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Personal feeling on party politics should not bring loss to the citizen's education, health and other sectors: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with the Yangon Region Administration Council members and departmental officials in Yangon yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon met with members of Yangon Region Administration Council and departmental personnel at the office of Region Administration Council.

Chairman of Yangon Region Administration Council U Hla Soe and Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay reported to the Senior General on the region's social, economic, health and regional development tasks, general matters, and beautifying of the city.

The Senior General explained at a meeting with civilian administrative bodies the development undertakings and political changes, the process of State responsibility taken in accord with the Pro Tem President's duty assignment. However, some service personnel did not understand the Tatmadaw situation in discharging national politics' duty and declaration of the State of Emergency for the country. Whatever it may be, personnel

need to stay away from party politics. They have to divide duties and party politics. They have to serve the duties conscientiously. They need to abide by civil servant rules, although the government understands their absence in duty due to CDM activities against the government and coercion of unscrupulous persons. Personal feeling on party politics should not bring loss to the citizens' education, health and other sectors.

People were dissatisfied with the endeavours of the governments they elected, so they staged no vote campaigns for elections. When the Yangon City Development Committee's election in 2019 was held, more than 14 per cent of the Yangon City cast votes. So, those elected should not be genuine people's representatives.

The election for YCDC was an assessment of the NLD government over the people. It issued various kinds of orders beyond the election law. During the election period, Tatmadaw members cast votes, along with the people, at polling booths

outside the military units in line with disciplines and COVID-19 restrictions. The Tatmadaw inspected more than 10 million errors of voter lists in the election.

The Tatmadaw did not seize the State power but performed its tasks according

The Tatmadaw wishes to ensure clean, honest democracy. Current voting frauds are very bad. Although simple efforts could secure the votes, such a move was similar to dishonest acts in examination to bag higher marks in the wrong way. It likes the event of Harry Tang unrest in 1956. The Hluttaw organization should not be done similar to "passing of examination because of Harry Tang", and voting frauds are acts of assaulting and destroying democracy and people's desire.

to the law for ensuring the strengthening of democracy. The State Administration Council was formed with a fair ratio of military and civilian members to provide regular administration tasks in accord

with democracy. Region and state administration councils were formed with only civilians.

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ry Tang", and voting frauds are acts of assaulting and destroying democracy and people's desire.

The Senior General stressed the need to prioritize solving the difficulties of the people. Myanmar is based on agriculture and livestock breeding, exporting rice to countries. So, it is necessary to seek solutions for rice deficient areas of the country. The import of foodstuffs and personal goods must be reduced while these products must be produced at home for benefiting the country.

Later, the Senior General pointed out the improvement of economy, education, socio-economy, agriculture and livestock breeding, production, electrification, transport and human resources sectors.

In conclusion, the Senior General stressed the need for State service personnel to carry out their assigned tasks dutifully. They have to serve the State duties with individual conscientiousness for the sake of the country and the people. — MNA

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

MoBA Union Minister meets staff in Sittway, MraukU, Kyaukpyu, An townships



UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung inspected the Rakhine State development supervisory office, together with State Administration Council member Colonel Min Than, Director-General U Sai Tun

Nyo for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and other officials on 8 April.

During the inspection, Rakhine State's development supervisor presented the border area development programmes

of Rakhine State, and the Union Minister gave the necessary instructions. Then, the Union Minister and party visited Training School for Development of Nationalities Youth from Border Areas (Sittway). The deputy di-

rector of the state administration office presented the preparations for reopening training schools and women's vocational training schools.

The Union Minister and party also met the MraukU District

development supervisory office staff and coordinated the necessary matters.

Moreover, the Union Minister visited An Township development supervisory office and met the staff and demonstrators of women's vocational training school on 9 April. The Union Minister then went to the Kyaukpyu District development supervisory office and met the staff and demonstrators of the mechanical school (Kyaukpyu), and he inspected the school compound.

During his visit, the Union Minister provided cash assistance and uniforms to the staff and demonstrators and gave instructions to serve the duties according to the Civil Service Law and teach the trainees regarding the belief and stances apart from the subjects. —MNA

MoHT Union Minister tours Shan State (East) to inspect tourism development

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Ohn made an inspection tour of Shan State (East) starting 9 April.

The Union Minister visited Pankwe Hill Buddha Park near Pankwe Village of Kengtung, Shan State (East). Travellers can pay visits to the park, where 72 feet high Abhaya Rajamuni Buddha image was built.

The Union Minister toured over 100 years old residence of Colonel Rubel, Kaunghmudaw Dam and Saturattha Thumingala Buddha Image in Loimwe. He also viewed Kengluk's Myanmar-Lao friendship bridge, which can be created as a caravan tour.

On 10 April, the Union Minister inspected preparation for

reopening Golden Triangle Mountain Resort in Tachilek under Covid-19 health guidelines. At No 1 Myanmar-Thai friendship bridge, the Union Minister negotiated with officials to be smooth border-crossing travelling.

While in Mongphone Village, he viewed round preparations for improvement of pilgrimage by vessel in Mekong river. Wampon port checkpoint allows Laotians with temporary border pass to Tachilek for five night-six day period.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met departmental officials and hoteliers to discuss the development of the hotels and tourism industry in Tachilek District. — MNA



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn meets departmental personnel and hoteliers in Tachilek on 10 April.

Tatmadaw cannot accept a government that came to power through vote-rigging: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officers, other ranks and families of Yangon Station yesterday.

THE TATMADAW must shoulder the defence duties as its principal task is national defence. A soldier's life begins with good discipline and obedience in the Tatmadaw, which are to be preserved throughout his career. And based on these practices capacity of the units must be built. The duty of the Tatmadaw is to defend the people and nation from enemies. It is not an organization to govern the people. It is now involved in the administrative affairs of the State because of the national situation. There were times when the Tatmadaw had to shoulder the State's duties beginning from the time independence was restored. It had also solved the armed conflicts that occurred during those times. The Tatmadaw's participation in the leading role of national politics is the historical duty entrusted by the Constitution. Hence, all its members should carry out the work systematically.

"The Tatmadaw will always be an institution trustworthy for the people and nation if all the individuals, battalions and headquarters efficiently work in unity based on good discipline and obedience of every military personnel," said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General

Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with officers, other ranks and families of Yangon Station yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General were council members General Maung Maung Kyaw and Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Joint-Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung,

There were negative impacts on matters relating to the rule of law and national security. The economy was in a downturn during the administration of NLD. Hence the public trust in it fell. Vote-rigging was found in the 2020 general election in the NLD's attempts to win the 2020 general election amidst the deteriorating public confidence. The Tatmadaw cannot accept a government that came to power through vote-rigging.

senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air), commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, and officers, other ranks and families of Yangon Station.

In his speech, the Senior General said the Tatmadaw is discharging the State's duties in accord with the Constitution. In the past, there were incidents in which the Tatmadaw had to control the duties of the State temporarily. In 1958, the AFPFL government transferred the State's respon-

sibilities to the Tatmadaw in accord with the law as the former could no longer control the country. After discharging the State's duties for 18 months, the Tatmadaw held a just and fair election and handed over the power to the party that won the election. The Tatmadaw had to assume the duties of the State in 1962 because of the internal instability that led to national

disintegration. It formed the Revolutionary Council, issued laws and orders and governed the country. In 1974, the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma was established. As the socialist system had advantages as well as weaknesses, the nation faced hardships due to economic impacts and strained international relations. So, the 1988 crisis broke out, and the then government in the office collapsed. So, the Tatmadaw had to restore the national condition and administered the country as a Tatmadaw

government as there broke out disturbances.

The Tatmadaw government introduced reforms for a civilian administration in advance to proceed on the path to a multiparty democracy system, aspired by the people. The Tatmadaw rendered a helping hand in the transition to multiparty democracy. It gained rapid development thanks to the self-upgrading process. In 2011, the Tatmadaw transferred the State power in accord with the Constitution. As the NLD did not participate in the 2010 general election, the Political Parties Registration Law was amended in 2012. So the party could take part in the by-election. NLD won the 2015 general election. The performance of the then Union Election Commission was accepted without any complaints in the 2015 election.

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No country in this world will take vote-rigging. Further investigation revealed embezzlement of funds in addition to election frauds. Voter lists are being rechecked, and the results are being announced. Based on the scrutiny results, action will be taken only in accord with the law.

Beginning from 3 February, there occurred peaceful protests after the SAC assumed the duties. Because of the instigations and financial aids of internal and external organizations involved in the vote-rigging, violence, destruction or torching of factories and killing broke out after 14 February. So, martial law was declared in certain townships of the Yangon Region. Now, there are fewer disturbances, and the situation is back to normal. Instigations to cause violent riots on the social network are being dealt with in accord with the law.

The SAC did not assign only the Tatmadaw members as its members. It also appointed members of political parties and ethnic leaders. The involvement of civilians is to prevent the public-aspired democracy from deteriorating.

The Senior General and party cordially greeted officers, other ranks and families of the respective stations.—MNA

Public information

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

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council

Tatmadaw is not seizing the State responsibility but maintaining it to strengthen democracy further: Senior General

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Council members General Maung Maung Kyaw and Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Joint-Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Win Shein and U Aung Naing Oo, Chairman of Yangon Region Administration Council U Hla Soe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and officials, inspected Shwelinpan industrial zone in Hlinethaya Township and Shwepyithu industrial zone yesterday morning.

On arrival at Shwelinpan industrial zone management office, the chairman of Yangon North District Administration Body and officials reported to the Senior General and party on the matters in connexion with the operating of factories in Shwelinpan industrial zone, the living standard of local people in the township, residences of migrant workers, setting fire to factories by rioters, plans to build houses for migrant workers, and preparations to reopen factories.

In his response, the Senior General stressed the need to operate factories as usual to create jobs for the people. Officials need to soonest issue compensation for damage of insured factories set on fire by rioters. The Senior General said the plan would be implemented to quickly issue salaries to workers from some factories that submitted complaints about difficulties in taking out salaries. Arrangements will be made for factories to draw necessary money for investment under disciplines. It is required to appoint security personnel for the security of factories. Local people need to participate in taking security measures while Myanmar Police Force members will discharge security duty.

Then, the Senior General and party inspected damaged factories in the outbreak of fire in the industrial zone and coordinated with Union Ministers on businesspersons' reports for loss in the fire outbreak.

At the town halls in Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships, the Senior General separately attended the ceremonies to present rice, cooking oil and gram donat-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the Tatmadaw's donations of basic foodstuffs to the officials.



The Yangon North District Administration Body Chair reports to the Senior General.



The Senior General and party inspects one of the ravaged factories set fire by rioters.

The Senior General continued to say that the Tatmadaw is not seizing the State responsibility but maintaining it to strengthen democracy further. So, State administrative tasks will be undertaken in accord with democracy, discipline and procedures. It is necessary to recover the deteriorated parts of the State as quickly as possible. If the people participate in its in unison, they all can carry out tasks with more success.

ed by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to local people from Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships.

At the ceremonies, the Senior General said he arrived there to view round situations of incidents in riots in Yangon after declaring the State of Emergency for the country due to events that happened in the 2020 election and situations of burnt factories, and to attend to the needs. The root cause of riots depended on difficulties of basic needs of the

people and political dissatisfactions. Although peaceful protests in accord with democracy are acceptable, violent destructions are unacceptable. Some protesters stage protests peacefully, but some committed riots and set fire by taking money from incited persons due to basic needs. When factories halted operations during the COVID-19 period, the Tatmadaw provided rice, cooking oil and gram to local people who faced difficulties of basic needs

presented rice, cooking oil and gram for local people from Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships to an official.

Township officials spoke words of thanks for rice, cooking oil and gram donations of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air). They took pride in donations, presented the Head of State himself. Their townships have many industrial zones in Yangon Region with the country's largest production and the most significant number of migrant workers. After 23 March, riotous protests blocked main roads in the townships. On 14 and 15 February, as rioters set fires to garment factories on which the workers rely, basic workers lost their jobs. Now, they expressed very thanks

in Hlinethaya Township.

Now, 33,333 bags of rice, 100,000 visses of cooking oil and 100,000 visses of gram were donated for the convenience of local people in Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships. Officials need to systematically distribute the donated rice, cooking oil and gram to the people who are in dire need. At an opportune time, more donations will be made. Officials need to organize the local people to clean and beautify the environs according to the saying: "Unity is strength".

The Senior General continued to say that the Tatmadaw is not seizing the State responsibility but maintaining it to strengthen democracy further. So, State administrative tasks will be undertaken in accord with democracy, discipline and procedures. It is necessary to recover the deteriorated parts of the State as quickly as possible. If the people participate in its in unison, they all can carry out tasks with more success.

Then, the Senior General

to Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) for foodstuffs donations.

Crowds of rioters set fires to Myoma police stations in Tamway, Insein, Shwepyitha and Thakayta townships of Yangon Region on 14 March with the attempts to raid the police stations. Moreover, they raided a security police outpost in Hlinethaya Township and set fires to the buildings and vehicles for reasonless as well as set fires to factories in industrial zones in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, Insein and North Okkalapa townships. So, the State Administration Council declared orders of martial law to Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships of Yangon Region on 14 March and Dagon Myothit (South) and (North), North Okkalapa and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) townships on 15 March for effectively controlling security measures, the rule of law and region peace and tranquillity. At present, these areas are stable, and factories are operating as usual.—MNA

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.

MoHA Union Minister meets service personnel at training schools in PyinOoLwin

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Union Minister for Home Affairs and Union Minister at the Government Office Lt-Gen Soe Htut on 10 April explained endeavours of the SAC, future programmes and objectives, security measures of the State and dos and don'ts on duty to graduated SIP at Police Officer Training School in Zeebingyi of PyinOoLwin.

The Union Minister also met district and township authorities and went around the urban areas of PyinOoLwin.

On 11 April, the Union Minister met service members and families of Central Firefighting Training School, service

personnel from the Bureau of Special Investigation and Correctional Department at Police Officer Training School.

In Lashio, the Union Minister met police members and families at Deputy Shan State Police Force Commander's office. He then presented cash assistance provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs and departments to wives and families of police members who fell and were injured at Nawngmon police station due to an attack of armed insurgents on 10 April.

The Union Minister viewed the ground situation of the clash at Nawngmon police station. — MNA



Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut is greeting the graduated Sub-Inspectors of Police at Police Officer Training School in Zeebingyi, PyinOoLwin yesterday.

Ten-day gem show successfully concludes



Jade sales by tender system in progress in the final day of the emporium on 10 April.

THE 10-day Pearl and Gems conducted the transactions in on 10 April 2021. A total of 317 pearl lots

have been sold for K1427.26 million, while 1,955 jade lots for K31595.79million and 52 jewellery for K525.8million.

On the 10th day of Emporium, out of 348 jade lots from No. 1801 to 2148, 347 lots were sold for K 7,311,076,044.

“We organize this Emporium to provide proper financial circulation for gem traders and meet the needs of crude jades in the gem finished-products sector. It aimed to create job opportunities for the workers in the industry.

The show was held following COVID-19 health rules and social distancing methods. Although there were a few people at the Emporium, the transaction was better than the former emporiums.

It is such a successful

show,” said a senior officer of Myanmar Gems Enterprise.

The show was held from 1 to 10 April, and all 317 pearl lots were sold out while 1955jade lots out of 2,148 lots and 52jewellery out of 199 were sold out.

“It is less crowded compared to previous emporiums as it is held under COVID-19 health rules.

But it was such a successful show due to the good transactions of pearls, gems and jade.

The export quality gems were also displayed at the show. The officials also arranged for the convenience of dealers.

I think I can make profits on the gems I bought,” said a gem trader. —Naing Linn/ GNLM

Announcement of Union Election Commission 9 April 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 DaikU and Waw townships of Bago Region.
- 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 | 172 polling stations in DaikU, township of Bago Region | 161,811 | 149,957 | 41,558 | 986 | 14,608 |
| 2 | 116 polling stations in Waw, township of Bago Region | 151,050 | 131,530 | 28,694 | 1,230 | 15,306 |

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of DaikU and Waw 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.
- According to the inspection, a total of 288 polling stations in these two townships took out 352,320 ballots and used 196,027 ballots. It left 149,288 ballots instead of 156,293 ballots. The difference was 8,032 ballots and it found 1,027 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 | DaikU | 172 | 183,011 | 104,592 | 78,419 | 75,351 | 3,631 | 563 |
| 2 | Waw | 116 | 169,309 | 91,435 | 77,874 | 73,937 | 4,401 | 464 |
| | Total | 288 | 352,320 | 196,027 | 156,293 | 149,288 | 8,032 | 1,027 |

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in DaikU Township

- A total of 172 polling stations in DaikU Township of Bago Region took out 183,011 ballots and used 104,592 ballots. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations and 3,631 ballots were missing. They used 563 extra ballots. Findings were as follows:

| Sr | Subject | Withdrawal | Used | Exact remaining | Remaining on the Ground | Difference | |
|----|----------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|
| | | | | | | Missing | Extra |
| 1 | Ward/village tract ballots | 174,550 | 103,473 | 71,077 | 67,970 | 3,631 | 524 |
| 2 | Township Advanced ballots | 1,111 | 1,119 | -8 | | | 8 |
| 3 | Township Remaining ballots | 7,350 | | 7,350 | 7,381 | | 31 |
| | Township Total | 183,011 | 104,592 | 78,419 | 75,351 | 3,631 | 563 |

- It found the use of extra ballots at 36 polling stations out of 172 polling stations of DaikU Township and the ballots were missing at 66 polling stations. Findings were as follows:

| Sr | Ward/Village tract | Withdrawal | Used | Exact remaining | Remaining on the Ground | Sr | Difference | |
|----|-----------------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------|------------|-------|
| | | | | | | | Missing | Extra |
| 1 | Zaypaing Ward | 1 | 1,050 | 751 | 299 | 299 | | |
| 2 | Konthae Ward | 1 | 1,150 | 816 | 334 | 334 | | |
| 3 | Warso Ward | 2 | 3,150 | 2,033 | 1,117 | 1,117 | | |
| 4 | Kyaungsu Ward | 2 | 2,250 | 1,598 | 652 | 658 | | 6 |
| 5 | Thantadar Ward | 2 | 2,950 | 1,900 | 1,050 | 1,050 | | |
| 6 | Mintae Ward | 3 | 6,700 | 4,264 | 2,436 | 2,436 | | |
| 7 | Setkwin Ward | 1 | 1,750 | 1,173 | 577 | 577 | | |
| 8 | Dayaelme Ward | 2 | 3,900 | 2,662 | 1,238 | 1,238 | | |
| 9 | Phaaungwe Ward | 5 | 10,750 | 6,606 | 4,144 | 4,136 | 8 | |
| 10 | Hsinsakhan Village-tract | 4 | 2,300 | 1,456 | 844 | 694 | 150 | |
| 11 | Einchaelaysae Village-tract | 4 | 4,650 | 2,777 | 1,873 | 1,773 | 100 | |
| 12 | Thaekaw Village-tract | 3 | 1,450 | 875 | 575 | 575 | | |
| 13 | Phaungtawthi Village-tract | 5 | 6,500 | 3,991 | 2,509 | 2,459 | 50 | |
| 14 | Shansu Village-tract | 3 | 2,900 | 1,777 | 1,123 | 1,123 | | |
| 15 | Pukaing Village-tract | 2 | 3,200 | 1,701 | 1,499 | 1,449 | 50 | |
| 16 | Pauktapin Village-tract | 2 | 2,300 | 1,463 | 837 | 837 | | |
| 17 | Pyinmalwin Village-tract | 2 | 1,450 | 924 | 526 | 526 | | |
| 18 | Katokema Village-tract | 2 | 4,450 | 2,682 | 1,768 | 1,789 | | 21 |
| 19 | Katokephayargyi Village-tract | 5 | 7,150 | 4,810 | 2,340 | 2,253 | 87 | |
| 20 | Thonegwa Village-tract | 3 | 5,200 | 3,138 | 2,062 | 2,062 | | |
| 21 | Kale Village-tract | 3 | 2,800 | 1,512 | 1,288 | 1,288 | | |
| 22 | Panyut Village-tract | 3 | 3,350 | 1,898 | 1,452 | 1,352 | 100 | |
| 23 | Phaaungsu Village-tract | 3 | 3,550 | 2,115 | 1,435 | 1,435 | | |
| 24 | Mingalwun Village-tract | 2 | 3,000 | 1,613 | 1,387 | 1,387 | | |
| 25 | Natkin Village-tract | 5 | 3,900 | 2,216 | 1,684 | 1,684 | | |
| 26 | Kyaiksakaw (East) Village-tract | 2 | 3,700 | 2,610 | 1,090 | 1,090 | | |
| 27 | Kyaiksakaw (West) Village-tract | 6 | 6,150 | 4,141 | 2,009 | 2,009 | | |
| 28 | Kyungon Village-tract | 2 | 1,700 | 862 | 838 | 788 | 50 | |
| 29 | Thayettaw Village-tract | 3 | 2,000 | 755 | 1,245 | 815 | 430 | |
| 30 | Pathawe Village-tract | 3 | 1,300 | 728 | 572 | 572 | | |
| 31 | Pyinponlay Village-tract | 4 | 3,200 | 1,710 | 1,490 | 1,440 | 50 | |
| 32 | Kokkaing Village-tract | 4 | 2,950 | 1,602 | 1,348 | 1,343 | 5 | |
| 33 | Thabyaytan Village-tract | 4 | 5,950 | 3,191 | 2,759 | 2,109 | 650 | |
| 34 | Kankalay Village-tract | 5 | 3,050 | 1,673 | 1,377 | 1,424 | | 47 |
| 35 | Inntazin Village-tract | 5 | 3,300 | 1,710 | 1,590 | 1,440 | 150 | |
| 36 | Pwetamawt Village-tract | 3 | 2,150 | 1,118 | 1,032 | 1,032 | | |
| 37 | Tamangyi Village-tract | 2 | 1,250 | 432 | 818 | 668 | 150 | |
| 38 | Byaingchael Village-tract | 2 | 1,900 | 1,091 | 809 | 809 | | |
| 39 | Dagaung Village-tract | 3 | 2,050 | 1,151 | 899 | 799 | 100 | |
| 40 | Oakshitkon Village-tract | 6 | 4,450 | 2,435 | 2,015 | 2,015 | | |
| 41 | Shweinndon ywarthit Village-tract | 6 | 4,850 | 2,687 | 2,163 | 1,813 | 350 | |
| 42 | Hsinzalaot Village-tract | 3 | 2,600 | 1,566 | 1,034 | 834 | 200 | |
| 43 | Bagankhwe Village-tract | 4 | 2,450 | 1,475 | 975 | 975 | | |
| 44 | Doetan Village-tract | 6 | 3,800 | 2,112 | 1,688 | 1,788 | | 100 |
| 45 | Hsarparchone Village-tract | 6 | 2,950 | 1,629 | 1,321 | 1,121 | 200 | |
| 46 | Maugon Village-tract | 4 | 3,350 | 1,917 | 1,433 | 1,433 | | |
| 47 | Taungthalaemyaung Village-tract | 3 | 2,000 | 1,126 | 874 | 824 | 50 | |
| 48 | Sitbogyi Village-tract | 4 | 2,850 | 1,717 | 1,133 | 983 | 150 | |
| 49 | Byatgyi Village-tract | 4 | 3,400 | 1,905 | 1,495 | 1,495 | | |
| 50 | Bawni Village-tract | 1 | 2,050 | 1,246 | 804 | 804 | | |
| 51 | Phayargyikwin Village-tract | 4 | 2,650 | 1,579 | 1,071 | 1,071 | | |
| 52 | Hmawinn Village-tract | 2 | 2,250 | 954 | 1,296 | 746 | 550 | |
| 53 | Kamarphayone Village-tract | 1 | 2,450 | 1,600 | 850 | 849 | 1 | |
| | Ballots separately handed over | | | | | 350 | | 350 |
| | Ward/village-tracts ballots | 172 | 174,550 | 103,473 | 71,077 | 67,970 | 3,631 | 524 |
| | Township advance ballots | | 1,111 | 1,119 | -8 | | | 8 |
| | Township remaining ballots | | 7,350 | | 7,350 | 7,381 | | 31 |
| | Township Total | 172 | 183,011 | 104,592 | 78,419 | 75,351 | 3,631 | 563 |

Avoiding political revenge

THE Senior General said he urged all to perform genuine and honest politics and fair politics at the third special annual meeting of NCA in 2018. At more meetings and conferences, the Senior General emphasized holding a free and fair election, performing honest politics, and avoiding political revenge. Covid-19 broke out in 2020. Rules and regulations for canvassing were issued for the outbreak of Covid-19. But, the ruling party broke its rules and regulations, but other political parties were restricted.

(Excerpt from the speech to Union-level personnel, Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, chairpersons of Region and State Administration Councils and chairpersons of Self-Administered Zones and Division Administration Bodies made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 7 April 2021)

FROM PAGE-6

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Waw Township

7. A total of 116 polling stations in Waw Township of Bago Region took out 169,309 ballots and used 91,435 ballots. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations and 4,401 ballots were missing. They used 464 ballots which were not granted by UEC . Findings were as follows:

| Sr | Subject | Withdrawal | Used | Exact remaining | Remaining on the Ground | Difference | |
|----|----------------------------|------------|--------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|
| | | | | | | Missing | Extra |
| 1 | Wardavillage tract ballots | 164,450 | 90,245 | 74,205 | 70,269 | 4,395 | 459 |
| 2 | Township advance ballots | 1,196 | 1,190 | 6 | | 6 | |
| 3 | Township remaining ballots | 3,663 | | 3,663 | 3,668 | | 5 |
| | Township Total | 169,309 | 91,435 | 77,874 | 73,937 | 4,401 | 464 |

8. It found the use of extra ballots at 11 polling stations out of 116 polling stations of Waw Township and the ballots were missing at 28 polling stations. Findings were as follows:

| Sr | Ward/Village -tract | Total Polling station | Withdrawal | Used | Exact Re- maining | Remaining on the ground | Differ- ence | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------|--|
| | | | | | | | Missing | Extra | |
| 1 | Ayechanthayar Ward | 2 | 4,350 | 2,771 | 1,5790 | 1,529 | 50 | | |
| 2 | Boebon Ward | 1 | 250 | 147 | 103 | 103 | | | |
| 3 | Naungpattra Village-tract | 1 | 2,000 | 1,210 | 790 | 790 | | | |
| 4 | Naunggyan Village-tract | 1 | 1,050 | 722 | 328 | 328 | | | |
| 5 | Thabawtkan Village-tract | 2 | 1,850 | 1,128 | 722 | 722 | | | |
| 6 | Akayit Village-tract | 1 | 2,400 | 1,601 | 799 | 799 | | | |
| 7 | Kyaikhla Village-tract | 2 | 3,600 | 2,452 | 1,148 | 1,148 | | | |
| 8 | Wawshansu Village-tract | 1 | 800 | 446 | 354 | 354 | | | |
| 9 | Kyarlahar Village-tract | 1 | 1,550 | 976 | 574 | 574 | | | |
| 10 | Kanmyint Village-tract | 2 | 1,300 | 629 | 671 | 671 | | | |
| 11 | Kyonethin Village-tract | 2 | 1,000 | 585 | 415 | 415 | | | |
| 12 | Kawwin Village-tract | 2 | 1,400 | 852 | 548 | 548 | | | |
| 13 | Nyaungthonegwa Village-tract | 3 | 1,800 | 964 | 836 | 836 | | | |
| 14 | Moenat Village-tract | 2 | 2,200 | 1,168 | 1,032 | 1,032 | | | |
| 15 | Nyaunggyaine Village-tract | 3 | 3,100 | 1,646 | 1,454 | 1,204 | 250 | | |
| 16 | Kadut Village-tract | 2 | 2,300 | 1,330 | 970 | 970 | | | |
| 17 | Kyonrye Village-tract | 1 | 1,000 | 588 | 412 | 412 | | | |
| 18 | Bagadaw Village-tract | 1 | 2,100 | 1,182 | 918 | 918 | | | |
| 19 | Letpanthonepin Village-tract | 1 | 900 | 563 | 337 | 337 | | | |
| 20 | Kamarkaban Village-tract | 3 | 3,350 | 1,784 | 1,566 | 1,566 | | | |
| 21 | Phayarphyo Village-tract | 3 | 2,800 | 1,506 | 1,294 | 1,094 | 200 | | |
| 22 | Htaintabin Village-tract | 2 | 3,850 | 2,035 | 1,815 | 1,815 | | | |
| 23 | Zeephyugon Village-tract | 1 | 1,500 | 198 | 1,302 | 702 | 600 | | |
| 24 | Winkadat Village-tract | 3 | 2,600 | 1,422 | 1,178 | 1,178 | | | |
| 25 | Tawgyi Village-tract | 1 | 1,300 | 701 | 599 | 599 | | | |
| 26 | Shankaing Village-tract | 1 | 3,100 | 1,446 | 1,654 | 1,754 | | 100 | |
| 27 | Ahtetpannyo Village-tract | 2 | 2,400 | 1,261 | 1,139 | 1,139 | | | |
| 28 | Thabyaykan Village-tract | 2 | 2,100 | 1,071 | 1,029 | 1,029 | | | |
| 29 | Nyaungkharshae Village-tract | 3 | 7,900 | 3,915 | 3,985 | 2,633 | 1,352 | | |
| 30 | Hmonegadone Village-tract | 1 | 1,600 | 827 | 773 | 773 | | | |
| 31 | Hsetthwarchone Village-tract | 2 | 2,550 | 1,267 | 1,283 | 983 | 300 | | |
| 32 | Abyarghnetchwaywin Village-tract | 4 | 6,300 | 2,539 | 3,761 | 2,961 | 800 | | |
| 33 | Abyarahlaesu Village-tract | 2 | 1,200 | 598 | 602 | 602 | | | |
| 34 | Abyarbotae Village-tract | 1 | 2,200 | 1,185 | 1,015 | 1,015 | | | |
| 35 | Boepyan Village-tract | 2 | 1,650 | 861 | 789 | 789 | | | |
| 36 | Boesabei Village-tract | 2 | 3,050 | 1,690 | 1,360 | 1,360 | | | |
| 37 | Kantaw Ward | 1 | 3,250 | 2,113 | 1,137 | 1,137 | | | |
| 38 | Thitset Ward | 1 | 1,900 | 1,271 | 629 | 629 | | | |
| 39 | Chanmyathazi Ward | 1 | 2,450 | 1,512 | 938 | 938 | | | |
| 40 | Wawashaebatkan Ward | 3 | 8,250 | 5,464 | 2,786 | 2,786 | | | |
| 41 | Abyarhtaminsaing Village-tract | 3 | 1,650 | 771 | 879 | 879 | | | |
| 42 | Saitisu Village-tract | 1 | 1,350 | 729 | 621 | 621 | | | |
| 43 | Inntaingsu Village-tract | 1 | 2,100 | 1,370 | 730 | 730 | | | |
| 44 | Kamartakay Village-tract | 1 | 1,800 | 737 | 1,063 | 813 | 250 | | |
| 45 | Khintangyi Village-tract | 1 | 600 | 259 | 341 | 341 | | | |
| 46 | Borusein Village-tract | 1 | 4,300 | 2,196 | 2,104 | 2,104 | | | |
| 47 | Layeainsu Village-tract | 2 | 2,750 | 1,452 | 1,298 | 1,298 | | | |
| 48 | Thahtaykon Village-tract | 1 | 1,250 | 680 | 570 | 570 | | | |
| 49 | Myitkyo Village-tract | 3 | 4,550 | 2,614 | 1,936 | 1,934 | 2 | | |
| 50 | Gwaygyi Village-tract | 2 | 2,950 | 1,700 | 1,250 | 1,260 | | 10 | |
| 51 | Outgwaygyi Village-tract | 2 | 2,050 | 1,102 | 948 | 948 | | | |
| 52 | Boeseindarsu Village-tract | 1 | 1,650 | 808 | 842 | 642 | 200 | | |
| 53 | Bagan Village-tract | 1 | 2,150 | 1,128 | 1,022 | 933 | 89 | | |
| 54 | Letpan Village-tract | 2 | 3,350 | 2,005 | 1,345 | 1,494 | | 149 | |
| 55 | Tanawkyun Village-tract | 2 | 3,900 | 2,038 | 1,862 | 1,862 | | | |
| 56 | Oakpho Village-tract | 4 | 3,900 | 1,815 | 2,085 | 2,085 | | | |
| 57 | Thuyethamein Village-tract | 2 | 5,200 | 3,034 | 2,166 | 2,166 | | | |
| 58 | Setsu Village-tract | 1 | 2,700 | 1,415 | 1,285 | 1,285 | | | |
| 59 | Hsin Village-tract | 3 | 5,350 | 2,895 | 2,455 | 2,205 | 250 | | |
| 60 | Dalanwuan Village-tract | 3 | 3,450 | 1,872 | 1,578 | 1,578 | | | |
| 61 | Waingpat Village-tract | 3 | 3,350 | 1,910 | 1,440 | 1,438 | 2 | | |
| 62 | Abar Village-tract | 1 | 1,550 | 914 | 636 | 636 | | | |
| 63 | Kayinsu Village-tract | 2 | 1,100 | 525 | 575 | 575 | | | |
| 64 | Kapin Village-tract | 1 | 1,200 | 650 | 550 | 500 | 50 | | |
| Ballots separately handed over | | | | | | | 200 | 200 | |
| Wardavillage tract ballots | | 116 | 164,450 | 90,245 | 74,205 | 70,269 | 4,395 | 459 | |
| Township advance ballots | | | 1,196 | 1,190 | 6 | | 6 | | |
| Township remaining ballots | | | 3,663 | | 3,663 | 3,668 | | 5 | |
| Township Total | | 116 | 169,309 | 91,435 | 77,874 | 73,937 | 4,401 | 464 | |

Union Election Commission

Rakhapura Sasana Lankara Exam launched in Sittway

ALTHOUGH the Thamanaykyaw examination for Thamanay or novice monks below the age of 20 is annually held between Tazaungmon and Tabodwe (November-February), the exam was postponed

due to the COVID-19 outbreak. But now, the country has brought the COVID-19 outbreak under control, and so Rakhapura Sasana Lankara Association in Min Gam Ward of Sittway Township of Rakh-

ine State set the Rakhapura Sasana Lankara test (Sasana Lankara Thamanaykyaw test) between 13-15 March 2021 following the instructions or directives of Venerable Sayadaws.

A total of 71 novice monks sat for the exam in line with the COVID-19 preventive measures of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

This is the very first religious exam during the State

Administration Council term. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has sent a congratulatory message to Rakhapura Sasana Lankara Association for successfully holding the test.—MNA

Electrification, lifeblood of production, living standard of the people

SUPPLY of electricity to the State and no shortage of fuel are the primary duty of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, said Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo in meeting with service personnel from Htaukshabin, Kani and Mann oil fields and those of Petrochemical Industries (Thanbayagan) in Minhla Township of Magway Region recently. Electricity is essential for the country so as to carry out nation-building tasks day and night. Lighting from electricity can remove the darkness of the world, contributing towards the improvement of the living standard of the people.

Electrification is the main drive for operating industries as well as an important tool for broadening the horizon of the people. In fact, the supply of electricity is directly benefiting Myanmar society.

Only when various kinds of factories owned by both government and private sectors can operate their production will the country improve with high gross domestic product-GDP. In consequence, all the people can enjoy higher living standard.

The Union minister stressed the need to continuously perform maintenance and inspection of power cables and sub-power stations not to cause the breakdown of power supply while making strenuous efforts to install power cables and construction of sub-power stations in time.

In the future, it is necessary to emphasize the creation of job opportunities for Myanmar citizens. To be able to do so, businesspersons need to establish more and more factories. But, a plan must be adopted for the supply of electricity to operate these factories at full capacity.

Only when various kinds of factories owned by both government and private sectors can operate their production will the country improve with high gross domestic product-GDP. In consequence, all the people can enjoy higher living standard.

According to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, relevant service organizations will give better services to the people to install workplace and household used electric meters in a quick process. Hence, the development gap between urban and rural areas can be narrowed in a few years.

Thanks to the supply of electricity, industries mushrooming across the nation can easily manufacture an increased volume of products for earning foreign exchange not only for the State but also for themselves. Such income obtained from exportation can partially be spent on the modernization of the electrification system in implementing the 30-year National Electrification Plan.

Hence, all the people, including businesspersons, need to contribute towards the successful implementation of electrification projects for all.

Inside Covid Vaccine Production At BioNTech's New Plant In Germany

Production has been running night and day since the European Medicines Agency approved the site last week, with the facility poised to eventually churn out one billion doses a year.

DECONTAMINATION chambers, tight-fitting protective suits, a controlled atmosphere: vigilance is the order of the day when making Covid-19 vaccines at the new BioNTech plant in Marburg, Germany.

From the outside, the facility is an unassuming building on the outskirts of the town north of Frankfurt in central Germany.

But that quickly changes when you step inside the rooms of the second European site to manufacture the vaccine developed by BioNTech with US giant Pfizer.

Production has been running night and day since the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the site last week, with the facility poised to eventually churn out one billion doses a year.

"It takes a lot of manual work and about 50,000 steps to make a batch" of messenger RNA (mRNA), the substance that trains the immune system to protect itself against Covid-19, production manager Valeska Schilling told AFP.

From that batch, "we can

make some seven or eight million doses of vaccine," said Schilling, who is "extremely proud" of the huge scientific effort. 'Extremely proud'

Glass pipette in hand and wrapped head to toe in a blue protective suit, a young employee mixes pharmaceutical ingredients in a sterile bag to begin the process of making mRNA.

This step, called in-vitro transcription, is "the most technologically complicated", Schilling notes -- less a mass production process than an art form.

During in-vitro transcription, which Schilling compares to "making a photocopy of a book", enzymes are used to generate up to 500 "copy" mRNA molecules from a single DNA molecule.

After the reaction to produce the RNA, the resulting liquid must be purified: the enzymes and DNA used for the transcription are removed, and filtration prevents possible contamination.

In the third and final stage of production in Marburg, the mRNA is wrapped in fatty molecules, or lipids, so that it can get inside of



Production has been running night and day since the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the site last week, with the facility poised to eventually churn out one billion doses a year. PHOTO: AFP

human cells.

In all, it takes five to six days to make a 35-litre batch of mRNA, which is then transported to other factories for bottling -- currently done in Belgium and soon near Frankfurt.

Several time-consuming tests are carried out along the way to ensure the quality of the vaccine,

which is around 95 per cent effective against Covid-19 according to clinical studies.

2.5 billion doses

The first doses made by 400 workers in Marburg should be available by early April, according to BioNTech, which on Tuesday announced plans to produce up to 2.5 billion doses of the vaccine

worldwide this year -- 25 per cent more than originally planned.

BioNTech/Pfizer and US pharmaceutical giant Moderna were the first in the world to market vaccines using the pioneering messenger RNA process.

For Marburg, hosting the BioNTech plant is part of a long history of medical innovation

that began in 1890 when Emil von Behring invented the diphtheria vaccine -- a feat that later won him the first Nobel prize in medicine.

The Marburg plant formerly owned by Swiss pharmaceutical group Novartis and acquired by BioNTech in late 2020 is located in an industrial park named the "Behringwerke" after the eminent scientist.

The couple behind BioNTech, Ozlem Tureci and Ugur Sahin, managed to orchestrate a very speedy redevelopment of the plant: "It's fantastic what we've achieved in such a short time," Schilling said.

Marburg also has a high-security laboratory for the study of highly infectious and dangerous viruses -- one of only two in Germany.

But the town has also already experienced the terror of an epidemic: in 1967, it was hit by a then unknown Ebola-like disease now known as the "Marburg virus".

The disease still causes sporadic outbreaks in several African countries, with no vaccine in sight.

SOURCE: AFP

China mulls mixing vaccines to improve efficacy of jabs

China is considering the mixing of different Covid-19 vaccines to improve the relatively low efficacy of its existing options, a top health expert has told a conference.

AUTHORITIES have to "consider ways to solve the issue that efficacy rates of existing vaccines are

not high", Chinese media outlet The Paper reported, citing Gao Fu, the head of the Centre for Disease Control and Pre-

vention.

His comments mark the first time a top Chinese expert has publicly alluded to the rel-

atively low efficacy of the country's vaccines, as China forges ahead in its mass vaccination campaign and exports its jabs around the world.

China has administered around 161 million doses since vaccinations began last year -- most people will require two shots -- and aims to fully inoculate 40 per cent of its 1.4 billion population by June.

But many have been slow to sign up for jabs, with life largely back to normal within China's borders and domestic outbreaks under control.

Gao has previously stressed the best way to prevent the spread of Covid-19 is vaccination, and said in a recent state media interview that China aims to vaccinate 70 per cent to 80

per cent of its population between the end of this year and mid-2022.

At the conference in Chengdu on Saturday, Gao added that an option to overcome the efficacy problem is to alternate the use of vaccine doses that tap different technologies.

This is an option that health experts outside China are studying as well.

Gao said experts should not ignore mRNA vaccines just because there are already several coronavirus jabs in the country, urging for further development, The Paper reported.

Currently, none of China's jabs conditionally approved for the market are mRNA vaccines, but products that use the technology include those by US

pharma giant Pfizer and German start-up BioNTech, as well as Moderna.

China has four conditionally approved vaccines, whose published efficacy rates remain behind rival jabs by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, which have 95 per cent and 94 per cent rates respectively.

China's Sinovac previously said trials in Brazil showed around 50 per cent efficacy in preventing infection and 80 per cent efficacy in preventing cases requiring medical intervention.

Sinopharm's vaccines have efficacy rates of 79.34 per cent and 72.51 per cent respectively, while the overall efficacy for CanSino's stands at 65.28 per cent after 28 days.

SOURCE: AFP



China is considering the mixing of different Covid-19 vaccines to improve the relatively low efficacy of its existing options, a top health expert has told a conference. PHOTO: AFP

Extension of import licence fee relaxation period

The government has been rolling out the tax relief measures to help ease pain of the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Commerce reduced the import licence fee at K30,000 per application between 6 April and 30 September 2020 under Notification 23/2020, and also extended the period from 1 October to 31 December 2020 under Notification 64/2020, from 1 to 31 January 2021 under Notification 85/2021, from 1 to 28 February under Notification 13/2021, from 1 to 31 March under Notification 20/2021. The import licence fee relaxation period at K30,000 is extended to the end of April 2021. -- MNA

သတင်းစာတစ်ပြည်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြော်ငြာ
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- > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(ခင်စိတ္တ) ဖုန်း-၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅၊ ၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅
- > ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက်(တောင်ကြီး) ဖုန်း-၀၈၁-၂၂၁၀၆၄
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Record of Press Conference (4/2021) held on 9 April 2021 by the State Administration Council's Information Team

1. The Information Team of the State Administration Council held a press conference (4/2021) at the Ministry of Information on 9 April 2021. Leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, member of the Union Election Commission U Khin Maung Oo and representatives of departmental information teams replied to questions raised by media.

2. Leader of Information Team of SAC Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun presented SAC performance in March and in the first week of April, measures for security and stability of State, Tatmadaw's undertakings, the spreading of misinformation by media outlets, State-level corruption and embezzlement. Then, UEC Member U Khin Maung Oo briefed the announcement of UEC regarding the inspection findings on voter lists and ballots papers, ongoing and further work plans of UEC.

3. Firstly, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun highlighted SAC meetings and management meetings for the government's policies and future work plan. Discussions are being made as per the democratic practices. The SAC held council meeting five times while the management committee meetings were held two times in March and the second week of April. For the policies and future plans, arrangements are being made to improve the manufacturing sectors, including farming sectors, to hold outdoor sports competitions to strengthen the health sector; to revive the tourism and industrial sectors in connexion with the COVID-19 health rules, to be ready for the defence and security of State. He also explained the plans to adopt People's Militia Law stipulated in 2010, reopening of schools and monastic schools, invitation of local and foreign investment to produce agro-based value-added products, more assistance for the teachers of ethnic languages, policies to grant citizenship scrutiny cards to all citizens and ethnics, duties of management committee while the country leads to multiparty democracy pathway, the needs of ministries to carry out in line with the democratic ways for the reopening of banks, schools and hospitals, supervisions on budget status, estimated budget and effective use of budget without inflation and losses for the country. He



Media persons are raising questions and the Information Team Leader and officials concerned are answering them.

also briefed that Myanmar is an agricultural country with 70 per cent of population living in the rural area. Plans are being made to open further agricultural/breeding colleges and institutes as they have only one agricultural/livestock breeding university. It should focus on Research and Development sectors, and plans are being made with systematic researches in businesses. The State Administration Council Chairman Command-

rank officials, region and state council chairpersons on 6 April in Nay Pyi Taw. He discussed the current situation after the declaration of the state of emergency, future work programmes for the peace and development of State. The SAC Chairman also met the chairpersons of region/state administration councils, self-administered division and zones to discuss regional development programmes, including COVID-19 preventive measures as

there were only 7,422 patients just in Yangon General Hospital, and it reported 539 death cases per month. But now, the hospitals and clinics cannot be opened across the nation due to the healthcare workers who break the ethics. If there are more than 500 death cases just at Yangon General Hospital per month now, it should consider how many numbers of death cases will be in the country. It is just murder, so-called genocide. The video clip regarding the experience of the Chairman of SAC on 6 April was screened. The video clip shows CDM destroys the lives of the public and country as Country Destructive Movement. Two groups lead the movement composing local and foreign groups. Those living abroad include overseas groups. Some of them expect foreign aids, and they continuously attack the internal affairs of Myanmar. The local group has NLD supporters and extremists. CRPH can be defined as Committee Representing Pyi-Pyay-Hluttaw. Now, the leaders of CDM are known, and practical actions will be taken against them.

4. For the second point, they are such doings that affect the stability of the State. The NLD party members and supporters intentionally commit incitements to the public to take to the streets, threaten the lives of those who do not participate in protests. The riots became anarchy mob and changed into insurrection. The rioters used .22 guns, homemade guns, bombs, and fire bottles to make arson attacks on administrative offices, police stations, legal buildings, and public housings, factories. They also attempted to raid these plac-

es. Then, the angry protestors blocked the railways and public roads to destroy the streamlined transport system and conducted activities against Myanmar culture and religion. They become armed terrorists. Now, the photos of deceased police members and civilians are shown. It also found the children among the riots. The numbers of rioters become lesser and lesser day by day, and only a small number of rioters keep committing such crimes. On the other hand, the unscrupulous persons persuade the government employees to join CDM to affect the governance mechanism. Their targets are the banking, healthcare and transport sectors. They also do social punishment, so-called social bullying against non-CDM staff. They received fund assistance from international organizations and formed unlawful organizations like CRPH. However, such formation can be considered High Treason. But the CDM Supporting Team cannot support the people who want to live peacefully. Due to SAC's efforts for the rule of law and community peace, the acceleration of riots slowed down. According to the estimation, the numbers of CDM participants declined in March from 30 per cent in February. The rioters committed crimes of violent attacks in addition to arsons at 72 places, including 49 police stations and outposts, 29 ward/administrative offices, 39 departmental buildings, 11 roads/bridges, 10 banks, public housings, CCTVs, phone operator towers, warehouses, stalls, factories and industries in March. Due to these attacks, 16 police members died, and 263 police (36+227) were seriously injured. Moreover, six security forces and one family member also died. Some monks lost one eye, and the people grabbed the monks out of the cars and ordered them to disrobe. The NLD supporters commit explosions and arson attacks more and more now. There are two main reasons for doing so. The first one is that most of the people who want community peace no longer support their activities. It can be seen in the PowerPoint presentation. The data show the protests staged in February across the nation. There were only 5.1 million protestors on five twos revolution day, and it was just only 9 per cent of the country's population. Then

I want to say to the public that there are provokers who coerce people to keep committing such destructive acts that affect people's daily lives. The people should cooperate with the security forces for the security of their wards, townships and villages. The State Administration Council will give priority to protecting people's socio-economy and community peace. Violent people provoke the youths into the wrong ways.

er-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Taninthayi Region, Yangon Region, Eastern Shan State, Mandalay Region and Magway Region to meet the officials for regional development and security measures in March. Similarly, Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win also visited Kalaw, Aungban, Bahtoo, PyinOoLwin and Mandalay. The Chairman of SAC met the higher

the people can be infected even though they receive the vaccine and COVID-19 vaccination programmes up to 500,000 doses before New Year. The Senior General discussed the detailed plan for the education sector; especially in remote areas, as the country has 3.7 million people (8 per cent) who do not join the school, according to the 2019 data. During that meeting, the Senior General stressed the CDM as a Country Destructive Movement based on former press conferences' facts. Before the outbreak of COVID-19,

the numbers of protestors became lesser. But they also urged to stage protests and riots on the Armed Forces Day that fell on 27 March, and there was only 0.1 per cent of protestors across the nation on that day. When the numbers of protestors decline, they mainly commit violent attacks. They attacked with homemade bombs and grenades due to media news reporting for the possibility of civil war and incitement of criminal organizations. On 6 and 7 April, they used explosive devices like mines six times in Yangon Region, including five arsons on the ward administrative offices. I want to say to the public that there are provokers who coerce people to keep committing such destructive acts that affect people's daily lives. The people should cooperate with the security forces for the security of their wards, townships and villages. The State Administration Council will give priority to protecting people's socio-economy and community peace. Violent people provoke the youths into the wrong ways. On 29 March 2021, they burnt a police officer in Mandalay. Two suspects gave testimonies, and their recorded video clips will be screened. The victims were tortured and killed in such doings, raising a question: are they G-Z youths?

5. The Tatmadaw successfully held the 76th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day. Humanitarian demining work is continuing in the Northern Command Area and the Western Command Area (Kachin and Rakhine States), and mine clearance work was carried out in 465 houses in Garayan village in Winemaw Township from 15 to 31 March.

Similarly, in Rakhine State, mine clearance work was carried out along the Yangon-Sittway highway, the Inu-maw-Khamaungseik highway, in villages in the Maungtaw area, 290 road miles and 3,270 houses were cleared of mines. It is also being carried out in villages in Minbya, MyaukU, An, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships.

From 1 January 2021 to 6 April 2021, a total of over 198 kg of heroin, 598 stimulant tablets, 1,189 kilograms of ice worth K102 billion were confiscated.

The Tatmadaw conducts the aerial, on-water and aquatic exercise in the Bay of Bengal from 4 to 11 April 2021. The naval vessels included in the military drill are armed with various weapons. They are conducting Gun Firing Exercise, Electronic Warfare Exercise, Anti-Submarine Warfare

Exercise, Anti-Surface Warfare Exercise, Missile Non-Firing Exercise, and Search and Rescue Exercise.

6. Besides, the sixth transportation ceremony of stones to build the seated Buddha statue in Bumi Phattha Mudra, which will be the tallest Buddha statue among the seated Buddha statues in the world, was held on 4 April, and only one more time will be needed to transport all. The stone's sixth transportation can be said the biggest stone displacement in the world. The stone weighs 1,190 tons, with the



Media personnel are viewing the displays at the event.

steel frame of 62 tonnes being transported by motor vehicle to Nay Pyi Taw.

The Buddha statue, 81-foot-tall and 4,780-tonne-weight, will be built in Dekkhinathiri township in Nay Pyi Taw.

7. He said he would like to present the misinformation and incitement by the media.

Around 7 am on 27 March, the American Centre, located on Inya Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, was shot by a gun. Some media immediately misinformed the public that the security forces did that. Aye Thaw Kaung, who shot at the American Centre, was arrested on 30 March, and he also confessed that he shot it. The political insurgency has been sparked by the incitement of 27 March as People's Revolution Day. That is what the media is provoking people at their opportune time.

He urged the public to know the tactics of some corrupt media and be aware of incitements. Even now, some media outlets are instigating the emergence of armed terrorists in the country and are indicating that a civil war could break out. These are dangerous both for the country and the people as well as pushing the young people to the wrong way.

He urged the people not to believe the rumours and help the government move towards genuine and disciplined democracy. He said there are still protests and riots, although the number of riots and places is decreasing. Therefore, there are more mine attacks, killings and arson attacks. He said the unrest had been reduced due to the cooperation of the people who want peace and stability and urged them to collaborate between the security forces and the people to crack down on the ongoing acts of terrorism.

A case has been filed against him under Section 55 for personally transferring K20 million from the COVID-19 fund to another person without repayment being made, paying K65 million to two other persons. It was found that the non-repayment caused damage to the State's financial assets.

Similarly, former chief minister for Kayin State Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint and former minister for Kayin State Planning, Finance and Development U Than Naing were convicted of bribery.

Due to their issuance of the

K742.5 million from the funds of regional development to 19 persons without repayment, receiving K500 million from the company that won the tender to construct shopping mall before the contract was signed, spending 1.65 million from the State fund for medical service in July 2017, receiving US\$10,000 from a business person during his healthcare in Thailand in 2018, and receiving 5 million from a business person during a campaign trip to the villages during the October election campaign.

A case has been filed under Section 44 of the Anti-Corruption Law, and K16,320 million were also misappropriated by Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint.

9. Two types of protest can be seen: one is the voters who voted the NLD, not related to the fraudsters, and another type is NLD extremists and members of the extremist party who were implicated and involved in vote-rigging. Type two are involving in armed riots. The more the election commission reveals fraudulent ballots, the more they are afraid of being prosecuted. The more the public will become aware of their dishonesty. That is the reason they are escalating the protests. This situation is similar to the Harrington uprising that happened in 1956 in Myanmar, which was started from the leak of the exam questions. Of the 60,000 students who sat the exam, over 50 per cent who did not know the question in advance started the incitement, and students protested when the government dismissed the exam. During the uprising, Harrington from Saint Paul School died. Finally, the government had to let all the students pass the exam.

There were 39 million eligible voters in the 2020 General Election. There were 10.4 million fraudulent ballots, a quarter of which were vote-rigging, and there were injustices in the pre-election environment. The government that will take care of the people's destiny and the country's destiny cannot "pass the exam because of Harrington".

Voting frauds are the violation of democracy and ridicule the will of the people and lead to destruction. As the Tatmadaw is performing to promote democracy, it is necessary to weed to grow a tree and spray with pesticides if it is required to do so. I would like to urge the people to be aware of these people who are inciting and pushing young people to the streets.

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8. He continued the investigation on the State-level bribery and corruption is underway. Mon State former chief minister Dr Aye Zan was found to have received money from business people by using his chief minister's capacity. Since 2008, he had received a total of K569,809,000 from the entrepreneurs who have been extracting sand in the Salween River.

In the sand dredging project, K132,357,000 was lost due to his permission in order to reduce the mineral tax to be paid to the State budget without the right to do so.

land lease grant to the private sector for over 4 acres of Kannar road regarding the upgrading project of the Kannar road in Hpa-an, more than 5,370 million kyats was lost to the state budget.

Although funds raised by various businesses for regional development from 14 May 2018 to 31 January 2021 were supposed to be allocated to the State Funds under the Financial Procedures Order No 58/2019, more than K9,697 million were received by opening separate accounts in private banks.

Moreover, he was lending


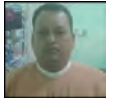




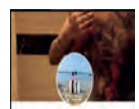

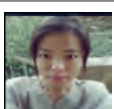

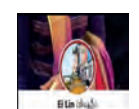


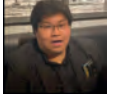

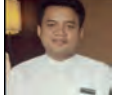






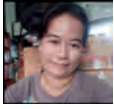






To be continued.

Those spreading news to affect State stability charged under Section 505-A

The following celebrities and people have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for intentionally committing incitements to the government employees to join CDM to affect government mechanism and for spreading information showing

their support for unlawful CRPH including fake news and other information to unrest riots and threaten the public on the social media.

The list of people charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code

| Sr | Account name | Profile | Address | Section of Penal Code | Photo | Sr | Account name | Profile | Address | Section of Penal Code | Photo |
|----|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|----|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | Daung https://www.facebook.com/daung.actor | Daung (a) Thura Aung  | Yankin Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  | 11 | Min Thein https://www.facebook.com/100010362247396 | Min Thein  | Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region | 505-a |  |
| 2 | ASharer Pont https://www.facebook.com/ThiriMay0007 | Thiri May  | Zambuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area | 505-a |  | 12 | Yu Yu Lwin https://www.facebook.com/yu.yu.lwin.180 | Yu Yu Lwin  | Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  |
| 3 | Nann Phyo https://www.facebook.com/nann.phyo | Nann Phyo  | Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region | 505-a |  | 13 | MoMo Win Tin https://www.facebook.com/sann.kyu.1232 | Mo Mo Win  | Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  |
| 4 | Su Yin Htun https://www.facebook.com/su.htun.12 | Su Yin Htun  | Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region | 505-a |  | 14 | Win Tun https://www.facebook.com/kaungpaye.sone.33 | Win Tun  | Bahan Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  |
| 5 | Ei Lin (Ei Nway Oo) https://www.facebook.com/ei.lin.9678 | Ei Ei Lin  | Mawlamyine Township, Mon State | 505-a |  | 15 | Thu Han Linn https://www.facebook.com/Thuhanlinn | Thu Han Linn  | Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  |
| 6 | Tay Zar Tun Taygyi https://www.facebook.com/tay.zar.9847 | Dr Tay Zar Tun  | Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  | 16 | Zarni Mg Mg https://www.facebook.com/zarni.mgm.3 | Zarni Mg Mg  | Ahlon Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  |
| 7 | Mo Lwin https://www.facebook.com/molwinZ | Mo Lwin  | Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  | 17 | Lin Khine https://www.facebook.com/lin.khine.9 | Lin Khine  | Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw | 505-a |  |
| 8 | Red Myanmar https://www.facebook.com/100009231582903 | Nyo Nyo Seint  | Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  | 18 | Kabyar Won Yan https://www.facebook.com/100028001191536 | Kabyar Won Yan  | Insein Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  |
| 9 | Ei Ei Phyu https://www.facebook.com/100035429341114 | Ei Ei Phyu  | Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region | 505-a |  | 19 | Naing Naing Aung https://www.facebook.com/naingnaing.aung.9235 | Naing Naing Aung  | Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  |
| 10 | La Min Aung https://www.facebook.com/100013727495996 | La Min Aung  | Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region | 505-a |  | 20 | Wai Lynn Phyo https://www.facebook.com/wailynn20 | Wai Lynn Phyo  | Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region | 505-a |  |

Action will be taken against those who will admit the offenders, and list of remaining offenders will be released. —MNA

11 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 11 April, total figure rises to 142,587

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,587** after **11 new cases** were reported on 11 April 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **131,856** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Union Education Minister holds discussion with education staff in Yangon

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe held meeting with the officials of the Higher Education, Basic Education, Technical and Vocational Education sectors yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the efforts of the ministry in fulfilling the needs of basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw, Meiktila, Magway and Patheingyi townships, the reopening of all basic education schools on 1 June while the universities will reopen on 5 May for the final year and master students.

The Union Minister said the university students must review the remaining subjects to sit for during

their current studies. The result of Master (2nd year) will be released as soon as possible to be able to apply for tutor and demonstrator positions.

He also discussed the appointment of teachers for basic and higher education sectors, combination of schools if they have very few numbers of students, more applicants for M.Ed than the limited numbers and arrangements to fulfill the needs of teachers while they join M.Ed.

The Union Minister said the students would face difficulties for long suspension of the teaching sector. It is unnecessary to pay salary to those do not enter duties by breaking Civil Services Law. The



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe meets the officials of the education sector at different levels in Yangon yesterday.

teachers should consider that their pupils and youths will face hardships if they do return their duties. The

non-CDM education staff must sign not to commit such doing again if they return their duties.

He also stressed the need to urged the CDM participants to return their duties in line with the Civil

Services Law and to welcome the teachers who left CDM.

The Union Minister also discussed the plans to provide proper teaching aids to the schools and urged the teachers to submit the needed things for the schools no later than 23 April. He then instructed the township education officers to make efforts in their duties and also said those with 36 years of experience in education sector who have been fired can submit their proposals to the ministry if they feel aggrieved for such actions.

Then, the attendees to the meeting coordinated the discussions and the Union Minister gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Syria juice vendor gears up for Ramadan as crisis bites

IN a busy market in Syria's capital, 53-year-old Ishaq Kremed serenades customers and agilely pours tamarind juice from the ornate brass jug on his back ahead of Ramadan.

The popular street vendor says he usually has more customers during the Islamic holy month starting next week, during which many favour the drink to break their day-long fast at sundown.

But he says his trade of more than 40 years has also taken on new meaning since the war-torn country has been plunged into economic crisis.

"My main job is to make customers smile," says the moustachioed father of 16, dressed in billowing trousers, a patterned waistcoat and red fez.

"What's most important is that they leave me feeling happy -- that whoever turns up stressed leaves feeling content," adds the street vendor.

On his daily rounds of the Hamidiyah covered market, dozens of customers approach him to quench their thirst, often taking pictures of him and his traditional get-up with their cellphones.

As he nimbly pours juice in long streams into plastic cups, he distracts them for a while with a song.

A surgical face mask lowered under his chin, Kremed intones lyrics for a mother and her two young daughters, before handing her a cup of the dark brown beverage.

He takes his fez off to collect his payment, then places it back on the top of his head.—AFP ■

Lebanon civil war survivors say today's crisis even worse

DURING the civil war that ended over 30 years ago Abla Barotta survived shelling and clashes, but she now fears a "slow death" from Lebanon's worst economic crisis in decades.

The 58-year-old mother of three is a survivor among the more than 50 per cent of Lebanese today living in poverty.

Echoing a common refrain on television and at public gatherings, Barotta said even the worst days of the war weren't this tough.

"We used to hide in houses or basements every time we heard shelling during the war, but today, where can we go to hide from hunger, the economic crisis, the coronavirus pandemic and our political leaders?" she told AFP.

"We used to fear death from bombardment or sniper fire, but now we fear everything: illness, poverty and hunger," she said.

Her voice lowering to a whisper, she added: "To die from shelling is better, at least there is no suffering... while today, we suffer and die slowly



Civil war survivor Jean Saliba, walks past buildings damaged by the August 4, 2020 Beirut port blast, in Karantina district of the Lebanese capital. PHOTO: AFP

every day."

Lebanon on Tuesday marks 46 years since clashes erupted in Beirut between Lebanese Christians and Palestinians backed by leftist and Muslim factions, marking the start of a 15-year conflict that drew in regional powers Israel and Syria.

At the time, the country was divided into warring sectarian fiefdoms.

But many still managed to preserve a semblance of normal life between bouts of heightened violence and kidnappings.

The wheels of Lebanon's economy kept turning, bolstered by money and weapons sent to warring parties from abroad.

'Haven't seen the state' Corruption, negli-

gence and bitter political divisions, however, have plagued Lebanon in the run-up to a financial slump now sounding the death knell for a fragile middle class.

Since 2019, the Lebanese pound has lost more than 85 per cent of its value against the dollar on the black market and prices have soared.—AFP ■

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Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated: 12th April 2021

Brazil building new giant Christ statue, taller than Rio's



A head and arms have been added to the Christ the Protector statue being built in the southern Brazilian city of Encantado; it stands taller than Rio's iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer. **PHOTO: AFP**

A giant new statue of Christ being constructed in southern Brazil will rise even higher than the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue that overlooks Rio de Janeiro.

A head and outstretched arms were added this week to the statue, which has been under construction since 2019 in the city of Encantado, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Completion of the monument is scheduled for late this year, according to the Association of the Friends of Christ, which is coordinating the work.

"It is a day for celebration, for devotion," said Gilson Conzatti, a local councillor and son of Adroaldo Conzatti, the politician

who conceived the idea.

The elder Conzatti, who was the city's mayor, died in March from complications of Covid-19.

The statue, to be named Christ the Protector, will stand 43 meters (140 feet) tall, including its pedestal, making it one of the world's tallest statues of Christ with outstretched arms.

It will measure 36 metres from hand to hand, and will have an interior elevator and an observation deck near the top.

Christ the Redeemer, in comparison, measures 38 metres high, pedestal included, and spans 28 metres hand to hand. It will mark its 90th birthday this October. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former SS canteen at Auschwitz bears witness to Holocaust history

A Polish foundation hopes to restore a canteen where SS guards ate and sought distraction after long days of killing at the former Nazi German death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, to bear witness to a forgotten page of Holocaust history.

Built in March 1942 at Auschwitz -- Europe's largest World War II death factory -- the massive dining hall could house up to 4,000 people. After the war it served as a cereal warehouse before it was abandoned and gradually fell into ruin.

The SS "came here to have a bite, find some distraction, have a drink, take part in ceremonies, concerts, parties—all in the shadow of the monstrous crime that was Auschwitz-Birkenau," said Dagmar Kopijas, one of the project organizers.

"This building was the focal point of the family and personal life of the SS... serving as a place where they came to forget their work which was to kill people," Kopijas told AFP at the site, where Nazi Germany built its largest death camp. —AFP ■

Argentine zoo transfers two rare Bengal tigers to the US

TWO rare white Bengal tigers from Argentina are due to arrive Saturday at a spacious sanctuary in the US state of Colorado in hopes of a "better quality of life", their space-challenged Eco-park in Buenos Aires said.

Rhiano, a 14-year-old born in the Argentine capital's old zoo — later transformed into today's Eco-park—and Cleo, a 12-year-old originally from a Canadian zoo, were headed to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colorado, which is known for its work rescuing and caring for large predators.

"It's a long trip, between the 11-hour flight to Dallas and

then a nine-hour drive to the sanctuary in Colorado," said the Buenos Aires environmental secretary, Eduardo Machiavelli, quoted in a press release from the Eco-park.

Staff there had trained the tigers to become accustomed to the transfer cages so they could make the long trip with the least possible stress, Machiavelli said.

Since the old Buenos Aires zoo was closed a few years ago and transformed into the city's Eco-park, more than 890 animals have been transferred to more modern or spacious facilities elsewhere. —AFP ■



This handout picture from the Ecoparque BA, or Eco-park of Buenos Aires, shows keepers moving one of two white Bengal tigers in fitted cages to begin a journey to a far more spacious sanctuary in the US state of Colorado. **PHOTO: AFP**

Harry but no Meghan at pared-back funeral for Prince Philip



Wardens of the Castle shelter from the rain beneath umbrellas outside Windsor Castle in Windsor, west of London, on 10 April 2021, the day after the death of Britain's Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at the age of 99. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE funeral of Queen Elizabeth II's husband, Prince Philip, will take place next week, Buckingham Palace said on Saturday, announcing a stripped-back ceremony due to coronavirus restrictions, and a return for exiled royal Prince Harry but not his wife, Meghan.

The announcement came as the couple's eldest son, heir to the throne Prince Charles, 72, paid a heartfelt tribute to his "dear Papa", and said he and the royal family missed him "enormously".

"My dear Papa was a very special person who I think above all else would have been amazed by the reaction and the touching things that

have been said about him, and from that point of view we are, my family, deeply grateful for all that," he added.

"It will sustain us in this particular loss and at this particularly sad time."

The Duke of Edinburgh - the 94-year-old queen's husband of 73 years -- died peacefully on Friday just two months short of his 100th birthday, triggering eight days of national mourning.

Royal officials said his funeral, which will be televised, will take place at 1400 GMT on Saturday, April 17 in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, west of London.

It will be preceded by a national minute's silence. —AFP ■

Cuba: New animal-welfare law allows cockfights, religious sacrifice

CUBA on Saturday published a new animal-welfare law, the country's first, providing fines in cases of abuse but not banning cockfights or animal sacrifices during religious rites.

The legislation is considered a victory for Cuba's civil society, one of the first times its demands have become law in the Communist country.

On April 7, 2019, some 500 people marched in Havana to demand an animal-protection law, in what was the first independent, nonpolitical mass demonstration ever authorized by the Cuban government.

In February, a few dozen animal-rights activists assembled again in front of the Agriculture Ministry. —AFP ■

Iran starts up advanced centrifuges, breaching terms of nuclear deal

IRAN announced Saturday it has started up advanced uranium enrichment centrifuges in a breach of its undertakings under a troubled 2015 nuclear deal, days after the start of talks on rescuing the accord.

The United States had said Friday that it had offered “very serious” ideas on reviving the accord but was waiting for Tehran to reciprocate, something Saturday’s move signally failed to do.

President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the three cascades of 164 IR-6 centrifuges, 30 IR-5 and another 30 IR-6 devices at Iran’s Natanz uranium enrichment plant in a ceremony broadcast by state television.

The television aired no images of the injection of uranium hexafluoride gas into the cascades, but broadcast a link with engineers at the plant who said

they had started the process.

Iran’s latest move to step up uranium enrichment follows an opening round of talks in Vienna Tuesday with representatives of the remaining parties to the nuclear deal on bringing the United States back into it.

Then-president Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018 but his successor Joe Biden has said he is ready to return, arguing the deal had been successful in dramatically scaling back Iran’s nuclear activities.

The Vienna talks are focused not only on lifting crippling economic sanctions Trump reimposed, but also on bringing Iran back into compliance after it responded by suspending several of its own commitments.

All sides said the talks, in which Washington is not participating directly but has the



A handout picture provided by the Iranian presidential office shows an engineer inside Iran’s Natanz uranium enrichment plant. **PHOTO: AFP**

European Union as an intermediary, had got off to a good start.

Iran has demanded that the United States first lift all sanctions imposed by Trump, which include a sweeping unilateral ban on its oil exports, before it falls back in line with obligations

it suspended.

The “US — which caused this crisis — should return to full compliance first,” Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted, adding that “Iran will reciprocate following rapid verification.” —AFP ■

German conservatives mull Merkel succession



Germany’s once fringe Green Party, currently surging in the polls, said on April 7, 2021 it would name its first chancellor candidate this month ahead of September’s general election to replace Angela Merkel. **PHOTO: AFP**

WITH less than six months to go until a general election and their poll ratings plummeting, Angela Merkel’s conservatives are meeting for crunch talks Sunday as pressure builds to pick their chancellor candidate.

Long-time Merkel ally Armin Laschet, 60, took over as leader of the chancellor’s CDU party in January, and would normally be first choice to lead the CDU and its Bavarian affiliate CSU into the elections on September 26.

Yet as the conservatives’ poll ratings plummet over their recent handling of the coronavirus crisis, some are calling for Laschet to step aside in favour of the more charismatic CSU

leader Markus Soeder, 54.

After several rounds of shadow boxing on talk shows and in the press, the two men will have the chance to stake their claims when they each deliver a speech to conservative lawmakers on Sunday.

Though neither Laschet nor Soeder has officially announced their candidacy, Bild newspaper declared Sunday’s meeting “the weekend of truth” in the race to succeed Merkel.

While a final choice of candidate is not expected immediately, conservative parliamentary leader Ralph Brinkhaus called Friday for a decision to be made “in the next two weeks”. —AFP ■

Peru votes amid deadly coronavirus surge

SOME 25 million Peruvians are set to turn out Sunday to vote for a new president amid the country’s deadliest week of the coronavirus pandemic and a surge in new infections.

Voting is mandatory in the country of 33 million, which saw an average of 279 daily deaths over the past week and 384 fatalities in 24 hours reported Saturday — the third daily death toll record this week. Over 11,200 new cases were recorded Saturday. Unlike its neighbour Chile, which was also due to hold elections Sunday but delayed them over the pandemic, Peru’s government decided to press ahead.

More than 1.6 million people have tested positive for the

coronavirus in Peru to date, and more than 54,000 have died. The South American continent is battling a surge in infections fueled by new virus variants believed to be more contagious. Six of the 18 presidential candidates have contracted the virus, including former football goalkeeper George Forsyth — one of the leading contenders according to polls — who was forced to cut short his final week of campaigning.

With aspirants from the left to the right of the political spectrum vying for the top post in a country where personality tends to count for more than ideology, no one enjoys more than 10 per cent of polled support. —AFP ■



In spite of a fast-rising infection rate, candidates have held events with hundreds of people such as this rally for Veronika Mendoza in Lima in late March 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Insurgency, war leave 92 dead in Afghanistan in 24 hrs: monitor agency

NINETY-TWO people have been killed in insurgency and war in Afghanistan since Friday morning, an independent local war monitoring group said on Saturday.

“Within the past 24 hours, our team has documented 92 deaths, including two civilians, 27 Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) members, and 63 Taliban militants,” Reduction in Violence (RiV) confirmed on its twitter account.

Another 51 Taliban militants and seven ANDSF members were also wounded during the cited period.

Taliban militants, who ruled the country before being ousted in late 2001, renewed armed insurgency killing government troops as well as civilians. — Xinhua ■

Chad votes with 30-year ruler Deby poised for sixth win

CHAD headed into presidential elections on Sunday in which Idriss Deby Itno, the country’s ruler for the last three decades, looks assured of a sixth term.

A key ally in the West’s anti-jihadist campaign in the Sahel, Deby, 68, is frontrunner in a six-candidate race without major rivals after a campaign in which demonstrations were banned or dispersed.

Chad has struggled with poverty and instability since gaining independence from France in 1960.

Its leader, Deby, is a former rebel and career soldier who seized power in a coup in 1990 and has twice, with French help, thwarted attempts to oust him.

Other candidates include Albert Pahimi Padacke, 55, a former prime minister under Deby, and Felix Nialbe Romadoumngar, 64 — officially “leader of the opposition” as his URD party has eight seats in the National Assembly. — AFP ■

Nine Cities to host FIFA Women's World Cup 2023

FOOTBALL authorities of the FIFA recently announced that nine cities in Australia and New Zealand will host matches of the upcoming Women's World Cup, according to the Asian Football Confederation.

There will be 10 stadiums in both cities to show the glory of the women's football, officials

stated.

The Host Cities and stadiums for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 are Adelaide and Hindmarsh Stadiums in Auckland, Brisbane Stadium in Brisbane, Dunedin Stadium in Dunedin, Waikato Stadium in Hamilton, Melbourne Rectangular Stadium in Melbourne,

Perth Rectangular Stadium in Perth, Stadium Australia and Sydney Football Stadium in Sydney and Wellington Stadium in Wellington.

Speaking about the selection of the Host Cities for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, Gianni Infantino, FIFA President, said "The appointment

of the 9 Host Cities represents a major milestone for the next FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, as well as for players and football fans across Australia, New Zealand and around the world.

"Building on the incredible success of France 2019 both on and off the pitch, the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 and

9 Host Cities across Australia and New Zealand will not only showcase the world's very best players, but will also provide a powerful platform to unite and inspire people, transform lives and create a lasting legacy for women's football in Australia and New Zealand and around the world."—GNLM ■

Ibrahimovic sees red but Milan see off Parma

ZLATAN Ibrahimovic set up two first-half goals before being sent off after an hour as 10-man AC Milan beat Parma 3-1 on Saturday to boost their Champions League hopes.

The 39-year-old Swede was given a straight red card for arguing with the referee at the Stadio Ennio Tardini when his team were two goals ahead.

Riccardo Gagliolo pulled one back for relegation-threatened Parma minutes after Ibrahimovic's sending off, but Milan held on despite some late scares,

with Rafael Leao scoring a third in injury time.

Second-placed Milan closed the gap to leaders Inter, who host Cagliari on Sunday, to eight points.

Stefano Pioli's Milan are pushing for a return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2013-2014 season. Struggling defending champions Juventus are four points behind Milan in third before hosting Genoa on Sunday, when fourth-placed Atalanta, who are a further point adrift,

play at Fiorentina.

Luigi Sepe had denied Franck Kessie early on before Ibrahimovic sent the ball through for Rebic, who spun and blasted in the ninth-minute opener.

Ibrahimovic then combined with Theo Hernandez and teed up Kessie to drill in the second just before the break.

Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma did well to save an Andrea Conti header and Graziano Pelle's follow-up five minutes into the second half. But Ibrahimovic was given his marching orders for a comment to the referee over a midfield incident in which he wasn't involved. Gagliolo gave Parma a lifeline, beating Donnarumma, who made some crucial late saves before Leao added a third.

Milan are set to be without Ibrahimovic for their next two games at home against Genoa and Sassuolo as Pioli's men bid for a first win at the San Siro in over two months.—AFP ■



Zlatan Ibrahimovic set up two first-half goals before being sent off after an hour as 10-man AC Milan beat Parma 3-1 on Saturday to boost their Champions League hopes. PHOTO: AFP

Matsuyama on the brink of historic Masters victory



Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, left, celebrates with his caddy Shota Hayafuji, right, after firing a seven-under par 65 Saturday at Augusta National to seize a four-stroke lead at the Masters. PHOTO: AFP

WITH a new coach solving swing issues and reduced celebrity media stress this week, Japan's Hideki Matsuyama finds himself on the verge of a historic victory at the Masters.

Matsuyama fired a seven-under par 65 Saturday, his low score in 37 career rounds at Augusta National and the week's first bogey-free round, to grab a four-stroke lead after 54 holes on 11-under 205.

About the only thing that's a mystery to him so far at Augusta National is what it would mean to his golf-loving homeland if he becomes the first Japanese man to win a major title.

"I'm not sure how to answer

the question," Matsuyama said through a translator. "All I can do is prepare well, try my best, and do the best that I can tomorrow."

Two Japanese women have won major titles, Hinako Shibuno at the 2019 Women's British Open and Chako Higuchi at the 1977 LPGA Championship.

Two Japanese men have managed major runner-up finishes, Isao Aoki at the 1980 US Open and Matsuyama when he shared second at the 2017 US Open.

The only Asian man to win a major golf title was South Korea's Yang Yong-eun at the 2009 PGA Championship.—AFP ■

Havertz, Pulisic shine as Chelsea cruise into fourth place

CHELSEA boosted their bid to finish in the Premier League's top four as Kai Havertz and Christian Pulisic starred in a 4-1 win at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Thomas Tuchel's side blew Palace away with a swaggering first half display inspired by Germany forward Havertz.

Chelsea are up to fourth place and sit two points clear of fifth placed Liverpool.

West Ham, also two points

behind the Blues, would reclaim fourth if they beat Leicester on Sunday.

Havertz has endured a difficult time since his close-season move from Bayer Leverkusen, but he gave a rare glimpse of his quality with the opening goal in south London.

The 21-year-old turned provider to set up Pulisic for the second goal before Kurt Zouma put Chelsea three up after 30 minutes. Christian Benteke

got one back for Palace in the second half, but Pulisic netted again as Chelsea cruised to their first win in three league games.

"Kai will never be our emotional leader, we don't expect him to be, but we expect to see his quality," Tuchel said.

"Honestly he needed to show he could do better, that was the challenge personally for him. He got a second chance to show up after Porto.—AFP ■



Chelsea's Kai Havertz (R) starred in their win at Crystal Palace. PHOTO: AFP