

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 351, 6th Waning of Tabaung 1382 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Friday, 2 April 2021

State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends sales of pearl and gems lots for first day

SALES of pearl and gems lots for April 2021 in Myanmar kyat took place at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw for the first day yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present at the ceremony were Council members Lt-Gen Soe Htut and Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Joint-Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Patron of the Central Committee for Holding the Myanmar Gems Emporium Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi, Union ministers U Win Shein, U Chit Naing, U Myint Kyaing, Dr Pwint Hsan and U Maung Maung Ohn, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Myo Tin, deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, members of the central emporium committee, gems entrepreneurs and officials.

Officials presented a video presentation on preparation to successfully hold the gems emporium in April 2021 to the Senior General.



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is looking around the pearl lots displayed at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Senior General and party viewed round the rooms to open tenders for jade, CCTV control room, display of uncut

gem lots, finished gems products and ornaments on the first floor of the hall, and pearl lots on the ground floor and jade lots outside

the hall.

A total of 317 lots of pearl, 2,148 lots of jade and 199 lots of gems for April 2021 will be sold to

local gems merchants in Myanmar kyat through an open tender at Mani Yadana Jade Hall from 1 to 10 April. — MNA

State Administration Council Press Release

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

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries with worries because of incitement and intimidation of NLD members, the extremists who support that party, CRPH unlawful association, incitement of CDM and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since after 1 February 2021 when the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibility.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of CRPH unlawful association and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in their areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. As those who evaded from their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from evaded areas to various regions of Myanmar.
4. Information was released that if those who evaded to various areas except the persons who committed any kinds of crime wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord, the citizens abroad are to contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates without facing action taken in accord with the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo inspects investment activities in Myotha Industrial Zone

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing attends 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting

PAGE-4

LOCAL BUSINESS

Kilo guava enhance family income in Kyaukse

PAGE-12

LOCAL BUSINESS

Farmers cultivate summer paddy initially in Pwintphyu

PAGE-12



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) Building of a Union based on democracy and federalism in practising genuine disciplined multiparty democracy in a full fairness manner
- (B) Emphasizing of restoration of eternal peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)
- (c) Continuous practising of the “principle” of peaceful co-existence among countries by holding up the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy

2. Economic affairs

- (a) Further development of production based on agriculture and livestock breeding through modern techniques and all-round development of other

sectors of the economy as well

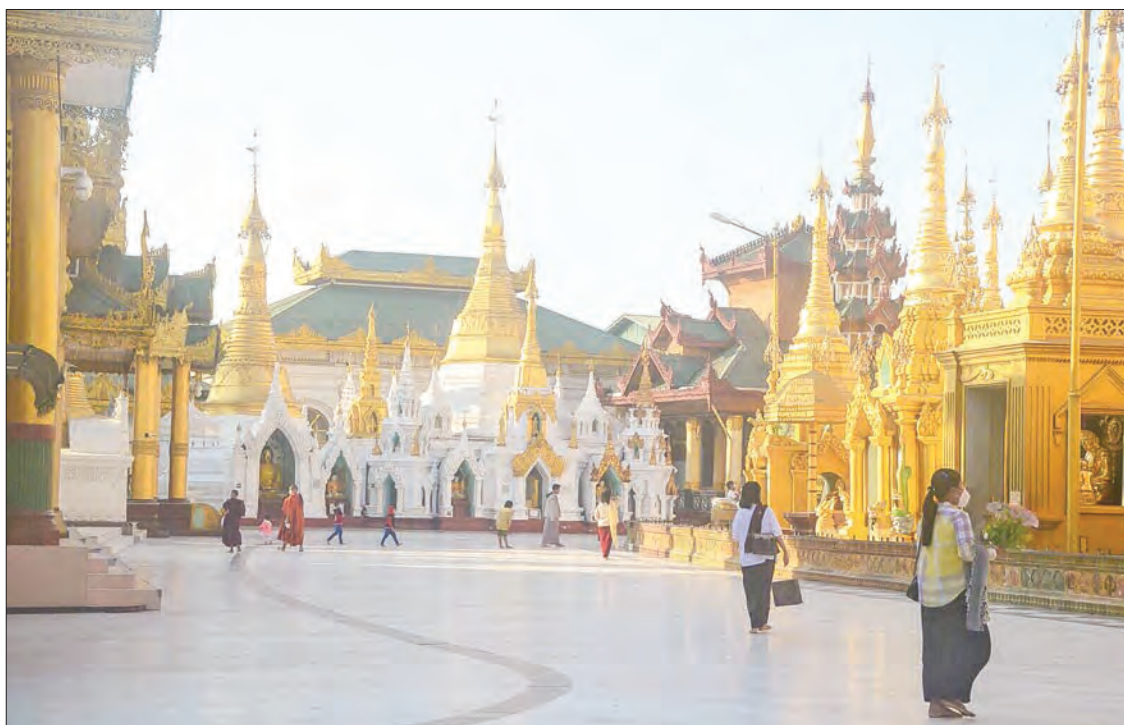
- (b) Stability of market economy and inviting international investments to develop the economy of entire ethnic people
- (c) Encouragement of local businesses to create employment opportunities to be able to produce many products of the State

3. Social affairs

- (a) For ensuring of dynamism of Union spirit which is genuine patriotic spirit
- (b) Following customs and traditions of all ethnic nationalities and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national characters
- (c) Enhancement of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Five future programmes of State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted to carry out tasks that should be done, including inspection of voting lists in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken for the prevention of current infectious COVID-19 with added momentum.
3. Efforts will be made to recover businesses that faced loss caused by COVID-19 in various ways as quickly as possible.
4. Emphasis will be placed on restoring eternal peace in the entire nation in line with agreements from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible.
5. When missions will be accomplished in accord with provisions of the state of emergency, a free and fair multiparty democracy election will be held in accordance with the Constitution (2008), and further tasks will be undertaken to hand over State duty to the winning party meeting the standards of democracy.



Pilgrims peacefully visit pagodas across nation

THE pagodas, including buildings or temples of other religions, were reopened to the public starting 8 February following the COVID-19 health rules.

The pilgrims and visitors, including monks and nuns, visited the Shwedagon of Yangon Region, Maha Muni Buddha Im-

age of Mandalay Region and Uppatasanti Pagoda of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and other pagodas of regions and states yesterday.

Moreover, the people of other religions peacefully do their religious affairs at their respective religious buildings.—MNA

Devotees are seen worshipping at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Myanmar’s estimated population on 1 April 2021 based on 2014 Population and Housing Census

THE Department of Population under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population annually releases the estimated population of Myanmar to provide basic information in drafting the State’s policies and projects by the Government and departmental organizations.

According to the estimates based on the 2014 population and housing census, the Department of Population said the population of Myanmar was 55.0 million on 1 April in mid-2020-2021FY and the people in respective regions/states on that day are as follows:

Regions/states	(1-4-2021) estimated population (million)		
	Male	Female	Total
Kachin State	1.0	1.0	2.0
Kayah State	0.2	0.1	0.3
Kayin State	0.8	0.8	1.6
Chin State	0.3	0.2	0.5
Sagaing Region	2.6	3.0	5.6
Taninthayi Region	0.7	0.8	1.5
Bago Region	2.4	2.6	5.0

Magway Region	1.8	2.1	3.9
Mandalay Region	3.1	3.5	6.6
Mon State	0.9	1.1	2.0
Rakhine State	1.6	1.8	3.4
Yangon Region	4.1	4.5	8.6
Shan State	3.2	3.3	6.5
Ayeyawady Region	3.0	3.2	6.2
Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	0.6	0.7	1.3
Total	26.3	28.7	55.0

Myanmar Police Forces is being improved

STATE defence duty is the primary duty of the State, especially defending external danger. So, the capacity of members of the Myanmar Police Forces is being improved as they are mainly responsible for the security of the country.

(Excerpt from the speech to officers, other ranks and their families in Myeik, Kyunsu and Cocogyun stations made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 21 March 2021)

FROM NEWS PAGE-1

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is viewing the jade lots displayed outside the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 April 2021.



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo inspects investment activities in Myotha Industrial Zone

U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER), visited Myotha Industrial Zone in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region on the morning of 1 April to inspect the development work of Myotha Industrial Zone and the operations of factories.

While in Myotha Industrial Zone, Chairman of Mandalay Myotha industrial Development Public Co., Ltd, U Aung Win Khaing and Managing Director Dr Tun Tun Aung made a presentation on the current investment situation and future programme.

Then, the Union Minister highlighted the strategic location of Myotha Industrial Zone, which is situated at the intersection of highway, waterway and airway in Mandalay Region,



The MIFER Union Minister makes an inspection tour around the Myotha Industrial Zone in Mandalay Region yesterday.

one of the future growth poles of Myanmar, and he encouraged the investors to tap the location advantages of the Industrial Zone. At the meeting, the Union Minister informed the develop-

er and investors that MIC and MIFER will provide the necessary assistance to the investors to facilitate and promote the operation of their business and expansion of the investment,

and also explained the current reform measures, in accordance with the guidance of the State Administration Council, to facilitate the businesses by reducing the regulatory burden of busi-

nesses. He urged the management committee to make continuous efforts to promote the investment as much as possible by using their knowledge of local and international investment promotion experiences.

After that, the Union Minister inspected the vehicle assembly and production of Gold AYA Motors International Group Co., Ltd, Breeding Farm of Japfa Comfeed Myanmar Pte., Ltd and Construction and Leasing warehouse and standard factory of Mandalay Baoshan Myotha Industrial Development Co., Ltd.

The Union Minister was accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Investment Committee of Mandalay Region.—MNA

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing attends 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting

U KO KO HLAING, Union Minister for International Cooperation, attended the 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting, held via video conference yesterday at 4 pm from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr Dinesh Gunawardena, Foreign Minister of the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and attended by Foreign Ministers from the BIMSTEC Member States, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC.

At the meeting, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka delivered opening remarks and the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers delivered the statements.

In his statement, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing, among others, stated that it was necessary for BIMSTEC to overcome the challenges through cooperation



The MoIC Union Minister joins the 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting online from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

and collective efforts.

He stressed that economic cooperation and resumption of safe regional transport connectivity should be given the utmost priority of the BIMSTEC mechanism in post-COVID-19 era.

He suggested to intensify cooperation in the agriculture

sector for regional food security as well as to enhance cooperation in energy sector.

He also stressed the incorporation of the poverty alleviation element in BIMSTEC's post-COVID-19 cooperation activities.

He also informed the meet-

ing that under the initiative of Myanmar, the first-ever BIMSTEC Annual Drug Report-2019 had been published and appreciated all Member States for their contribution.

He further highlighted that the BIMSTEC Charter, which is to be signed at the forthcoming

5th BIMSTEC Summit, would not only be the opening of the new chapter of rules-based cooperation but also reaffirm the well-established principles of BIMSTEC such as non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and mutual benefit and consensus. He reiterated Myanmar's firm commitments to fully cooperate with the Member States towards a "Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region".

At the meeting, the Ministers reviewed developments in 14 sectors of cooperation and exchanged views on the future direction of BIMSTEC.

The Ministers discussed and approved the outcome documents to be adopted/signed at the upcoming Fifth BIMSTEC Summit.

The Joint Statement of the Seventeenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was issued at the end of the Meeting.—MNA

Union civil service board celebrates 84th anniversary



UCSB Chair U Than Swe addresses the 84th anniversary in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Union Civil Service Board held the commemoration ceremony to celebrate the 84th anniversary of the foundation of the Union Civil Service Board, in accordance with the COVID-19 rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board U Than Swe, members of the board, permanent secretary, directors-general, rectors and officials from departments and central institutes of civil service under the board.

The Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) chairman addressed the ceremony and awarded employees who have 30 years of service. Uniforms were also given to employees as gifts.

The employees who have passed the Civil Service Law, Civil Service Rules and Office Work Manual Examination with credit mark were awarded prizes, and the winners of the best house cleanliness in Nay Pyi Taw staff housing were also awarded. Afterwards, the guests were treated to lunch, and a lucky draw was held for the staff.—MNA

Guidelines play a crucial role for students to obtain ability to understand circumstance of their surroundings: MoE Union Minister

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe inspected refresher courses on the new curriculums for Grade 7 and Grade 10 conducted at No (18) B.E.H.S in Dekkhinathiri and No (7) B.E.H.S in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During his visit, the Union Minister said teaching methods are being trained based on the teachers' manuals in the respective new syllabus. The teachers should study their respective major subjects like History and Geography and teach the students to be outstanding and decent citizens with the ability to understand their

surroundings' circumstance.

He also said the teachers should have goodwill and sympathy in serving their duties. The teachers can present their difficulties regarding the schools and the needs of the students. The officials will provide proper teaching materials and facilities, including toilets, as quickly as possible. The teachers should clean up the school compound. They need to train the students to keep their schools and classrooms clean. Then, the Union Minister and party inspected the training courses and comforted the trainee teachers.—MNA



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe and party are inspecting the training courses on Grade 7 and Grade 10 new curriculums in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

2019 Sarpay Beikman literature prize award ceremony held

THE 2019 Sarpay Beikman Literature Award Ceremony was held yesterday morning at the Department of Printing and Publishing Hall, Theinbyu Road, Yangon.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, Attorney-General of Yangon Region U Htay Aung, Director-General from the Department of Printing and Publishing U Win Kyaw Aung, members of the Sarpay Beikman Literature Award Selection Committee, officials from the Myanmar Writers' Association, literary scholars, prize winners, department officials and invitees.

The Deputy Minister ad-

ressed the ceremony, and Sarpay Beikman Literature Award Selection Committee Member U Maung Hlaing (Maung Swe Nge) explained the award.

A total of 29 prizes were selected for 13 genres out of 14 (except for English Literature) after scrutinizing 287 entries in line with the award selection policy for the 2019 literature award.

Since 1969, the Ministry of Information has invited a separate competition for literary writers who have difficulty publishing their work and awarded the Sarpay Beikman prize for the emergence of good literature in the Myanmar literary world.—MNA



MoI Deputy Minister U Ye Tint makes a remark at the 2019 Sarpay Beikman Literature Award Ceremony in Yangon yesterday.



The deputy minister presents the first prize (novel) to Nway Gantgaw (Myohla).



Selection Committee Member U Maung Hlaing (Maung Swe Nge) explains the award.



U Ye Dway, on behalf of winners, speaks words of thanks.



Military medical corps provide healthcare in township hospitals

THE Tatmadaw medical teams comprising Tatmadaw doctors, specialists, and nurses have provided necessary medical treatments to the patients in military hospitals and People's hospitals.

The Tatmadaw medical team continued to provide healthcare services such as surgery, dental and oral healthcare, osteoporosis, obstetrics, otorhinolaryngology, gynaecology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in healthcare services

difficulties in Thazi Township People's Hospital, Hanza hospital, Yinmabin hospital, Tagaung People's Hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Sintgaing hospital in Kyaukse township, Yintaw hospital in Pyawbwe township, Pintale hospital in Wantwin Township, Myittha Township People's Hospital, Welaung hospital in Taungtha Township, People's hospital in Kyaukpadaung Township, People's Hospital in Kyauktaga Township, Donzayit hospital in Shw-

egyin Township and People's hospital in Latpadan township yesterday.

Similarly, the Tatmadaw medical team provided healthcare services to patients at Kume Hospital in Myittha Township, Mandalay Region. Officials from respective commands also inspected the hospitals' medical services. They comforted the patients by providing food aids and necessary things. Locals are reportedly satisfied with the medical support of Tatmadaw. — MNA



Military medics seen caring for local patients at township hospitals.

Announcement of Union Election Commission

30 March 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Shwedaung, Paungde and Paukkaung townships of Bago Region.

2. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each 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 CS
1	117 polling stations in Shwedaung township of Bago Region,	105,122	105,535	13,193	544	9,298
2	126 polling stations in Paungde township of Bago Region,	111,759	85,166	12,802	795	12,088
3	212 polling stations in Paukkaung township of Bago Region,	99,623	74,028	11,547	663	10,480

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Shwedaung, Paungde and Paukkaung townships of Bago 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.

4. A total of 455 polling stations in these three townships took out 363,710 ballots and used 248,976 ballots. It left 105,610 ballots instead of 114,734 ballots. The difference was 9,461 and it found 337 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Shwedaung	117	119,015	82,266	36,749	32,562	4,192	5
2	Paungde	126	127,466	86,088	41,378	39,305	2,254	181
3	Paukkaung	212	117,229	80,622	36,607	33,743	3,015	151
	Total	455	363,710	248,976	114,734	105,610	9,461	337

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Shwedaung Township

5. A total of 117 polling stations in 297 villages of 48 village-tract in 3 Wards of Shwedaung Township in Bago Region and they distributed 119,015 ballots -117,400 as ward/village-tract ballots and 1,615 township ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found and findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village tract ballots	11,7400	81,668	35,732	31,545	4,192	5
2	Township ballots	1,615	598	1,017	1,017		
	Total	119,015	82,266	36,749	32,562	4,192	5

6. Of 117,400 ward/village-tract ballots of Shwedaung Township, they used 81,668 ballots and left only 31,545 instead of 35,732. It found 4,192 ballots missing at 54 polling stations and 5 extra ballots at five polling stations.

7. The entire Shwedaung Township used 82,266 ballots out of its withdrawal-119,015 ballots. It found 32,562 unused ballots in the inspection. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village tract	Total polling station	Withdrawal	used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Thayet Taw Ward	5	6,550	4,638	1,912	1,791	121	
2	Kyar Ni Kan Ward	4	5,350	3,790	1,560	1,558	2	
3	Yun Tan Ward	4	4,200	2,776	1,424	1,173	251	
4	Htan Kone village tract	4	4,900	3,462	1,438	1,026	412	
5	Mae Taw village tract	2	2,200	1,662	538	488	50	
6	Wa Taw village tract	2	2,550	1,603	947	691	256	
7	Paung Choke village tract	2	2,150	1,486	664	660	4	
8	Gway Tauk Hmyaung village tract	1	950	711	239	239		
9	Kwin Yar Gyi village tract	2	2,500	1,726	774	769	5	
10	Kathit Tai village tract	3	3,150	2,275	875	875		
11	Mee Laung village tract	2	1,550	1,183	367	369		2
12	Gyokone village tract	1	1,200	862	338	288	50	
13	Nwar Ma Yan village tract	5	5,650	3,984	1,666	1,361	305	
14	Min Kon village tract	1	900	622	278	278		
15	Mayar Man village tract	2	1,450	1,002	448	448		
16	Oh Htain Kone village tract	2	1,550	1,078	472	468	4	
17	Kan Thone Sint village tract	1	1,200	874	326	324	2	
18	Taw Hai village tract	1	1,200	888	312	312		
19	Kyauk Myint village tract	2	1,200	885	315	313	2	
20	Nwar Chan Kone village tract	3	2,400	1,689	711	561	150	
21	Du Yin Du Bo village tract	2	1,750	1,265	485	426	59	
22	Min Tae Kyun village tract	1	1,000	690	310	308	2	
23	Myaung Tet village tract	1	800	561	239	239		
24	Myo Ma village tract	2	2,400	1,775	625	573	52	
25	Tha Zi Kone village tract	1	1,500	1,194	306	296	10	
26	Kyee The village tract	7	6,200	3,949	2,251	1,403	848	
27	Mangyi Pauk Gone Village Tract	1	1,700	853	847	297	550	
28	Kyaung Gone Village Tract	2	1,800	1,289	511	511		
29	Thayet Thone Pin Village Tract	3	2,650	1,915	735	734	1	
30	Kyauk Htayan Village Tract	2	2,350	1,559	791	791		
31	Shwe Hintha Village Tract	2	2,050	1,417	633	585	48	

32	Shar Tai Village Tract	1	900	588	312	312		
33	Ti Kone Gyi Village Tract	1	550	351	199	199		
34	Kyun Kalay Village Tract	2	1,300	937	363	363		
35	Nyaung Sar Yay Village Tract	2	2,450	1,811	639	639		
36	Thayet Tapin Village Tract	2	2,300	1,716	584	434	150	
37	Sin Thay Village Tract	3	1,450	953	497	347	150	
38	Zi Kyun Village Tract	2	1,850	1,263	587	587		
39	Shar Pin Zin Village Tract	2	1,700	1,082	618	621		3
40	Ta Yoke Hmaw Village Tract	3	3,000	2,194	806	806		
41	Lamine Village Tract	2	1,600	1,166	434	434		
42	Kwe Ma Village Tract	1	900	596	304	304		
43	Yin Mu Gone Village Tract	4	4,000	2,879	1,121	1,116	5	

44	Ma Me Lay Village Tract	1	1,300	819	481	481		
45	Shar Pin Gone Village Tract	1	900	552	348	348		
46	Taung Pyin Gone Village Tract	1	1,400	1,032	368	368		
47	Seik Gyi Village Tract	3	3,000	2,147	853	853		
48	Kywe Ta Lin Village Tract	4	3,600	2,234	1,366	916	450	
49	Ta Bu Sar Village Tract	3	2,050	1,478	572	570	2	
50	Ze Ma Village Tract	2	2,050	1,440	610	609	1	
51	Se Gyi Kone Village Tract	4	4,100	2,767	1,333	1,083	250	
	Ward/village tract ballots	117	117,400	81,668	35,732	31,545	4,192	5
	Township ballots		1,615	598	1,017	1,017		
	Township Total	117	119,015	82,266	36,749	32,562	4,192	5

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Paungde Township

8. According to the inspection, a total of 126 polling stations in 44 village-tracts of 12 Wards in Paungde Township of Bago Region took out 127,466 ballots and used 86,088. It left 39,305 ballots instead of 41,378. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/Village tract ballots	12,1500	85,717	35,783	33,710	2,254	181
2	Township advance ballots	371	371				
3	Township remaining ballots	5,595		5,595	5,595		
	Township Total	127,466	86,088	41,378	39,305	2,254	181

9. It found 2,254 ballots were missing at ward/village-tract voting lists at 126 polling stations in 56 wards/village-tracts of Paungde Township and also found 181 extra ballots. They used 371 township advance ballots and it left 5,595 township remaining ballots. They wrongly used 4 advance ballots at No (1) polling station of Pauk Aike Gyi Village-tract and 127 advance ballots at No (2) polling station of Pauk Aike Gyi Village-tract. They returned these ballot receipts to township election sub-commission. They returned 251 used ballots and 49 remaining ballots of Nwe Cho 1 Ward and 108 used ballots and 42 remaining ballots of Kukkobin Village-tract to township election sub-commission after the election.

10. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/village tract	Total Polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact Remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Bwe Pin Kan Ward	1	1,700	1,334	366	366		
2	Pyin Pin Kan Ward	2	1,950	1,483	467	467		
3	Otpo (1) east Ward	2	2,300	1,605	695	695		
4	Oke Po (2) west Ward	1	1,700	1,205	495	495		
5	Zay (1) Ward	1	1,350	1,000	350	350		
6	Zay (2) Ward	1	1,550	1,110	440	440		
7	Min Kwet (1) Ward	2	1,950	1,336	614	639		25
8	Min Kewt (2) Ward	1	1,750	1,274	476	476		
9	Min Kwet (3) Ward	3	3,900	2,491	1,409	1,109	300	
10	Nwe Cho (1) Ward	2	2,350	1,749	601	601		
11	New Cho (2) Ward	1	1,650	378	1,272	322	950	
12	Hintha Kan Ward	1	1,250	973	277	277		
13	Thit Poke Village Tract	4	4,500	2,973	1,527	1,377	150	
14	Pyan Chi Village Tract	1	1,350	884	466	466		
15	Nyaung Ni Pin Village Tract	2	2,350	1,584	766	766		
16	Kai Kwin Village Tract	1	750	529	221	221		
17	Kyauk Taga Village Tract	3	3,050	1,377	1,673	1,673		
18	Thein Gone Village Tract	2	1,900	1,053	847	847		
19	Kyar Ni Kan Village Tract	4	3,900	2,548	1,352	1,352		
20	Ma Gyi San Village Tract	1	1,350	812	538	538		
21	Ze Hla Pin Village Tract	2	1,750	1,025	725	825		100
22	Agga Yarpayae Village Tract	2	2,400	1,371	1,029	1,029		
23	Pauk Taw Village Tract	3	2,200	1,442	758	758		
24	The Me Village Tract	2	1,750	1,222	528	528		
25	Nwar Chan Gone Village Tract	4	2,900	2,059	841	841		
26	Myauk Kone Gyi Village Tract	3	2,600	2,054	546	546		
27	Hmat Tine Village Tract	4	3,750	2,765	985	787	198	
28	Ywar Thit Gyi Village Tract	4	3,450	2,524	926	734	192	

29	Kan Nge Village Tract	1	900	731	169	169		
30	Taung Bo Hla Village Tract	2	2,800	2,327	473	473		
31	Byauk Gyi Village Tract	2	1,000	754	246	251		5
32	Kyu Taw Kan Village Tract	2	2,100	1,720	380	380		
33	Pauk Ai Gyi Village Tract	2	950	744	206	208		2
34	Htan Thone Khwa Village Tract	2	1,300	1,037	263	263		
35	Ko Wun Saung Village Tract	3	3,150	2,304	846	836	10	
36	Gyone Gyone Kya Village Tract	3	2,550	1,912	638	678		40
37	Gyo Gone Village Tract	1	850	641	209	209		
38	Nyaung Kat Pin Village Tract	2	1,550	1,143	407	257	150	
39	Kukko Pin Village Tract	2	900	663	237	237		
40	Nyaung Pyu Village Tract	3	1,100	620	480	407	73	
41	Pyin Pon Village Tract	3	3,950	2,774	1,176	1,075	101	
42	Gyopin Village Tract	2	1,900	1,471	429	429		
43	Thaphan Pin Village Tract	1	1,000	736	264	264		
44	Magyi Pin Village Tract	2	2,100	1,605	495	495		
45	Bo Tha Aung Village Tract	2	2,350	1,847	503	503		
46	Kyaung Taw Ya Village Tract	1	1,000	794	206	206		
47	Thapyay Gyi Su Village Tract	3	2,250	1,672	578	578		
48	Phara Ngar Su Village Tract	4	4,000	3,017	983	903	80	
49	Khe Man Village Tract	4	2,350	1,808	542	542		
50	Sin Lu Village Tract	3	1,500	1,077	423	432		9
51	Ywa Pale Village Tract	3	2,200	1,711	489	489		
52	Gyoe Pin Tha Village Tract	4	4,800	3,753	1,047	1,047		
53	Me Khaung Village Tract	3	4,100	2,954	1,146	1,146		
54	Htan Ta Pin Village Tract	3	2,750	1,873	877	827	50	
55	Ma Gyi Kone Village Tract	2	1,500	1,140	360	360		
56	Gyoe Gone Village Tract	1	1,250	729	521	521		
	Ward/village tract ballots	126	121,500	85,717	35,783	33,710	2,254	181
	Township advance ballots		371	371				
	Township Remaining ballots		5,595		5,595	5,595		
	Township Total	126	127,466	86,088	41,378	39,305	2,254	181

Summer benefits generous people to have chance of supplying drinking water

As endurance of human for thirsty is just a morning, water is of great importance in three basic needs of all living beings, including humans in daily life.

Generally, anyone cannot stretch their lifespan more than one morning without the consumption of water. It is because that water is most important for the diet system of the human body as well as the running of all human organs.

In fact, the supply of drinking water to each other is fostering their inclination of Dhana Parami, which means all kinds of donations except for organs and life.

about 34,000 gallons of drinking water to rural and urban people.

At the same time, firefighters from Sittway, Minbya and Ponnyun township fire stations of Rakhine State provided some 6,400 gallons of drinking water not only to rural people but also to those from IDP camps.

In fact, the supply of drinking water to each other is fostering their inclination of Dhana Parami, which means all kinds of donations except for organs and life. Hence, the people of Myanmar should provide drinking water as performing meritorious deeds to people from water shortage areas for enjoying their delightedness so as to give further encouragement to successfully overcome hotness which is gradually higher and higher in summer with water sufficiency.

In fact, everybody has patience with starvation for many days but cannot show endurance with thirstiness for even a day. As such, people of Myanmar generally holding up generosity should give a helping hand to others to be able to overcome the challenges of water scarcity every summer.

In summer, people residing in the central part of Myanmar always face water shortages for both consumption and cultivation. Most natural water areas and wells dry out in the increasing temperature of summer. As such, people from all parts of the nation need to emphasize the water scarcity of people from dry zones.

Recently, relevant fire stations in Kachin and Rakhine states and Mandalay Region used fire trucks in conveying many gallons of drinking water to be supplied to local people from grassroots areas facing water shortages.

Firefighters from Waingmaw Township in Kachin State conveyed some 1,600 gallons of drinking water for the people in Madeng Village, while service members from Meiktila Township fire station in Mandalay Region supplied

Europe vaccine rollout 'unacceptably slow', case surge 'worrying': WHO

FIVE weeks ago, the weekly number of new cases in Europe had dipped to under one million, but "last week saw increasing transmission of Covid-19 in the majority of countries in the WHO European region, with 1.6 million new cases": WHO/EUROPE

The World Health Organization on Thursday slammed Europe's "unacceptably slow" vaccine rollout and said the region's surge in coronavirus infections was "worrying".

"Vaccines present our best way out of this pandemic... However, the rollout of these vaccines is unacceptably slow" and is "prolonging the pandemic", WHO director for Europe Hans Kluge said in a statement.

"We must speed up the process by ramping up manufacturing, reducing barriers to administering vaccines, and using every single vial we have in stock, now," he added.

The organisation said that Europe's virus situation was "more worrying than we have seen in several months."

Five weeks ago, the weekly number of new cases in Europe had dipped to under one million, but "last week saw increasing transmission of Covid-19 in the majority of countries in the WHO European region, with 1.6 million new cases," it said.

The total number of deaths in Europe "is fast approaching one million and the total number of cases about to surpass

45 million," it said.

The WHO's European region comprises 53 countries and territories and includes Russia and several Central Asian nations.

The organisation warned that the rapid spread of the virus could increase the risk of new variants of concern developing.

"The likelihood of new variants of concern occurring increases with the rate at which the virus is replicating and spreading, so curbing transmission through basic disease control actions is crucial," Dorit Nitzan, WHO Europe's regional emergency director, said in the statement.

SOURCE: AFP



In recent months, some European countries like France and Spain have seen a quick increase in cases.

PHOTO: AFP

Sharp increase in destruction of virgin forest in 2020

IN total, the tropics lost 12.2 million hectares of tree cover – including forests and plantations – last year, driven largely by agriculture.

An area of pristine rainforest the size of the Netherlands was burned or hacked down last year, as the destruction of the planet's tropical forests accelerated despite a global economic slowdown, according to research Wednesday.

The worst losses were in Brazil, three times higher than the next highest country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to a report from Global Forest Watch based on satellite data.

Across the tropics, the study registered the destruction in 2020 of 4.2 million hectares (10.4 million acres) of primary forest – 12 per cent higher than the year before.

Ecosystems straddling the equator shelter abundant biodiversity and store vast amounts of carbon.

In total, the tropics lost 12.2 million hectares of tree cover – including forests and plantations – last year, driven largely by agriculture.

But researchers said extreme heat and drought also stoked huge fires that consumed swathes of forest across Australia, Siberia and deep into the Amazon.

These losses are a "climate emergency. They're a biodiversity crisis, a humanitarian disaster, and

a loss of economic opportunity", said Frances Seymour of the World Resources Institute, which is behind the report.

The study found some evidence that Covid-19 restrictions may have had an effect around the world – with an increase in illegal harvesting because forests were left less protected, or the return of large numbers of people to rural areas.

But researchers said there was little sign that the pandemic had changed the trajectory of forest destruction and warned that

the worst could be still to come if countries slash protections in an attempt to ramp up economic growth.

But Seymour said the most "ominous signal" from the 2020 data is the instances of forests themselves falling victim to climate change.

"I mean, wetlands are burning," she said in a press briefing. "Nature has been whispering this risk to us for a long time. But now she is shouting."

Plants – especially in the tropics – and soil comprise an

enormous carbon sink, sucking up roughly a third of all the carbon pollution humans produce annually.

Yet tropical forests continue to disappear rapidly, threatening irreparable losses to Earth's crucial biodiversity.

Researchers said the destruction of tropical primary forests in 2020 released 2.64 billion tonnes of CO2 in 2020, equal to the annual emissions of India or 570 million cars, more than double the number on the road in the United States.

"The longer we wait to stop deforestation, and get other sectors on to net zero trajectories, the more likely it is that our natural carbon sinks will go up in smoke," Seymour said.

'Heartbreaking'

Brazil, where far-right President Jair Bolsonaro has cut funding for environmental programs and pushed to open protected Amazon lands to agribusiness and mining, lost 1.7 million hectares of primary forest in 2020, an increase of 25 per cent from 2019, the report said.

"Brazil, having achieved a huge reduction in deforestation in the Amazon, is now seeing an unravelling of that success, and it's heartbreaking," said Seymour. Much of the loss was in the Amazon, including new areas that were deliberately cleared.

But dry conditions also meant fires lit on previously deforested land spread to once humid forests, burning out of control. Fires also devastated the Pantanal wetlands, a paradise of biodiversity that extend from Brazil into Bolivia – the country with the third highest level of forest loss in 2020. Almost a third of the Pantanal was scorched, including indigenous lands and jaguar habitats, and researchers said it could be decades before the region recovers.

Appetite for destruction

One bright area was in In-

donesia, which reduced its rate of forest loss by 17 per cent from 2019 and dropped out of the global top three for the first time in the 20 years of Global Forest Watch monitoring.

Forest destruction has slowed for four years in a row in Indonesia and researchers said government policies – helped last year by wetter weather – appeared to be having "a long-term effect on reducing primary forest loss".

Forests cover more than 30 per cent of Earth's land surface, and tropical forests are home to between 50 and 90 per cent of all terrestrial species.

Recent research has shown that, beyond a certain threshold, deforestation in the Amazon basin could tip the region into a new climate regime, turning tropical forests into savannah.

In January, two top Brazilian indigenous leaders asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate Bolsonaro for "crimes against humanity", accusing him of unprecedented environmental damage, killings and persecution. On Monday, a study published in Nature Ecology & Evolution estimated that rising demand in wealthy countries for commodities ranging from coffee to soybeans was accelerating deforestation in the tropics.

SOURCE: AFP



This image shows the aftermath of cutting down trees and although there is land to build homes or anything else by cutting down trees, one tree decreases the amount of clean air (oxygen) we might be able to get.

PHOTO: GREENPEACE

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Transfers and Appointments of Heads of Services Organizations

1. The following persons are transferred as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Win Naing Rector Sittway University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Yangon University of Distance Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(b) Dr Nay Win Oo Director-General Monitoring and Evaluation Team (Research) Ministry of Education	Rector Lashio University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

2. The following persons are appointed as Heads of Service Organizations on probation shown against their names.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Myint Thu Ya Deputy Director-General Department of Trade Ministry of Commerce	Director-General Department of Trade Ministry of Commerce
(b) U Kyaw Win Deputy Director-General Department of Myanmar Nationalities Languages Ministry of Education	Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Education
(c) Dr Tin Tin Moe Deputy Director-General Department of Traditional Medicine Ministry of Health and Sports	Director-General Department of Traditional Medicine Ministry of Health and Sports
(d) Professor Dr Thein Zaw Lin Professor/ Head of Department (Medical Education Department) University of Traditional Medicines (MDY) Department of Traditional Medicines Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Traditional Medicines (MDY) Department of Traditional Medicines Ministry of Health and Sports
(e) U Hla Tun Oo Deputy Director-General (Construction) Department of Highways Ministry of Construction	Director-General Department of Highways Ministry of Construction
(f) U Ne Win Deputy Permanent Secretary Deputy Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Director-General Rehabilitation Department Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
(g) Daw Khine Shwe Wah Deputy Director-General Accounts Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Accounts Department Central Bank of Myanmar

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FROM PAGE-7

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Paukkaung Township

11. According to the inspection, a total of 212 polling stations in 53 village-tracts of 5 Wards in Paukkaung Township of Bago Region took out 117,229 ballots and used 80,622. It left 33,743 ballots instead of 36,607. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/Village tract ballots	116,100	80,205	35,895	32,931	3,015	51
2	Township advance ballots	1,129	417	712	812		100
	Total	117,229	80,622	36,607	33,743	3,015	151

12. It found 3,015 ballots missing and 51 extra ballots at 212 polling stations in 53 wards/village-tracts of Paukkaung Township. The township lists showed 1,129 ballots were issued and they used 417 ballots. It left 812 ballots instead of 712 and it also found 100 unused extra ballots. They returned 100 unused ballots from Ngar Khu Aike Village-tract while 50 ballots from Htantabin Village-tract and 100 ballots from unidentified village to township election sub-commission after election. During the inspection on ballots of Paukkaung Township, Bant Bway Taung Village-tract returned 103 used ballots, 90 unused ballots and 7 damaged ballots on 18-3-2021.

13. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/village tract	Total Polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact Remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	No (1) Ward	2	3,650	2,520	1,130	1,116	14	
2	No (2) Ward	1	1,600	1,185	415	415		
3	No (3) Ward	3	2,750	1,956	794	794		
4	No (4) Ward	2	2,300	1,555	745	695	50	
5	No (5) Ward	2	2,450	1,687	763	763		
6	Yat Thit Village tract	4	3,000	2,111	889	889		
7	Wat Thoe Village tract	1	1,300	1,057	243	243		
8	Thaphan Cho Village tract	4	2,450	1,733	717	567	150	
9	Bant Pyin Village tract	6	3,200	2,272	928	924	4	
10	Paung Sapar Village tract	5	2,150	1,453	697	659	38	
11	Ywa Htaung Village tract	4	1,300	909	391	390	1	
12	Kywe Paung Pin Village tract	2	650	464	186	186		
13	Nyaung Pin Tha Village tract	2	1,200	892	308	307	1	
14	Chaug Zauk Village tract	1	450	259	191	191		
15	Myauk Let Gyi Village tract	3	1,650	1,176	474	474		
16	Dhamma Thaw Village tract	6	3,950	2,914	1,036	903	133	
17	Htone Taung Village tract	4	1,350	916	434	363	71	
18	Padauk Gone Village tract	7	2,900	1,949	951	672	279	
19	War Yone Pin Village tract	4	1,650	1,205	445	445		
20	East Gye Gone Village tract	6	2,350	1,487	863	763	100	
21	Htantapin Village tract	5	2,550	1,813	737	633	104	
22	Nyaung Gone Village tract	5	2,700	1,717	983	899	84	
23	Hlegu Village tract	8	3,950	2,515	1,435	1,161	274	
24	Taung Let Gyi Village tract	2	1,550	1,089	461	461		
25	Taung Lai Village tract	10	5,100	3,766	1,334	1,234	100	
26	Nyaung Wone Village tract	6	3,350	2,162	1,188	1,078	110	
27	Myo Taung Village tract	4	1,800	1,204	596	501	95	
28	Ashae Makwe Village tract	3	1,200	819	381	366	15	
29	Taung Shwe Laung Village tract	3	1,950	1,254	696	596	100	

30	Ayadaw Village tract	4	1,800	1,281	519	469	50	
31	Chaug Phyaung Village tract	2	900	564	336	236	100	
32	Chaug Kaung Village tract	3	1,800	1,331	469	469		
33	Thapyay Village tract	3	1,050	637	413	313	100	
34	Kin Mon Chone Village tract	6	2,950	2,151	799	799		
35	Thit Young Pyan Village tract	2	1,550	1,208	342	336	6	
36	Gyoe Pin Yine Village tract	5	2,800	2,038	762	713	49	
37	Thaphan Kaine	4	3,450	2,582	868	868		
38	Ngar Khu Aine Village tract	7	3,050	1,988	1,062	912	150	
39	Ywa Shay Village tract	3	1,300	921	379	379		
40	Ain Nga Khwa Village tract	4	2,900	1,984	916	752	164	
41	West Gyoe Gone Village tract	2	1,800	1,362	438	438		
42	Bawdi Gone Village tract	4	1,600	1,093	507	407	100	
43	Masoe Yein Village tract	4	2,000	1,540	460	460		
44	Gwe Pin Village tract	1	350	257	93	93		
45	Bant Bwe Taung Village tract	3	1,800	1,139	661	432	229	
46	Kywe Kalay San Village tract	3	1,850	1,010	840	709	131	
47	Myauk Shwe Laung Village tract	2	750	478	272	272		
48	Letha Taung Gyi Village tract	5	1,700	1,112	588	584	4	
49	Thit Poke Village tract	4	1,350	937	413	463		50
50	Kyu Wut Village tract	4	2,300	1,580	720	720		
51	San Myaing Aye Village tract	1	1,400	921	479	477	2	
52	Ma Gyi Khone Village tract	2	850	480	370	363	7	
53	Nwa Hmyaw Village tract	3	950	636	314	214	100	
54	Sin Khaung Village tract	3	2,050	1,330	720	670	50	
55	Thit Saint Pin Village tract	5	2,150	1,472	678	628	50	
56	Kan Kyin Village tract	3	1,500	1,071	429	430		1
57	De Doke Village tract	3	800	466	334	334		
58	Shwe Taung /Ngwe Taung Village tract	2	900	597	303	303		
	Ward/village tract total	212	116,100	80,205	35,895	32,931	3,015	51
	Township ballots		1,129	417	712	812		100
	Township Total	212	117,229	80,622	36,607	33,743	3,015	151

Union Election Commission

MoSWRR discusses financial assistance to pregnant woman, children under 2 and ECCD coverage

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the coordination meeting on providing financial assistance to pregnant women and their children under two years old in Ayeyawady Region and Shan State, which is co-financed and implemented by the State Fund and the World Bank's Low-Interest IDA (International Development Association-IDA) Loan yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine urged to participate in the discussion to continue implementation of

the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Program-MCCT and to discuss how to use the disbursed loan from the World Bank following the legal agreements with the World Bank and the financial rules and regulations of the State to provide in the first three months of the 2020-2021FY.

She said to discuss how to withdraw the remaining amount from the World Bank loan in the current FY and continue using it as planned. The Ministry withdrew the loan two times in the 2019-2020 FY and one time in the current FY.

The meeting discussed the background facts on MCCT, current implementation plans, training programs for community protection social workers, community protection committees, Management on information development programs, three components in the project, eighty-seven per cent of the financial support to the beneficiaries and the remaining percentages for the implementation.

In the afternoon, Union Minister attended the Preliminary Coordination Meeting on Workshop on Enhancing Early Child-

hood Care and Development. At the meeting, she said due to the COVID-19 crisis, the temporary suspension of the annual implementation of the action plans with the policies and strategies and the Early Childhood Development Law since children's early life development is important.

She added the need to consider and provide support based on systematic care and situation as the development of children under five is progressing rapidly over time.

The Deputy Minister added the opening of pre-primary

schools by the department and accreditation of kindergartens and pre-primary schools opened by volunteer organizations and the community and supervision and support.

He added the need to make more effort to reopen the pre-primary schools which were closed in the COVID-19 period and to increase ECCD coverage. The meeting focused on the reopening of the closed schools with the COVID-19 protection and the workshop plan to increase coverage of early childhood care and development activities.—MNA

Offenders destroy Yangon circular railways, authority does repair work

FOR the convenience of travelers in Yangon, Myanmar Railways has been running the RBE daily from 24 March along the Insein-Yangon-Mingalardon-Insein route, but offenders are frequently destroying the tracks.

On 30 March, a total of 88 rail control clips were removed from the railway on the level crossing of Kamayut Station Road, and Myanmar Railways staff had to install them. On the same day, the security forces and railway staff had to remove two 20-foot-long old rail tracks which were crossed on the railways at Kyimyindine station and the pile of rubbish on the railway.

On 31 March, a 30-year-old man was found setting fire to six small car tyres on a train at the Kyimyindine station en-

trance, and he escaped into Weluwun ward, Sangyoung Township, while the security forces were catching him. The car tyres found to be burnt along the railway at the station were also destroyed.

Similarly, four railroad connecting tracks were removed from the inner railway line between Kamayut and Hledan stations yesterday. It was also found that four sleepers on the railway inside the Kyimyindine station were set on fire, and security forces and responsible persons from Myanmar Railways had to install the 30 railway couplets, which were removed.

Myanmar Railways will file a case at the relevant police station in accordance with the law and take legal action against the perpetrators. —MNA



Perpetrators are destroying rail tracks and MR staff are making repair work.

Dead bodies of 126 babies found at Mandalay Central Women's Hospital

A case has filed against the head of a mortuary who failed to burn the dead bodies of 126 newly born babies left in the mortuary of Mandalay Central Women's Hospital in Chanayethazan Township, according to the statement of the Myanmar Police Force.

The hospital's security

guards reported to the superintendent, who was on duty in Yangon that they got a foul smell in the mortuary on 28 March. After his return, the superintendent and security guards inspected the morgue and found bodies of 126 babies, the statement said.

According to the investiga-

tion, the mortuary head, Lwin Moe, collected between K3000 and K5000 to cremate the dead bodies and store them there.

He joined CDM and did not return his duties starting 28 March. He is still at large by misusing the fees he collected, it read.

The bodies of 126 babies were cremated at Aye Yeik Nye-in cemetery on 31 March at noon with the superintendent's permission.

The officials are taking necessary measures to take action against the mortuary's head under the law. — MNA

Two CMD instigators accused of persuading education staff to join CDM in Myeik

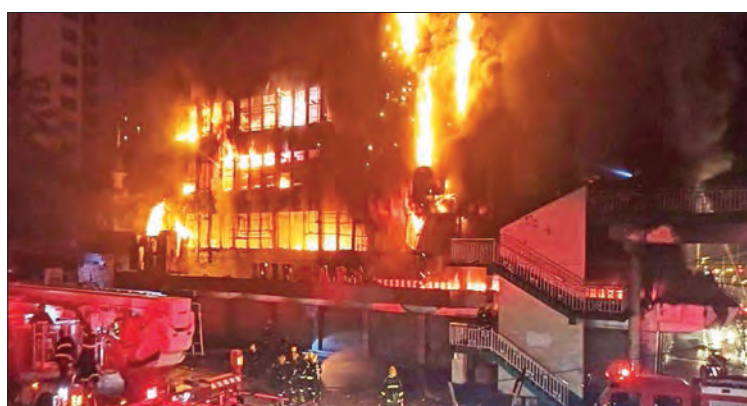
THE security forces arrested two education staff Ma Nay Chi Htwe and Ma Chit Myat Thu, for committing incitements to other education staff to join CDM via the social network at No (12) Sein Lae Thayar in Tekkatho Ward of Kalwin Village-tract in Myeik of Taninthayi Region yesterday.

Ma Nay Chi Htwe, a user of the Nay Chi Htwe Facebook account, persuaded the education staff living in Myeik not to attend refresher courses, coerced them to join the protests and conducted fundraising activities.

Ma Chit Myat Thu, a Myat Myat Facebook account user, also conducted such activities online.

They were charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code at the Myeik Myoma police station. — MNA

Fires break out in Mandalay and Yangon Regions



Ruby Mark in Kyauktada township on fire.



Gandhama wholesale in Mayangon township on fire.

A fire broke out due to overheating of the power line at the house of U Aung Myo Htay son of U Kyaw Win around 5 am yesterday morning in Taguntine ward, Pyigyitagun Township, Mandalay Region.

The fire was extinguished by security forces, firefighters and the people with 31 fire engines and 21 water bowsers around 6:20 am in the morning. As a result of the fire, 80 houses were destroyed in the fire, and a relief camp has been set up for 175 affected families inside

the Mya Bayet Monastery in Nantha Kwetseik Ward.

Although no human or animal died and injured, actions will be taken against those who neglected the fire.

Similarly, in Yangon Region, Ruby Mart located at the corner of Pansodan Road and Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon was also burned down around 2 am yesterday, and a fire broke out at Gandhama Wholesale located in Mayangon Township at the same time yesterday morning. — MNA



Fire broke out in Pyigyitagun Township in Mandalay Region.

Kilo guava enhance family income in Kyaukse

THE local growers are earning extra income from manageable scale kilo guava cultivation in Kyaukse township.

At present, some pagodas have now reopened, and the guava market has revived. The Kyaukse Township is engaging mainly with farming business. There are also many creeks, dams and lakes near Kyaukse farmlands. The villagers from Kyaukse township are growing the paddy crops typically under the irrigated water system. Also, they are growing other essential seasonal produce such as sesame, bamboo, banana, green gram, chilli and turmeric.

“I have cultivated



Guava is considered a nutritionally-valuable and remunerative crops. The fruits are consumed widely in the country where retailers traditionally sell the fruits mainly in the markets and near bus stops.

more than 100-kilo guava trees on a manageable scale for four years to earn family extra income.

The fruits could yield after a year of planting. My guava farmland is close to Mahar Shwe Thein Taw

Pagoda. The shopkeepers opened the shop in pagoda come and buy the kilo guava from our farmland.

Earlier, the sale of kilo guava was declined because the pagodas were closed in the pandemic period. Now, the pagodas are reopened under the COVID-19 condition, and many vendors are selling near the pagodas. So, the vendors come and buy the kilo guava in our farmland for K150 per fruit daily. Now, the kilo guava farmland is enhancing extra family income,” said Daw Aye Win, a kilo guavas farmland owner from Thinhaung village.

Guava is considered a nutritionally-valuable and remunerative crops. The fruits are consumed widely in the country where retailers traditionally sell the fruits mainly in the

markets and near bus stops.

The trees of guava are grown at least 12 feet away from each other so that the tree can have fresh air and will be having beautiful fruit. After passing the planting time for a year, the trees bear the fruits. Each fruit is wrapped in paper and covered with plastic bags to make the fruits beautiful and prevent germs from penetrating. Then, it can start to pick up after two months of covering with plastic bags. Guava cultivation requires fewer labour and input costs. So, guava is a crop that should be grown. — Thet Maung (District IPRD)/GNLM

Farmers cultivate summer paddy initially in Pwintphyu

THE local farmers from the Myauk Mone Myaungmagyi dam compound in Pwint Phyu township, Magway region, are growing summer paddy using irrigated water from Mezali Dam, according to the local farmers from Pwintphyu township.

To be able to grow the seasonal corps conveniently in Pwintphyu township, the Township Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department are distributing the irrigated water in time from Mezali Dam annually through Taung Mone Myaungmagyi and Myauk Mone Myaung-

magyi.

The department distributes the irrigation water on a rotating basis to escape difficulties in cultivating summer paddy due to unexpected less rainfall this year. The department supplied the irrigation water on 16 February to grow summer paddy in the Myauk Mone Myaungmagyi dam area compound, while the irrigation water will be supplied on 1 April to grow summer sesame and other summer crops in the Taung Mone Myaungmagyi dam area compound, according to Pwintphyu Township Irrigation and Water

Utilization Management Department.

In the 2021 summer crops cultivation season, the department targeted to cultivate 19,804 acres of summer paddy and 31,660 acres of summer sesame in the whole township. The local growers started producing the summer corps in their farmland to meet the expected target. They are growing a variety of summer paddy species such as Ayar Min, Ma Naw Thuka, Hsin Thuka, Paw San Yin, said a paddy grower from Shwebo village, Pwintphyu Township. — Ye Win Naing (IPRD)/GNLM



In the 2021 summer crops cultivation season, the department targeted to cultivate 19,804 acres of summer paddy and 31,660 acres of summer sesame in the whole township.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2105N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2105N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-4-2021** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT SENARI VOY. NO. (009N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SENARI VOY. NO. (009N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-4-2021** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

G-7 trade representatives to address “market-distorting practices”



Top trade representatives of the Group of Seven industrialized countries agreed Wednesday at their inaugural meeting to address “market-distorting practices” such as industrial subsidies. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOP trade representatives of the Group of Seven industrialized countries agreed Wednesday at their inaugural meeting to address “market-distorting practices” such as industrial subsidies.

The virtual meeting brought together representatives from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States as well as the European Union.

It was the first time such a meeting has been held involving top G-7 trade representatives and they plan to hold an in-person session in May in Britain.

World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who assumed office in March, also took part in Wednesday’s talks. Among other items on the agenda, the participants agreed they will “explore reforms that can enhance the WTO as a forum of negotiations,” the statement said. — Kyodo News ■

“Practices that distort markets and competition lead to decreased efficiency and reduced perceptions of fairness and trust in the system,” Britain’s Secretary of State for International Trade Liz Truss said in her chair’s statement following the talks.

The representatives “recognized that global trade should work for democratic and open-market systems and that these should not be undermined by unfair trade,” the statement said.

Saudi plans economic overhaul with \$3.2 trillion investment

SAUDI Arabia announced plans on Tuesday to pump investments worth \$3.2 trillion (€2.7tn) into the national economy by 2030, roping in the oil-reliant kingdom’s biggest companies in a major new economic diversification push.

The announcement by de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman underscores an effort to jumpstart the domestic economy as the top crude exporter battles high youth unemployment and a coronavirus-triggered downturn. “The total investment injected... into the national economy is expected to reach

12 trillion riyals (\$3.2tn) by 2030,” Prince Mohammed said in a speech carried by state television.

Twenty-four of the kingdom’s biggest companies, including energy giant Aramco and petrochemical firm SABIC, will lead the investment drive by contributing five trillion riyals over the next decade, the crown prince told reporters later at a virtual briefing.

He said the companies, many of them listed, had agreed to lower their dividends and redirect the money into the domestic economy in exchange for incentives such as subsidies.—AFP ■

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US sees common interest with China on Iran



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (R) greets his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi (L) in Tehran on March 27, 2021 as the countries sign a cooperation pact. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE United States said Wednesday that it has a shared interest with Beijing in curbing Iran's nuclear programme, declining to fan the flames over a 25-year cooperation pact signed by the

frequent US nemeses. The agreement sealed Saturday has triggered commentary among US conservatives of a new anti-US "axis" and would have likely been sharply criticized by for-

mer president Donald Trump's administration.

But President Joe Biden's government declined to wade in on the pact, which has also provoked opposition inside Iran.

"Competition, as you know, does define our relationship with China, but we do have, in some cases, rather narrow areas of tactical alignment," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters.

"It so happens that Iran is one of them. China has been cooperative in efforts to constrain Iran's nuclear programme," he said.

"Beijing, of course, has no interest in seeing Iran develop a nuclear weapon, and the profoundly destabilizing impact that would have in a region upon which China does depend."

China was one of six powers that was part of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, under which Iran agreed to curtail its nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief. — AFP ■

Iraq PM seeks to soothe security concern on Saudi visit

IRAQ will never become a launchpad for attacks on Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi pledged Wednesday during a long-awaited visit to the kingdom aimed at forging closer economic and security ties.

In January, explosive-laden drones crashed into the main royal palace in Riyadh, with American media citing US officials as saying they were launched from neighbouring Iraq.

Saudi officials did not publicly disclose any details on the reported attack on the sprawling Al-Yamama complex, the official residence and office of King Salman as well as the main base of

the royal court.

But the news raised alarm in a country that has frequently come under missile and drone attacks from Iran-aligned Huthi rebels in Yemen, where Riyadh-backed forces are engaged in a six-year conflict.

A relatively unknown militant group in Iraq calling itself the Righteous Promise Brigade claimed responsibility for the strike, but it was considered by security experts to be a front for more entrenched Iran-backed militias.

Kadhemi said the group's claim was "not true" and insisted that the attack was not launched



Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi (L) walks a diplomatic tightrope as Baghdad often finds itself caught between Tehran and its rivals Riyadh and Washington. **PHOTO:AFP**

from Iraq.

"We will not allow any attack on the kingdom," he told reporters after what his aides

described as an hours-long meeting with Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.—AFP ■

Brazil's Bolsonaro names three new military chiefs

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro on Wednesday appointed new army, navy and air force chiefs one day after announcing their predecessors' departures, as the far-right leader weathers the biggest crisis of his administration.

The new defense minister, General Walter Braga Netto, presented Army General Paulo Sergio Nogueira de Oliveira, Navy Admiral Almir Garnier and Air Force commander Brigadier Carlos Almeida Baptista Jr at a brief ceremony.

Braga Netto said the trio would all be "faithful to their constitutional missions of defending



Brazil's new navy commander Admiral Almir Garnier (L), Army commander General Paulo Sergio Nogueira de Oliveira (2-L) and new Air Force commander Brigadier Carlos Almeida Baptista Jr (R) attend their presentation ceremony. **PHOTO: AFP**

the homeland, guaranteeing constitutional powers and guaranteeing democratic freedoms."

Bolsonaro has overhauled his government in the face of mounting criticism for an explo-

sion of Covid-19 deaths, replacing his foreign, defense and justice ministers, along with his chief of staff, the attorney general and the military's top brass.

Last week, he also installed his fourth health minister of the pandemic.

Bolsonaro, who comes up for re-election in October 2022, faces sliding popularity and growing pressure over his handling of the pandemic, including from key allies in Congress and the business world. On Wednesday, the country ended its deadliest month of the coronavirus crisis with more than 66,570 deaths — more than double the previous record.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jailed Kremlin critic Navalny goes on hunger strike

JAILED Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny on Wednesday said he is going on hunger strike until he receives proper medical treatment for severe back pain and numbness in his legs.

President Vladimir Putin's most prominent critic, who is serving a 2.5-year sentence in one of Russia's most notorious penal colonies, said he was losing sensation in both legs and demanding he be properly treated.

The 44-year-old said he was suffering from a pinched nerve that had caused his right leg to go numb and accused prison officials of refusing to provide him with adequate medical treatment.

He complained he had only been given pain killers, but had not been properly diagnosed.

In a post on Instagram on Wednesday, Navalny said that the back pain was now causing a loss of feeling in his left leg, too. —AFP ■

Four people, including child, shot and killed in California

FOUR people, including a child, were shot and killed Wednesday evening at an office building in Southern California, police said.

The shooter, whose motivations are so far unknown, was shot by an officer and taken to hospital, police said, adding that the suspect's condition was not known.

Police did not release any more information about the victims, but said that a fifth individual was hospitalized.

The incident began around 5:30 pm local time (0030 GMT) on the upper floor of a small office building in the city of Orange.

Police and the suspect exchanged fire, according to the Los Angeles Times. "The situation has been stabilized and there is no threat to the public," the Orange Police Department said in a post to their Facebook page.—AFP ■

France to close schools and extend Covid-19 lockdown to all of the country, Macron says

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has announced nationwide school closures and a limited lockdown while defending his controversial strategy to confront soaring Covid-19 infections.

The 43-year-old leader has been under fire from political opponents and many health experts in recent weeks as the rampant virus left hospitals in hotspots such as Paris overwhelmed.

At the end of January, Macron bucked the European trend and went against the recommendation of his scientific advisers by deciding that France would not enter a third lockdown.

In an address to the nation, he tightened restrictions significantly on Wednesday, ordering schools shut down, travel restrictions across France, and the closure of non-essential shops around the country.

But he stopped short of demanding people stay in their homes or avoid socializing completely, and authorized people to move between regions over the upcoming Easter weekend.

"We have adopted a strategy since the beginning of the year that aims to contain the epidemic without shutting ourselves in," he said.

Not locking down in January meant "we gained pre-

cious weeks of liberty, weeks of learning for our children, we allowed hundreds of thousands of workers to keep their head above water, without losing control of the epidemic," he argued. The question in the coming days will be whether the new measures are enough to reverse the sharp rise in infections which have been running at more than 40,000 a day, double their level at the beginning of the month.

More than 53,000 new cases were announced late Wednesday, but that number covered two days after no numbers were made public on Tuesday. —AFP ■



French President Macron speaking on television on Wednesday night. PHOTO: AFP

Immortal protection: Covid-themed offerings for Malaysia 'Tomb Sweeping Day'



Jacky Hoi showcases some of his store's Qingming offerings. PHOTO: AFP

PAPER masks and goggles are among offerings that ethnic Chinese in Malaysia will burn to mark "Tomb Sweeping Day", hoping their ancestors can use them to fight the coronavirus in the afterlife.

Qingming is one of the most important dates for Chinese communities, and is observed across East and Southeast Asia.

During the festival, which this year falls on Sunday, it is customary for Chinese to offer prayers, sweep their loved ones' graves and burn paper models of items that could be useful in the afterlife.

These can range from money and shoes to yachts and planes — but the pandemic has led to the addition of vi-

rus-themed offerings.

A shop in the town of Rawang, just outside the capital Kuala Lumpur, is selling a set of paper masks with small boxes carrying pictures of goggles, a bottle of hand sanitizer and a thermometer.

"We want our ancestors to realize the importance of wearing a mask during the pandemic, so we introduced this," store owner Jacky Hoi told AFP, holding a packet containing the items.

He believes the set will prove popular in Muslim-majority Malaysia, where about a quarter of the country's 32 million inhabitants are ethnic Chinese, as it "will let our ancestors have a chance to fight the pandemic". —AFP ■

'The Man Who Sold His Skin': Tunisia's dark Oscars nomination

IT'S a troubling political fable shot with a sophisticated aesthetic, and Tunisia's first-ever Academy Award nomination: "The Man Who Sold His Skin".

Part dark satire, part romantic drama, the film tells the story of lovelorn Syrian refugee Sam Ali (Yahya Mahayni) who is able to travel to Europe thanks to a Faustian pact.

When a contemporary artist tattoos a European Schengen visa across his back, Ali finds himself able to cross international borders as a living work of art.

Tunisian writer-director Kaouther Ben Hania ventured outside her native country to dive into two contrasting worlds

—of refugees and contemporary art. "I couldn't stand the victimization discourse on refugees anymore," said the director, Ben Hania.

"My intention from the start was to make him a contemporary hero who comes out on top and turns the adventure to his advantage."

The story is partly inspired by the real-life tale of a Belgian man, Tim Steiner, who sold the right to tattoo his back, occasionally exhibit it, and recover the skin after his death, to the artist Wim Delvoye, who makes a cameo in the film. The movie, shot in France, Belgium and Tunisia, alternates between a grating and tender tone as it

highlights the cruel absurdity of a system where objects can travel more freely than people. "The Man Who Sold His Skin" is shortlisted in the International Feature Film category for the Oscars, which are held on April 25.

Monica Bellucci plays a "fake blonde" gallerist while Syrian actor Yahya Mahayni portrays a sweet freedom-loving dreamer who oscillates between joy and anger in a volatile situation.

'Total dispossession'

While the refugee is "in total dispossession of his body" during part of the story, "he eventually regains possession of it", said Ben Hania. —AFP ■

Libya authorities release 120 captured pro-Haftar fighters

AUTHORITIES in western Libya released 120 fighters from a rival eastern force on Wednesday, the latest move towards reconciliation in a UN-backed peace process aimed at ending years of violence.

The men were fighting for the 107th Brigade under the command of eastern military strongman Khalifa Haftar, who in April 2019 launched an offensive to seize Tripoli from a unity government.

The fighters had been captured near the western city of Zawiya that same month.

On Wednesday, dressed in loose white outfits and matching skullcaps, they were released following a ceremony in Zawiya, 45 kilometres east of Tripoli.

The ceremony took place at a sports ground in Zawiya under heavy security.

In a speech, Abdallah al-Lafi, vice-president of the country's new presidential council, welcomed the move and called for further reconciliation and rebuilding.

"We must not pass on hatred and bitterness to our children," he said.

After a recitation from the Koran and the singing of the national anthem, the prisoners were released and reunited with their families amid loud ululations.

Libya has been ravaged by bloodshed since the fall and killing of dictator Muammar Ghaddafi in a NATO-backed 2011 revolt. —AFP ■

FIFA introduce GIP to solve match-fixing issue

FIFA recently launched a Global Integrity Programme (GIP) aimed to provide all 211 member associations with enhanced knowledge and tools to fight and prevent match manipulation, according to a statement with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

“In line with FIFA’s overall vision of making football truly global, as well as its ongoing commitment to protecting and promoting the integrity of the game, the FIFA Global Integrity Programme is designed to improve education and build integrity capacity within all

211 member associations by sharing advanced know-how and resources with integrity officers”, football authorities stated in their announcement.

Speaking about the FIFA Global Integrity Programme, FIFA President Gianni Infantino said: “Match-fixing is

an issue that is very real and threatens the integrity and credibility of football in many countries around the world.

Working in close collaboration with experts at the UNODC and alongside other ongoing efforts that FIFA is taking, the FIFA Global Integ-

rity Programme is another important step by FIFA to protect the integrity of football and will play an important role in educating and building capacity within member associations to help fight match-fixing at a local level.”—GNLM ■

Tokyo Olympic torch relay should be cancelled in Osaka: governor



Osaka Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura speaks in Osaka on April 1, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

relay to adhere to the forthcoming measures, which may see businesses fined for not complying with restrictions such as on operating hours.

The Osaka governor said he needs to request that residents refrain from going out after the central government decides to permit the western city to implement tougher anti-COVID-19 measures under a revised law that took effect in February.

Osaka Mayor Ichiro Matsui also said the relay scheduled for April 14, the second and final day it will be in the prefecture, should not take place, and a ceremony will be held without spectators.

“The games organizing committee will make the final call based on its thinking, but the prefectural government should have an opinion about the matter,” Yoshimura said, while adding that segments in other Osaka municipalities can be held by implementing strict anti-virus steps. —AFP ■

The Tokyo Olympic torch relay section due to be held in the city of Osaka later this month should be cancelled because of a sharp rebound in coronavirus infections, Osaka Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura said Thursday.

The comment regarding

the nationwide relay that began in Japan’s northeast a week ago came as the government plans to allow Osaka, Hyogo and Miyagi prefectures to take stricter measures against the virus.

Yoshimura suggested to reporters that the prefectural government expects the torch

‘How embarrassing’: Germany suffer first World Cup qualifying loss in 20 years

GERMANY’S performance was dubbed “embarrassing” after they suffered their first World Cup qualifying defeat for 20 years in a humiliating 2-1 home loss to North Macedonia which heaped pressure on coach Joachim Loew.

“The disappointment is huge,” said a crest-fallen Loew after the final whistle in Duisburg on Wednesday.

“This is a set-back. There were a lot of mistakes and we didn’t find a way to break down the deep-standing North Macedonians. “We also let them counter-attack and had

no grip on the game.”

Napoli midfielder Eljif Elmas scored the winner five minutes from time after Ilkay Gundogan’s penalty had drawn Germany level following 37-year-old striker Goran Pandev’s first-half opener. The German press were quick to put the boot in. “How embarrassing!” fumed daily Bild on their website.

“Nasty Surprise” said football magazine Kicker while Frankfurt-based daily FAZ opted for “Rude awakening for the German team”. —AFP ■



Germany’s performance was dubbed “embarrassing” after they suffered their first World Cup qualifying defeat for 20 years in a humiliating 2-1 home loss to North Macedonia which heaped pressure on coach Joachim Loew. **PHOTO: AFP**

England take command of World Cup group with Poland win

HARRY Kane became England’s all-time leading penalty scorer on Wednesday as Gareth Southgate’s side beat Poland 2-1 to make it three wins out of three and seize control of their World Cup qualifying group.

The England captain’s 10th international goal from a spot-kick was cancelled out in the second half by Jakub Moder after a defensive howler from John Stones.

But England regained the lead with five minutes left on the clock when Harry Maguire smashed home after central defensive partner Stones headed a corner back across goal.

The nervy win at an empty Wembley means England top Group I with nine points after wins earlier in the international window against San

Marino and Albania.

Only the team that finishes top of the group are guaranteed a place at the World Cup finals in Qatar next year. The visitors, who have not beaten England since 1973, were missing injured Bayern Munich sharpshooter Robert Lewandowski and were depleted following a coronavirus outbreak in the camp. England made just one change from the side that started Sunday’s match in Tirana, with Chelsea full-back Ben Chilwell coming in for Manchester United’s Luke Shaw.

Manchester City midfielder Phil Foden headed over from a Chilwell cross early in the game as the hosts started on the front foot. —AFP ■



Harry Kane became England’s all-time leading penalty scorer on Wednesday as Gareth Southgate’s side beat Poland 2-1 to make it three wins out of three and seize control of their World Cup qualifying group. **PHOTO: AFP**