and Dr Kyaw Sein have done their best and earned their rest now. The per-

sons who know the birth of this award are Sayagyi Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung, Tekkatho Tin Kha and the author.

To be objective, the emergence of the Lifetime Literary Award is attributable to Sayagyi U Hla Kyaing (Paragu). Saya Paragu won the South East Asian Writers Award offered by Thailand in 2002.

From 1998 onwards, one of the well-known writers or literary scholars from Myanmar was invited to Thailand to receive the South East Asian Writers Award, popularly known as S.E.A. WRITE AWARD. The award-presentation ceremony is annually held in Bangkok, Thailand. In this connection, may I give you a quick sketch of S.E.A. WRITE AWARD.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was officially established on 8 August 1967. At the very outset, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand were five founder members. Myanmar could not join the Association.

To honour the writers, including poets, novelists, historians and literary researchers from the ASEAN Community, Thailand founded the S.E.A. WRITE AWARD Organizing Committee in 1979. Beginning from 1979, one of the renown writers from each member nation of the ASEAN was offered to receive the S.E.A. WRITE AWARD. In the early years, the awardees represented five countries.

On 23 July 1997, Myanmar became a member of the ASEAN. To honour the membership, a prominent writer from Myanmar was offered to receive the S.E.A. WRITE AWARD in 1998. (The awardee was selected by the judging committee of his/her own country.) The first and foremost person who was selected as the recipient of the award was Sayagyi U Kyi Aye (Sinbyukyun Aung Thein) in 1998.

Later, U Kyaw Aung (Kyaw Aung), Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Nyin) and U Tin Maung (Tek-

katho Htin Gyi) were also selected to receive the award in three consecutive years of 1999, 2000 and 2001. The awardees were accompanied on their journeys to Thailand by me except the trip of Tekkatho Htin Gyi, who was accompanied by U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe).

In 2002, Sayagyi U Hla Kyaing (Paragu) was selected as a recipient of the S.E.A. WRITE AWARD. It so happened that although Saya Paragu was selected, he failed to leave for Thailand due to the immediate change of the government policy in those days. As Saya Paragu was always cool and calm, he showed no emotion. However, the failure of his departure made Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung feel uneasy. He himself personally revered Saya Paragu much.

At the same time, an idea of giving birth to a literary award that would be the equal of the S.E.A. WRITE AWARD came over to him. He tried to reason out how he could pave the way for creating the highest award in the literary field in Myanmar.

One day, Saya Maung Hsu Shin, who was then the adviser to Sarpay Beikman and I were summoned by the Minister. We were told that he felt uneasy about the matter of Saya Paragu and that he wanted to create a literary award of which standard should be higher than that of the existing National Literary Award.

When we came back from the Ministry, we invited Saya U Thaw Kaung, Dr Kyaw Sein and U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) to the meeting. Being the Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman, I had to attend almost every meeting on literary matters. At the meeting, the scholars took long to detailly discuss the matters on creating a literary award higher than the existing National Literary Award.

At that time, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Manuscript Award had already emerged. Since its emergence, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-

time Literary Award has been introduced to the literati. After discussing the matter for two

or three hours, they decided to create a lifetime literary award, taking the example of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Manuscript Award. Because such literary award the Minister wanted should be much higher than U Ohn Pe's, they added the word 'National' to the name of 'Lifetime Literary Award'.

On the following day, when they submitted the nomenclature 'National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement' to the Minister, the latter was quite satisfied with the name of the award. In brief, because of the efforts made by Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and the scholars, the dream of the Lifetime Literary Award was about to come true.

However, a change took place in the Ministry of Information suddenly. When the scheme was about to be translated into action, Maj-Gen Kyi Aung was transferred to the Ministry of Culture on 13 September 2002. Brig-Gen Kyaw Sann succeeded him. A few days later, after Brig-Gen Kyaw Sann had taken the responsibilities of the Ministry, I personally submitted the scheme to him.

Finally, the ministry (the government) gave the green light to the scheme of 'National Lifetime Award for Lifetime Achievement and the selection of Saya Paragu as the winner was approved in principle. Being the secretary of the National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee, I had sole responsibility for the successful implementation of the award scheme. The final meeting of the committee for (2001) chaired by U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) was held on 1 November 2002. At the meeting, when I announced that the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement and the selection of Saya Paragu had been approved, the scholars who attended the meeting gave the announcement a big round of applause.

According to the literary award scrutinizing procedures, although Saya Paragu was named in 2002, his selec-

tion was designated as (2001). At the outset, the winner of the National Lifetime Award received K400,000 (Four-hundred thousand kyats), while each winner of the National Literary Award for (2001) earned K200,000 (Two-hundred thousand kyats).

In this way, the first and foremost 'National Lifetime for Literary Achievement' was presented to Saya Paragu at the award-presentation ceremony of National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, the National Literary Awards and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2001, held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, Yangon on 6 December 2002.

From 2001 to 2011, only one writer or literary scholar was awarded. From 2012 to 2014, the award went to three persons. As for 2015, there were two awardees and three persons were awarded for 2016. However, beginning from 2017, the State has presented the Lifetime Literary Award to one veteran writer and one literary scholar. As for the latest year (2019), veteran writer Sayagyi U Arnt Maung (Arnt Maung) and Literary scholar Sayagyi U Nyunt Maung (Maung Maung Nyunt-Mann Tekkatho) became the awardees who received k.5 million each.

The following are the winners of the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement from 2001 to 2019:-

1. Sithu U Hla Kyaing (Paragu) (2001)
2. Sithu U Htin Phat (Maung Htin) (2002)
3. Sithu U Htay Maung (Htay Myaning) (2003)
4. Sithu U Lay Myaing (Lay Myaing) (2004)
5. Sithu Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Nyin) (2005)
6. Sithu Daw Kyan (Ma kyan) (2006)
7. Sithu U Kyi Aye (Sinbyukyun Aung Thein) (2007)
8. Sithu Dr Kyaw Sein (Dr Kyaw Sein) (2008)
9. Maha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt (2009)
10. Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung (2010)

11. U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai) (2011)
12. Daw Khin Swe Oo (Khin Swe Oo) (2012)
13. U Aung Thin (Aung Thin) (2012)
14. U Tin Maung (Theikpan Hmu Tin) (2012)
15. Dr. U Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danubyu) (2013)
16. Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Lae-dwin-thar Saw Chit) (2013)
17. U Myint Kyi (Tekkatho Myat Soe) (2013)
18. U Win Pe (Mya Zin) (2014)
19. U Khin Maung So (Maung Paw Htun) (2014)
20. U Ko Lay (Ko Lay-Inn Wa Gon Yi) (2014)
21. U Win Mon (Tekkatho Win Mon) (2015)
22. U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) (2015)
23. U Kyauk Sauk Tha Noe (Maung Tha Noe) (2016)
24. U Than Htun (Thein Than Htun) (2016)
25. U Kyaw Win (Nyo Win) (2016)
26. U Myint Lwin (Po Kyawt) (2017)
27. U Tun Yi (Tun Yi-Archaeologist) (2017)
28. U Tin Maung Myint (Tin Maung Myint) (2018)
29. U Tun Aung Chein (Tun Aung Chein) (2018)
30. U Arnt Maung (Arnt Maung) (2019)
31. U Nyunt Maung (Maung Maung Nyunt-Mann Tekkatho) (2019)

The National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement is an award in recognition of the lifetime outstanding and excellent performance of a man of letters who contributes much to the development of Myanmar literature.

This is nothing but a memoir of the highest literary award in the world of literati in Myanmar. Ref: (1) ၂၀၀၁ ခုနှစ်အတွက် အမျိုးသား စာပေတစ်သက်တာဆု၊ အမျိုးသားစာပေဆု ရွေးချယ်ရေး ကော်မတီ၏ အစီရင်ခံစာ။ (2) The Global New Light of Myanmar, 16-12-2020. (3) The author's notes.



Objectives of 76th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

FOR the Tatmadaw to join hands with the entire nation to safeguard democracy, which is the aspiration of all the nationalities of the country, from deviating from its path, in accord with the basic principles of the Constitution, while observing Our Three Main National Causes, which is the national policy;

To protect the people from all dangers including natural disasters at any time and in any situation and to provide all-round assistance for ensuring social security of the people;

To restore eternal peace based on NCA, without deviating from Our Three Main National Causes, as the cessation of armed conflicts is the principal requirement in realizing democracy;

To build a strong and compact Standard Army, which has the combat prowess and combat power; to effectively safeguard the State peace and stability and sovereignty.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 15th March, 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON THE 16th March, 2021: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Eastern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah States and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of day temperatures in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th March, 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th March, 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th March, 2021: Generally fair weather.

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Public participation for State stability

(Conservation between Ko Than Chaung and Ma Sar U)

By Daung

“Do we have unity?” Yes, we do. Yes, we do,” the sound came from the next door of Ko Than Chaung. So, he glanced at that house and found Ma Sar U, an educated spinster, whispering that slang before she went to the market.

“Hey, Ma Sar U, just keep shouting that slang. It’s sound good,” I said to her.

“Don’t make funny. I just know those words. I don’t dare to go to the street now even though others brought my mother’s longyi to string up on the line there as I am worried that I would be arrested,” she replied.

“Why did you hang longyi on the rope there?”

“Don’t you know that if we hang longyi on the rope, the security forces won’t come here, and they don’t dare to destroy the protest camp. So, I do like that,” she said.

Then, I continued, “I wonder why you do like that without any solid reason. If you do like that, how can the monks pass underneath these longyis? If the respectful elderly persons go underneath these lines, it doesn’t look good for you. Do you all forget that point?”

“That’s right, Ko Than Chaung. It’s my fault that I don’t think about it. I make a huge mistake. But, the guilty of those who persuade us to do so will be worse. They ask for longyi from me to do so, and so I just give it to them,” she added.

“OK. Let it be. I heard your nieces would join CDM, and now how’s it going? Are they OK?”

Then, she said, “I don’t know whether they are OK. They will return home. Some of their friends are unemployed

and get financial assistance just for one time. I think they are tired of participating in the summer revolution.”

“They should be like that, Apyo Gyi. The government implements systematic future work plans and objectives as quickly as possible. If they want to destroy it, they will face such a situation. Suppose they don’t accept the efforts of the government like solving this issue peacefully and fairly. In that case, their efforts also will be in vain except riot.”

“So, how is the help of international countries? Do the foreign military arrive here?” she asked.

“No, Ma Sar U. No one shares the final situation of the UN on Facebook with credit. I heard they would adopt a diplomatic approach instead of war. Nobody wants to interfere in others’ internal affairs. As the saying goes, we should not interfere in three relations: between the parents and children, husband and wife, and siblings. If they are in a good situation again after a row, we will just be their enemies. So, which country will dare to interfere in the affairs of another country? Then, they won’t do such interference as the government carries out in line with the law,” I told her.

Then, I continued, “If the international armed forces are supposed to be here, will you welcome their arrival? For example, if our neighbouring country sends their army to us as the western countries are far from here, will you accept their coming? I see only the country full of losses rather than a country full of prosperity when the foreign countries complete their



The government is responsible for the stability of the State. The State Administration Council are carrying out systematic measures now. I think the people should participate in implementing these measures while the Council carries them out according to the 2008 Constitution. If there is no stability in the country, we cannot hold the election.

support with armed forces.”

She told me, “It’s true. It is better to carry out the right things to achieve good results rather than making responses based on current emotions.”

“The CMD of government staff, social bullying that is not conformity with human rights, insulting to religions affect the country’s image, Ma Sar U. Electing Hluttaw MPs are official with the recognition of people. They will be official MPs when they complete taking an oath. Now is in the inspection period to uncover the frauds. But, they form organizations and parallel government, and so these doings are illegal. They neglect the pledges of others, and they commit incitement to the people online,” I said.

She replied, “But, I feel sad for casualties of people, Ko Than Chaung. I feel hurt

seeing the youths at the age of my nephews and nieces taking to the streets to protest.”

“You should be like that, Ma Sar U. But, you should not hate the security forces but the power-mad persons in each former government terms, politics who work for the sake of themselves, lobbyists, media outlets that cover one-sided news and the cowards who incite just online. They know the situation and intentionally persuade the people to take to the streets. It will be like a Myanmar saying: A small issue mendable by a needle may become necessary to cut by an axe,” I added.

When she said, “I feel sorry for Generation Z. They have their future. I don’t want them to spend their time on the streets,” I continued, “The honesty of youths is misled,

Ma Sar U. The government is responsible for the stability of the State. The State Administration Council are carrying out systematic measures now. I think the people should participate in implementing these measures while the Council carries them out according to the 2008 Constitution. If there is no stability in the country, we cannot hold the election. You should think about whether you should create delays or stop such destructive actions so that to welcome the election.”

“You are right, Ko Than Chaung. Now, I need to go to the market, and you should go home. Why don’t we discuss again in the evening?” she said.

“OK. I want the people to understand the truth like you. If so, everything will be OK,” I replied.

Translated

HEALTH

Russia says Sputnik V production deals reached in key EU states

THE developers of the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine said Monday they had reached production agreements in key European countries as the EU’s medical agency deliberates official approval for the Russian jab.

The head of Russia’s Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev said in a statement that

his organisation had secured “agreements with companies from Italy, Spain, France and Germany to launch production of Sputnik V”.

Dmitriev said the deals would allow for the supply of Sputnik to the European market “once the approval is granted by the European Medicines Agency

(EMA)”.

If approved Sputnik would become the first non-Western coronavirus jab to be certified for use across the 27-nation bloc.

The EMA launched a rolling review of Sputnik V earlier this month, but several EU countries have already begun distributing it.

Hungary approved Sputnik V in February and began using it as part of its vaccine rollout, while the Czech Republic and Slovakia have also ordered doses and say they will not wait for EMA approval.

According to the vaccine’s developers, Sputnik V has been registered in more than 50 coun-

tries. Russia registered Sputnik V last August ahead of large-scale clinical trials, sparking concern among some experts at home and abroad over the fast-track process. Leading medical journal The Lancet last month published results showing the jab to be safe and over 90 percent effective. —AFP ■

They have a family who relies on them. They may have children or elders. We will be really sorry for them if there will be legal action against them

By Nay Chi Oo

DUE to current political affairs, Civil Disobedience Movement epidemic has been threatening civil service personnel. However, it is a political movement which is not related to civil service personnel. There may be different opinion on the CDM campaign but we have also heard the voice of those who want to live in peace.

One public servant

I am an officer at the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and I have been working for over 25 years. Currently, I have been pushed to join the CDM campaign as soon as possible. People from my neighbourhood also ask me whether I am still working or not. Then, I have to answer that I do not work anymore. If not, it will not be all right.

Actually, I go to work as usual, but I do not wear office uniform to avoid attention. Another thing is that I perform my duty as I am a public employee and CDM is not related to us. As I have service, I do not want to risk my life. I had to struggle and sacrifice a lot to become an officer. Also, I have to take care of my family. I have been working as a public employee for years, and I have also become old. I can be retired in a year or two as

I will be 55, and my service year will be 30. Nevertheless, employees will have to work their works, so I did not consider joining the CDM.

Manager

I am a manager at the ministry of agriculture, livestock and irrigation. I didn't join the CDM campaign since I thought I should not do it, and also, I am in charge of a department. As I do not enter the CDM campaign, I also say to my employees not to be involved. Besides, I also do urge the employees who are in trouble due to the movement to come back to work in time so that they will not be taken legal action against them. However, I do not threaten or pressure them to do so, and they are just welcome to return to work in time. There can be legal action against them in the future, and if it happens, there won't be any good for them as well as we will feel sorry for them. We do not want them will get hurt. They have a family who relies on them. They may have children or elders. We will be really sorry for them if there will be legal action against them. We really ask for them to return to work.

We are on the same boat, going to the same destination.

As I did not get this job easily, I cannot decide easily. Also, I value my job. I have considered it repeatedly. I cannot join the CDM. I am also working for my mom, who is very old, and if there is something terrible that happened due to the CDM, my mom will not be pleased. That is for sure, and I only want my mom to have her peace of mind.

We know each other well, and we care for each other. We help each other, and we admire our work although we have low income. That is why we invite them to return to work before it is too late.

Administration Staff

I am a senior clerk and have been working for over ten years. There are people pushing us to join the CDM campaign. It is not easy to be a senior clerk in my department. As for me, I get this

job through my uncle, who worked in this department.

As I did not get this job easily, I cannot decide easily. Also, I value my job. I have considered it repeatedly. I cannot join the CDM. I am also working for my mom, who is very old, and if there is something terrible that happened due to the CDM, my mom will not be pleased. That is for sure, and I only want my mom to have her peace of mind. That is why I have decided not to join the CDM

campaign. I also do not want my colleagues to join the CDM campaign. I actually wish them to live in peace. That is really from my heart.

The human world is very complicated, including political complication, economic complication and others. We must be aware that it will be challenging to get out of the difficulties that we are not master in or do not understand once we are in.

Translated.

EUROPE

Strange Twitter bug bans users for mentioning 'Memphis'



Don't say the 'm word': the Memphis Grizzlies joked about the apparent Twitter taboo. **PHOTO:AFP**

TWITTER users who used the word "Memphis" found themselves temporarily locked out of their accounts at the weekend because of a bizarre bug.

Several users shared screenshots showing messages from Twitter saying their account was being limited for violating the platform's rules, after they had tweeted a message which included the word "Memphis."

Twitter late Sunday acknowledged the error and said it had been fixed.

Reports of the bug emerged

after some soccer fans noticed that posts mentioning Olympique Lyonnais player Memphis Depay were being blocked. The French soccer club tweeted a picture of their Dutch forward with the message: "Hey, @Twitter – can we talk about him yet?" Others joined in with jokes about the apparent taboo. "When bots flood our comments with 'say the m word'," NBA team the Memphis Grizzlies tweeted with a video of a player blocking a shot.

Some users expressed mock concern about the taboo covering

the Tennessee home of rock'n'roll where Elvis Presley grew up.

Others referenced the Monty Python comedy "Life of Brian," with lawyer George Conway, a vocal Donald Trump critic, linking to the scene where a man is about to be stoned for saying the word "Jehovah." "A number of accounts that Tweeted the word 'Memphis' were temporarily limited due to a bug," Twitter Support said on Sunday. "It's been fixed and the accounts have now been restored. We're sorry this happened." —AFP ■

60th graduation ceremony held in Yangon



THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture held the 60th graduation ceremony yesterday afternoon in Yangon.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Association Abhidhaza Maha Ratta Guru Abhidhaza Agga Maha Saddhamma Zawtika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara Biwunsa of Bhamo Monastery, Mandalay and honourable monks who passed the Dhammasariya examination and the first exami-

nation of Pali were present at the ceremony.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and wife, Chairman of the Yangon Region Administration Council U Hla Soe and wife, and officials also attended the ceremony and conferred certificates and degrees to the honourable monks who passed the exams with honours and donated alms and rice to the monks who passed the exams. —MNA

Union Minister presents one of the monks who passed the first exam of Pali with outstanding marks. **PHOTO: MNA**

Illegal cash flow from George Soros and Alexandra Soros to Open Society Myanmar frozen

GEORGE Soros, Chairman of the Open Society Foundation, which provides cash assistance to international NGOs/INGOs/Media/CSOs, met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 24 September 2016 in New York, US, for the first time. He met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi again on 11 January 2017, along with his son Alexander Soros in Nay Pyi Taw. Following the meetings, steps were taken to open the Open Society Myanmar, a branch of the Open Society Foundation.

George Soros, the Open Society Foundation chairman, visited Myanmar four times from March 2014 to January 2017. He met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi two times, the first time in the US and the second in Nay Pyi Taw.

His son Alexander Soros, deputy chair of the Open Society Foundation, visited Myanmar seven times from January 2017 to January 2020 and met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi six times.

Open Society Myanmar's Head Office was opened at the Myanmar Centre Tower in Bahan Township. The foundation opened its bank account with an initial saving of US\$100 at the SMED Bank on the Warden Road in Yangon on 2 October 2018. On 20 December, 2018, the foundation saved US\$5 million in its bank account of the Open Society Myanmar.

Open Society Foundation-OSF transferred US\$ 5 million to the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank-SMED in 2018 without seeking permission from the Foreign Exchange Management Department-FEMD. It is



Alexandra Soros, son of George Soros, met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw.

found that OSF sent information to FEMD via Electronic Reporting System-ERF without seeking authorization from FEMD.

That US\$ 5 million is an apart of the memorandum of understanding signed between the SMED Bank and the Open Society Myanmar. It is found that the US\$ 5 million at the SMED Bank is the interest-free saving. The contract for using the US\$5 million will expire on 30 April, 2021, and the deposit is US\$5 million and no more saving to the bank account from 2018 to 2021. On 8 February 2021, K19.999 million was withdrawn after exchanging US\$1.4 million, out of US\$5 million, at a 1\$=K1,400 rate without following the necessary rules and regulations.

Out of that, K6 million was accepted by Daw Phyu Pa Pa Thaw, Finance Officer of the OSM, from Dr Myo Myint Aung, Director of OSM, for salaries, office equipment and projects, cash

assistance for nine staffs. Dr Myo Myint Aung received the remaining K13.999 million for reasons of the scholarship project. Following the voices that the NGOs in Nay Pyi Taw are providing cash assistance to CDM movements, Daw Phyu Pa Pa Thaw has warned Dr Myo Myint Aung over the phone in the second week of February not to spend the cash on CDM movement as it was not in conformity with the financial rules and strategy of the office. But, Dr Myo Myint Aung is now at large together with K13.999 million.

As that cash can flow into the CDM movement, Daw Phyu Pa Pa Thaw is being interrogated since 12 March 2021. Measures are being taken to arrest and interrogate the following persons of the Open Society Myanmar:

U Sit Naing (Chairman)
Daw Myint Su (Vice-Chairperson)
Dr Myo Myint Aung (Executive Director)



George Soros met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in New York on 24 September 2016.

U Saw Wah Htoo Ba Sai (Programme Manager)
U Win Kyaw Kyaw Oo (Management Officer)
Daw May Moe Khaing (Programme Officer)
U Aung Aung Hlaing (Programme Officer)
Daw Khaw Nan (Programme Officer)
Daw Su Su Aung (Programme and Management Officer)
Daw Zarchi Win Tun (Accountant)
U Myo Kyi Thar San (Technical Assistant)

The Central Bank of Myanmar investigated 24 private banks in Myanmar to freeze the cash flow from foreign countries into the Open Society Myanmar bank accounts. Following the investigation, it is found that the OSM saved a total of US\$3.81 million and K375 million at KBZ Bank, Ayeyawady Bank, SMED Bank and the Cooperatives Bank-CB.

The savings have been frozen.

Under the Foreign Currency Management Law, financial institutions law, and the Money Laundry Law, actions will be taken against the SMED Bank for accepting US\$5 million deposit without seeking permission from the Central Bank of Myanmar and for failure to report to the Central Bank of Myanmar via the Electronic Reporting System-ERS on an exchange of US\$1.4 million into Myanmar currency.

Similarly, actions will be taken against the Open Society Myanmar for breaking the rules for organizations.

Measures are being taken to arrest Dr Myo Myint Aung, who is now at large with K13.999 million, and 11 persons under the law. The public is urged to inform the police stations or military battalions if they find the suspects. Actions will be taken against those who are harbouring the suspects.—MNA

Announcement on resumption of Road Transport Administration Department's services for licences

ROAD Transport Administration Department has been providing initial licences for vehicles since 1 December 2020 at its offices. Now, with the permission of the Central Committee on Prevention, Containment and Treatment on COVID-19, the department will resume its services for annual registration for vehicles as of 22 March 2021 (Monday).

- Vehicles/motorcycles are needed to extend their licences during the periods underneath without fail regarding the month when their vehicle licences are expired.

(A) The vehicles with the licences which expired

in June 2020 and the vehicles with licences that expired in September 2020 are needed to extend their licences from 22 March 2021 to 31 May 2021.

(B) The vehicles with licences that expired in October 2020 and in November 2020 are needed to extend their licences from 22 March 2021 to 30 June 2021.

(C) The vehicles with licences expired in December 2020, and January 2021 are needed to extend their licences from 22 March 2021 to 31 July 2021.

(D) The vehicles which licences which expired in February 2021 and in March 2021 are needed to extend their

licences from 22 March 2021 to 31 August 2021.

Vehicles with licences that will expire from April 2021 to September 2021 extend their licences in the designated period.

Those vehicles which extend the licences during the designated periods will be granted free from fines. Besides, the department will provide vehicles, except public transport vehicles, with services for extending their licences without inspecting the cars.

The vehicles with registration licences that would be abolished due to failure to extend the licences for five consecutive

years can extend their licences during the following periods. If they fail to do during the designated periods, the licences will be abolished in accordance with the Road Safety and Vehicle Management Law.

The vehicles with licences that expired on 30 June 2015 and 30 September 2015 can extend the licences from 22 March 2021 to 31 May 2021 (Except vehicles with licences that expired in July 2015 and August 2015)

(B) The vehicles with licences expired on 31 October 2015 and 30 November 2015 are needed to extend licences from 22 March 2021 to 30 June 2021.

(C) The vehicles with li-

centences expired on 31 December 2015 and 31 January 2016 are needed to extend the licences from 22 March 2021 to 31 July 2021.

(D) The vehicles with licences that expired on 29 February 2016 and on 31 March 2016 are needed to extend the licences from 22 March 2021 to 31 August 2021.

The vehicles with licences expired on 30 April 2016, 31 May 2016, 30 June 2016, 31 July 2016, 31 August 2016 and 30, September 2016 are needed to extend the licences during the designated period.

Road Transport Administration Department

Innocent people killed in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha townships

THE unscrupulous persons committed anti-government acts and intentionally arrested and murdered the persons who had a row with them and those with different political stances or those who want to live free from any politics by identifying them as a spy, 'dalan' or informer.

According to the tip-off, two men dead bodies were found burnt at the corner of Nyaung Tone street and U Pone Nya street in No (8) Ward of Hline-thaya (east) Township yesterday morning. The security forces went there to investigate, and the victims were identified as U Than Oo, hundred houses

elder and U Soon Ye.

Similarly, a dead body with injuries was also found at the top of the Kant Kaw street in No (12) Ward of Shwepyitha Township. The victim was identified as U Kyaw Htay, aged 32, a member of USDP who lives in Sabai street of No (12) Ward, Shwepyitha Township. Accord-

ing to the investigation, seven people, including Aung Gyi, killed him, and so the police are making efforts in searching the suspects.

As the unscrupulous mob commit lawless acts, the State Administration Council imposed Martial Law in six townships- Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha,

Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) and North Okkalapa townships of Yangon Region starting 14 and 15 March. Those who commit the crimes will face court-martial, and efforts will be made to retain community peace in these townships as before. —MNA

Lawsuit filed against responsible persons of the SMED Bank



SMED CEO U Zeya Nyunt

THE Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank-SMED Bank has been charged for its failure to report to the Central Bank of Myanmar and relevant departments according to the regulation regarding issuance and withdrawal of for-

eign currency inflow deposits.

Upon investigating U Zeya Nyunt, Deputy Chair and the CEO of the bank, Open Society Myanmar opened a USD account with 100 USD at the bank on October 2018, and Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation Limited bank transferred USD5 million to the account on 18 December 2018.

When an official from the Foreign Exchange Management Department-FEMD was questioned about the entry of US dollars into the bank account of Open Society Myanmar on 11 March 2021, it was found that the SMED

bank failed to ask permission with required documents to the FEMD and informed as to the deposit via Electronic Reporting System-ERS. On 8 February 2021, the bank's finance manager withdrew USD1.42 million of USD5 million, which was equivalent to 19,999 million kyats in cash.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has instructed private banks in the country not to withdraw more than 5,000 USD per time and to withdraw only two times per week to a person or an organization apart from United Nations (UN), Asia Development Bank-ADB, World

Bank, International Monetary Fund-IMF, the International Committee of the Red Cross-ICRC).

The SMED bank's disbursement of USD1.42 million in cash violates the central bank's directive, and since the cash was exchanged for Myanmar Kyat, which resulted in dollar transactions between the customer and the banks, the bank needed to report to the FEMD via Electronic Reporting System not later than 3 pm on 8 February 2021. However, SMED bank failed to do so and also was unable to report to the Financial Intelligent

Unit-FIU for disbursement of 100 million kyats and above.

Due to its failure to report as per the banking procedures and rules, a lawsuit has been filed to take effective legal action against the bank's responsible persons. The SMED bank was established as the Myanmar Industrial Development Bank-MIDB in 1996, and the bank was renamed as Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank-SMED Bank in May 2019. A total of 26 banks have been opened in Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory and ten states and regions. — MNA

MGECC to hold Gems and Pearl Emporium in April

THE Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee will hold Gems and Pearl Emporium 2021 at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw between 1 and 10 April under the Min-

istry's supervisory of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The pearl lots and pieces of jewellery will be sold at Myanmar kyats at the sale. In

compliance with the Myanmar Gems laws, only the licensed companies and gem traders, and members of the Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs will be allowed to attend.

The registration for national gem traders will be organized at Mani Yadana Jade Hall of Nay Pyi Taw on 24 March.

Those interested in attending and trading at the Pearl and

Gems Emporium 2021 can contact the Myanmar Gems Trade Centre (Nay Pyi Taw) of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee for detailed information. —MNA

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win attends 34th Chairs' Meeting of ASEAN capital markets forum



The MoPFI deputy minister joins the 34th Chairs' Meeting of the ASEAN capital markets forum yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win attended the 34th Chairs' Meeting of the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum via video conferencing yesterday morning. The meeting was chaired by the current chair of the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum, Ms Rashidah Sabtu, Chairperson of Brunei's Financial Authority and attended

by the ASEAN Regional Capital Market Supervision Commission heads, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and the Asian Development Bank. The meeting discussed the further implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Financial Initiative jointly cooperated by the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum and the ASEAN Capital Market Development Working Group for the development

of ASEAN regional capital markets, Capital market transition standards, and standards for the issuance of Sustainability-Linked Bonds, ASEAN Cooperation's standardization procedures for sustainable disclosure, technical assistance for the development of ASEAN capital markets by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Myanmar also participated in the discussion on relevant topics.

The attendees of the meeting agreed on the transparency of capital market information which is the priority areas outlined in the ACMF Action Plan (2021-2025) as ACMF Vision 2025, continued implementation of cross-border investment regulations in the ASEAN region, capacity building of those involved in the capital market, the interconnection of regional capital markets and more cooperation for the development of regional capital markets.

The agreed process will be presented to the ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting later this month. The ASEAN Capital Markets Forum is an annual, high-level meeting of heads of capital market regulators from ASEAN countries to develop capital markets in the ASEAN region. — MNA ■

Rakhine State Administration Council, Tatmadaw (army, navy, air) provide financial assistance, construction materials, commodities to displaced persons

THE officials of Rakhine State Administration Council and Tatmadaw (army, navy, air) provided cash contribution, materials to construct houses and other commodities to displaced persons in Rakhine State yesterday.

The donation ceremony was held at Sasana Mula Maha Thiri Monastery in Shwe Laung Tin Village of Rathedaung Township of Rakhine State and attended by Rakhine State Administration Council Chairman Dr Aung Kyaw Min, officials of West

Command, departmental officials and villagers. The council chairman firstly delivered an opening speech. Then, the council and Tatmadaw (army, navy, air) donated K9million, construction materials and commodities, and then, the village administrator expressed words of thanks.

The council chairman and party paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw Baddanta Arcara of Sasana Mula Maha Thiri Monastery and donated the offerings.—MNA ■

16th ASEAN socio-cultural community coordination and related meetings held

THE ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (SOCA) Chair Brunei Darussalam chaired the 16th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Coordination Meeting and related meetings with the aim of cooperating in the post-COVID-19 recovery and resilience capacity building in the region, through video conferencing yesterday morning.

Among the related meetings, Director-General of the Department of Rural Development U Khant Zaw, current Chairman of the ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), attended the ASCC Partnership Conference. He discussed rural development planning activities for the three priority areas of the SOMRDPE Sectoral Body to rehabil-

itate the post-COVID-19 socio-economic life in the ASEAN region and increase the resilience of the people; natural resource management and climate change management processes and the stakeholders' knowledge and experience exchange processes.

Afterwards, the Sectoral Bodies from the participating ASEAN countries discussed priorities for cooperation in post-COVID-19 rehabilitation and resilience, and ambassadors from ASEAN partner embassies and regional development partners also discussed their support activities and processes.

Senior officials from the ASEAN region attended the 16th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Coordination Meeting and related meetings.—MNA ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (021N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (021N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-3-2021** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 26th MARCH 2021 (Alternative Holiday of Full Moon Day of Taboung), 27th MARCH 2021 (Full Moon Day of Taboung and Armed Forces Day), 29th MARCH 2021 (Alternative Holiday of Armed Forces Day) Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (110N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (110N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-3-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (694N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (694N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-3-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Billie Eilish wins Record of the Year Grammy

LOS ANGELES — United States — Billie Eilish on Sunday snagged the Grammy for Record of the Year for the second straight time, a major feat for the 19-year-old who swept all four top categories at last year's ceremony.

This time, the edgy pop sensation bested a crowded field including the night's big stars Megan Thee Stallion and Beyoncé, along with Dua Lipa, Post Malone and Doja Cat, to win the prize honouring the year's best overall song for her hit "Everything I Wanted." In 2020, the teenage phenom cemented her place as an establishment leader, posting a banner Grammy night by sweeping prizes for Album, Record and Song of the Year, plus Best New Artist — the first woman and youngest artist to do so.

"Everything I Wanted" is a gauzy ode to the struggles of star-

dom that touches on the teenage angst over feelings of inadequacy, imposter syndrome and concerns about fitting in. Last year, she won Record of the Year honors for her hit "Bad Guy" off her debut "when we all fall asleep, where do we go?", which won for Album of the Year.

Before her album's release in March 2019, Eilish had already won a fervent online following for her bold, often haunting pop sound featuring heavy bass and tinges of trap and electronic dance music.

She is now one of the biggest pop stars in the world, and though the pandemic forced her to cancel her global tour, she still posted a strong year that included penning the theme ballad for the upcoming James Bond film "No Time to Die" — which also scored a Grammy on Sunday.—AFP ■



In this handout photo courtesy of The Recording Academy, (L-R) Finneas and Billie Eilish, winners of Record of the Year for 'Everything I Wanted' and Best Song Written For Visual Media for "No Time To Die", pose in the media room during the 63rd Annual GRAMMY Awards at Los Angeles Convention Centre on March 14, 2021 in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO: AFP

Beyoncé breaks record for most Grammy wins by female artist



In this handout photo courtesy of The Recording Academy, Beyoncé accepts the Best Rap Performance award for "Savage" onstage during the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards at Los Angeles Convention Centre on March 14, 2021 in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO:AFP

LOS ANGELES — United States — Beyoncé made Grammys history Sunday by becoming the winningest woman in the history of the music industry's top awards gala, and its most decorated singer with 28 career wins.

She secured the record after winning Best R&B Performance for her hit "Black Parade," a single celebrating Black culture and activism that dropped in the wake of mass protests ignited by the death of

George Floyd in police custody in the summer of 2020.

"I am so honored. I'm so excited. Thank you," said the singer, who made a surprise showing at the gala she has skipped for the past several years, wearing a curve-hugging black leather mini dress.

"As an artist, I believe it's my job and all of our jobs to reflect the times. And it's been such a difficult time," Beyoncé said, with her rapper husband Jay-Z looking on.

"So I wanted to uplift, encourage, celebrate all of the beautiful Black queens and kings that continue to inspire me and inspire the whole world."

"It's such a magical night, thank you so much," Beyoncé said, adding her gratitude to her children — after the eldest, Blue Ivy, won her first Grammy for her appearance in the music video "Brown Skin Girl."

"I'm so honored to be your mommy, all of your mommies. Y'all are my babies. And I'm so proud of y'all. I love you so much, my rock," she said, nodding to Jay-Z.

It is a major moment for the 39-year-old Beyoncé, whose repeated snubs in top award categories have raised eyebrows and stirred controversy. She is the most nominated female artist in Grammys history with 79, tied with Paul McCartney as the second most nominated act and only one behind husband Jay-Z and industry legend Quincy Jones. Prior to 2021, the megastar boasted 24 Grammy wins to her name — but notoriously lost Album of the Year in 2017 to British balladeer Adele, a controversial snub often cited as an example of the Recording Academy's diversity issues. — AFP ■

Taylor Swift wins Grammy for Album of the Year for 'folklore'

LOS ANGELES — United States — Pop powerhouse Taylor Swift won the Grammy for Album of the Year for "folklore," her first of two quarantine records — the third time she has won the coveted trophy, putting her in rarefied company.

Swift bested contenders including Post Malone, Coldplay, Dua Lipa, sister act Haim and the Black Pumas to win the award.

Only three other artists have won Album of the Year three times — Stevie Wonder, Paul Simon and Frank Sinatra.

It's been a banner year for Swift, the one-time Grammy darling who surprised her legions of

fans not once but twice during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, releasing "folklore" over the summer and "evermore" as an early holiday gift.

"folklore" — which earned the star six Grammy nominations — saw the famously introspective Swift delve into songwriting from the perspective of others, storytelling in the vein of American musical folk storytellers including Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan and the late John Prine. Sunday's big win marked a return to the Grammy spotlight for Swift, who appeared to have fallen out of grace with the Recording Academy in recent years.—AFP ■



In this handout photo courtesy of The Recording Academy, Taylor Swift, winner of the Album of the Year award for 'Folklore', poses in the media room during the 63rd Annual GRAMMY Awards at Los Angeles Convention Centre on March 14, 2021 in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO:AFP

IFAB make updates for handball Law in football matches

THE International Football Association Board (The IFAB) recently made updates for football handball law following the 135th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board via video-conferencing last week.

Various changes and clarifications to the Laws of the Game were agreed at the AGM, with a particular focus on Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct, ac-

ording to the IFAB.

“As the interpretation of handball incidents has not always been consistent due to incorrect applications of the Law, the members confirmed that not every touch of a player’s hand or arm with the ball is an offence. In terms of the criterion of the hand or arm making a player’s body “unnaturally bigger”, it was confirmed that referees should continue to use

their judgment in determining the validity of the hand/arm’s position in relation to the player’s movement in that specific situation,” IFAB officials said.

“Following this clarification, it is a handball offence if a player: deliberately touches the ball with their hand or arm, for example, moving the hand or arm towards the ball or touches the ball with their hand or arm when it has made

their body unnaturally bigger. A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand or arm is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player’s body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand or arm in such a position, the player takes the risk of their hand or arm being hit by the ball and being penalized; or scores in

the opponents’ goal: directly from their hand or arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper; or immediately after the ball has touched their hand or arm, even if accidental,” officials commented.

Accidental handball that leads to a team-mate scoring a goal or having a goal-scoring opportunity will no longer be considered an offence,” IFAB officials added.—GNLM ■

Zidane admits confusion after Hazard injured again

ZINEDINE Zidane admitted Real Madrid are struggling to explain Eden Hazard’s fitness problems after the club confirmed the Belgian is injured again ahead of Tuesday’s Champions League game against Atalanta. Hazard came off the bench against Elche in La Liga on Saturday to make his first appearance since January but Zidane said in a press conference on Monday the Belgian is out again, with what the club confirmed was a “muscle injury in the right pelvis”.

Zidane said there are “things I cannot explain” regarding Hazard’s fitness issues and when asked about the club’s long list of injuries, he pointed to various factors including “things up here in the head, which influences a lot”.

Hazard has played only 14 times this season for Real Madrid, continuing a nightmare period for the 30-year-



Real Madrid’s French coach Zinedine Zidane reacts during the Spanish League football match between Real Madrid and Elche at the Alfredo Di Stefano stadium in Valdebebas, northeast of Madrid, on March 13, 2021. PHOTO:AFP

old forward, who joined from Chelsea for 100 million euros in the summer of 2019.

“He is not going to be fit,” said Zidane. “There are things I cannot explain.

Like always I try to stay positive and hope it will be a little thing. Something is happening. He is a player who was never injured in his career.

We want to help him.”

Zidane grew frustrated with the number of questions about Hazard and dismissed suggestions of a problem with the club’s medical department, despite the number of Madrid injuries this season.

“I don’t think there is a problem, we have very competent people here, who are close to the players every day,” he said.—AFP ■

Man City boss Guardiola quashes Zinchenko quadruple talk

LONDON, United Kingdom —Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola moved quickly to quash talk of a historic quadruple on Monday – after one of his own players said they were capable of a clean sweep of trophies.

City face Borussia Mönchengladbach in the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie in Budapest on Tuesday, well placed to progress after winning the first leg 2-0.

The match was switched from the Etihad Stadium to the Puskas Arena, which also hosted the first leg, due to coronavirus travel restrictions. City look almost certain to win a third Premier League title in four seasons, face Everton in the FA Cup quarter-finals on Saturday and play Tottenham in the final of the League Cup in April.

Defender Oleksandr

Zinchenko said at the eve-of-match press conference that he could see “hungry eyes” in the City squad as they chase all four trophies.—AFP ■

“Of course everything is possible,” said the Ukrainian. “We have an unbelievable squad, the best players in the world. Definitely, why not?”

“Inside the dressing room or inside the team I can see hungry eyes. Everyone is so hungry for the titles. That’s what we want.” This was immediately knocked down by Guardiola, who urged the left-back to focus on the job at hand when it was his turn to address the media.

“I am older than Mr Zinchenko,” said the City boss. “I have more experience and I am not agreeing with him.

“Zinchenko only has to be worried about a good game tomorrow and going through. This is the only way.”—AFP ■

Uncapped Barca midfielder Pedri called up for Spain



Barcelona’s Spanish midfielder Pedri warms up before the Spanish Copa del Rey (King’s Cup) semi-final second leg football match between FC Barcelona and Sevilla FC at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on March 3, 2021. PHOTO:AFP

MADRID, Spain —Barcelona midfielder Pedri was called up to the Spain squad for the first time on Monday ahead of World Cup qualifiers against Greece, Georgia and Kosovo. The 18-year-old Pedri has been one of the stars of the season in La Liga after establishing himself as a key creator in Barca’s midfield. Likened to former Spain and Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta, Pedri will be pushing for a place in Luis Enrique’s starting line-up at this summer’s European Championships.

There were also returns to the squad for Barca left back Jordi Alba and Liverpool midfielder Thiago Alcantara. Alba has been out of favour since Luis Enrique’s re-appointment in 2019 while Thiago missed the last meet-up in November due to a knee

injury. Spain begin their World Cup qualification campaign against Greece in Granada on March 25 before playing away in Georgia three days later. Their final game will be against Kosovo in Seville on March 31.

Spain squad

Goalkeepers: David De Gea (Manchester United/ENG), Unai Simon (Athletic Bilbao), Robert Sanchez (Brighton/ENG) Defenders: Pedro Porro (Sporting Lisbon/POR), Sergio Ramos (Real Madrid), Inigo Martinez (Athletic Bilbao), Jose Gaya (Valencia), Eric Garcia (Manchester City/ENG), Jordi Alba (Barcelona), Diego Llorente (Leeds/ENG). —AFP ■