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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 363, 3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tagu 1382 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Wednesday, 14 April 2021

## Announcement of Union Election Commission 11 April 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Kyaukpadaung and Mahlaing townships of Mandalay Region.
2. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

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## Passenger trains run along Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay routes

MYANMA Railways has launched the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon passenger trains since 4 April.

The No (8) down Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon passenger train ran at 6 am yesterday for travellers' convenience during the Thingyan holiday.

A total of 42 upper-class/ordinary class passengers boarded the train from the Nay Pyi Taw station and the stations along the route following the COVID-19 rules.

Similarly, the RBE passenger train for the Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay course departed yesterday morning. A total of 32 passengers boarded the train from the Nay Pyi Taw station and the stations along the way and arrived at Mandalay in the afternoon.

For the people who will return home on 19 April, the No (7) up train from Yangon will depart at 8 am and arrive at 8 pm at Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanma Railways will increase the number of trains and provide their services as the number of passengers increases. People can reportedly take the train for the Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon route safely. – MNA



A total of 42 upper-class/ordinary class passengers boarded the train from the Nay Pyi Taw station and the stations along the route following the COVID-19 rules.

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## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

### 1. Political affairs

- Building of a Union based on democracy and federalism in practising genuine disciplined multiparty democracy in a full fairness manner
- Emphasizing of restoration of eternal peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)
- 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

- 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

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

### 3. Social affairs

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

## Five future programmes of State Administration Council

- 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.
- Effective measures will be taken for the prevention of current infectious COVID-19 with added momentum.
- Efforts will be made to recover businesses that faced loss caused by COVID-19 in various ways as quickly as possible.
- 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.
- 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.

## 18<sup>th</sup> Rakhine traditional Thanaka grinding festival, ceremony of sacred bathing of Buddha Images celebrated in Yangon



The association chairperson and officials are re-freshening the Buddha images with the scented water.

THE 18<sup>th</sup> Rakhine traditional Thanaka grinding festival and ceremony of sacred bathing of Buddha Images were held at Rakhine Religious Hall located in the eastern stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda in Bahan Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

During the ceremony, Rakhine Literature and Culture Association (Yangon) Chairperson Daw Saw Khin Tint briefed the holding of the Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival.

Then, the chairperson of the association and officials poured the scented water on the Buddha images.

“We hold Rakhine traditional water festival with three stages. In the first stage, we organize Thanaka grinding ceremony, the second one is the sacred bathing of Buddha Image, and the third one is playing water in line with our Rakhine tradition and culture. On the morning of Thingyan Akyo Day, Rakhine Lit-

erature and Culture Association (Yangon) and association members conducted sacred bathing of Buddha images,” Daw Saw Khin Tint, chairperson of the association, said during the ceremony.

Then, the association chairperson and officials re-freshened the Buddha images with the scented water.

Finally, Vice-Chair U Than Maung of the association expressed words of thanks and concluded the ceremony. – MNA

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## The Tatmadaw took over the State duty due to the assignment of the Pro Tem President. It was not Coup D'état

THE Union Election Commission did not address such problems. After forming the new Union Election Commission, voter lists were scrutinized in 98 townships of 10 regions and states. Such scrutiny showed about four million voter lists between the list of township election sub-commissions and the immigration department. More than one million persons without citizenship scrutiny cards cast votes. More than 9 million of over 14 million ballot papers were used, and more than 5 million ballot papers were lost. Although the Tatmadaw sent a letter to solve the problems by holding the State Defence and Security Council meeting, the reason was showed not to do so under the law. They did not accept the postponement of the Hluttaw and the assignment of a third party to inspect the voting frauds. Hence, the Tatmadaw took over the State duty due to the assignment of the Pro Tem President. It was not Coup D'état.

*(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)*

## Union Minister U Shwe Lay inspects construction of extended hospital in Monywa

UNION Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay inspected the renovation of the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway, the Sagaing-Monywa route built by the BOT system and the construction of the extended 5-storey building in the People's Hospital in Monywa on 12 April.

The Union Minister held a meeting with Sagaing Region Administration Council Chairman U Maung Maung Lin and the council members, Commander of the North-West Command Brig-Gen Phyo Thant and officials to discuss the successful completion of the extended 5-storey building at the Monywa People's Hospital.

At the meeting, the Union Minister stressed the need to systematically use the funds according to the financial rules



The MoC Union Minister is inspecting the construction of the extend 5-storey building in the Monywa People's Hospital on 12 April 2021.

and regulations and coordinate with relevant departments to complete the construction works in time and be a high-quality hospital as per the hospital characteristics.

He said the hospital would

not only benefit the people in Monywa but also the people of the surrounding regions and states, adding that efforts will be made for the development of the region and ease of transportation for the People's with

improved bridges and roads.

The Union Minister added all the bridges on the Monywa-YeU-Kalewa road to be completed at the end of this FY; the continued upgrading works for the Monywa-Yargyi-Kalay-

wa road; plans to upgrade the bridges on Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu road, and the plans to upgrade small wooden bridges in the region to be constructed as RC bridges depending on the availability of funds.

The meeting discussed activities being carried out on time for stability and peace in the Sagaing Region, the bridge destruction by a group of unscrupulous people and the security provision when repairing bridges. Preparation for the construction of the extended hospital and the Union Minister coordinated the meeting.

The Union Minister and departmental staff families collectively donated K2.5 million to the Monywa People's Hospital. — MNA

## All Mon Region Ramanya Dhamma Cariya holds 39<sup>th</sup> Ramanya Nikaya Pariyatti Test

ALL Mon Region Ramanya Dhamma Cariya set the 39<sup>th</sup> Ramanya Nikaya Pariyatti Test at 12 exam centres in Mon State, Kayin State and Taninthayi Region between 13 and

15 March following COVID-19 health rules.

A total of 2,035 monks, novices and nuns took the 39<sup>th</sup> Ramanya Nikaya Pariyatti Test. It contains Dhamma Cariya,

Dhamma Cariya (Pali honours), Dhamma Cariya (Myanmar honours), Pahtama Pyan (primary, Pahtamange, Pahtamalat and Pahtamagyi). Of them, 752 monks, novices and nuns

passed the exam.

It is the very first All Mon Region Dhamma Cariya and Pahtama Pyan exam in the State Administration Council term.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture sent the "Guna Puja certificate" to the All Mon Region Ramanya Dhamma Cariya Team for holding the test yearly. — MNA

## Request to Public

1. Democracy practices have granted the public for freedom of speech, practices and living. Such freedoms should not harm others. Diverse views of others should be understood, but should not be disturbed or harassed. However, with the reason of human rights, some persons are now under pressured, harassed and threatened in breaching the laws. Undisciplined acts could lead to tarnish the image of democracy.
2. For preventing destructive actions against stability of the state, safety of the public and rule of law, it is also required to proper actions in line with the law.
3. All the people who favour justice, freedom, equality and safety are requested to oppose breaching the laws and prevent such actions for the benefit of country and people.

## Deputy Minister Lt-Gen Than Hlaing attends 64<sup>th</sup> narcotics commission meeting

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Than Hlaing attended the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Narcotics Drugs Commission held in Vienna, Austria, from 12 to 16 April via video conferencing.

At the meeting, the Deputy Minister said Myanmar had made various efforts to eradicate drugs as a national duty. Special anti-drug operations are being carried out annually. Referring to the annual report in collaboration with UNODC, he said poppy cultivation and opium production are declining every year. As drug production is also



A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Than Hlaing attended the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Narcotics Drugs Commission held in Vienna, Austria, from 12 to 16 April via video conferencing.

linked to internal peace, the Myanmar government is working

for lasting peace in the whole country.

He urged all countries to actively cooperate in controlling

precursor chemicals, which are vital in drug production. He continued Myanmar is a country that is implementing the United Nations' decisions in practice. All efforts are being made in cooperation with the international community in combatting the dangers of drugs.

The Deputy Minister's delegation is attending the 64<sup>th</sup> Narcotics Commission meeting and related meetings and side events through video conferencing and the delegation led by Myanmar Permanent Representative in Vienna U Min Thein in person. The meeting will be held till 16 April and attended by the Myan-

## Military medical corps provide healthcare in township hospitals



A Tatmadaw doctor is health caring for a baby at the Thayawady district people's hospital in the Bago region.

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

The Tatmadaw medical team continued to provide healthcare services such

as surgery, dental and oral healthcare, osteoporosis, obstetrics, otorhinolaryngology, gynaecology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in healthcare services difficulties in Nyaung-U District People's Hospital, Thazi Township People's Hospital, Hanza hospital, Yinmabin hospital, Tagaung

People's Hospital in Thabeik-kyin Township, Sintgaing hospital in Kyaukse township, Yintaw hospital in Pyawbwe township, Pintale hospital in Wundwin Township, Myittha Township People's Hospital, Welaung hospital in Taungtha Township, People's hospital in Kyaukpadaung Township, People's Hospital in Kyauktaga Township, Thayarwady District People's Hospital, Donzayit hospital in Shwegyin Township and People's hospital in Latpadan township yesterday.

Officials from respective commands also inspected the hospitals' medical services. They comforted the patients by providing food aids and necessary things. Locals are reportedly satisfied with the medical support of Tatmadaw. — MNA

## Military hospitals continue providing healthcare to civilians

MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states keep providing medical treatments to the people to solve their healthcare services difficulties. A total of 138,530 outpatients and 4,036 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 6,509 major operations and 3,396 minor operations. The

senior doctors treat serious cases. These hospitals managed for the birth of 8,610 babies while bringing 8,610 pregnant women to the respective military hospitals. Of those, 3,424 cases are done in caesarean section and 5,186 cases in ordinary delivery.

Officials from the respective commands also provided the patients with foods, and medical workers were provided with cash assistance. — MNA



A monk is receiving treatments at the Tatmadaw hospital in Toungoo.

## Tomato price soars to K1,200 per viss

THE price of tomato has risen sharply to over K1,200 per viss from K600 per viss in Kyaukpadaung township, Mandalay region, said U Maung Zaw, a tomato grower from Lae Gwa village, Kyaukpadaung.

Thus, the growers have been making handsome profits, growing tomatoes.

"Kyaukpadaung township farmers are growing the tomato with the use of irrigation water. Firstly, each tomato seed is planted in each bag. After 15 days of planting, the nursery tomato plants are transplanted to

the ground and given irrigation water. Then, the plants start to bloom and bear fruits after one month. The tomato plant in Kyaukpadaung township is being grown with the use of irrigation water. Most of the growers use the tomato seeds with the brand names—triple seven and triple one. Tomato can be grown in any place in water-resistant and strong weather condition," said U Min Nyo, a grower from Mone Gone village.

In the harvest season, the tomato could yield every two days. The tomato traders



The street vendors are selling tomatoes for around K1,000 per viss. Some are selling them even for K1,200 per viss.

come to buy the tomatoes in the farmland. Then, the traders sell them back in the Myoma market in Kyaukpadaung town. The price of tomatoes has abruptly soared to K1,200 per viss from K600 per viss. The street vendors are selling tomatoes for around K1,000 per viss. Some are selling them even for K1,200 per viss.

Now, the tomato growers are happy, making a good profit. It is also an unexpected price for tomato farmers, according to the local farmers.—Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM

# Announcement of Union Election Commission

11 April 2021

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### 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	379 polling stations in Kyaukpadaung township of Mandalay Region	237,303	181,711	10,230	2,135	29,770
2	210 polling stations in Mahlaing township of Mandalay Region	122,191	97,072	7,373	960	14,120

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Kyaukpadaung and Mahlaing townships of Mandalay Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrator according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.

4. According to the inspection, a total of 589 polling stations in these two townships took out 396,872 ballots and used 268,586 ballots. It left 111,635 ballots instead of 128,286 ballots. The difference was 19,826 ballots and it found 3,175 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	Kyaukpadaung	379	257,893	171,378	86,515	72,106	16,088	1,679
2	Mahlaing	210	138,979	97,208	41,771	39,529	3,738	1,496
	Total	589	396,872	268,586	128,286	111,635	19,826	3,175

### Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Kyaukpadaung Township

5. A total of 379 polling stations in 109 Village-tracts in 12 Wards of Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region took out 257,893 ballots and used 171,378 ballots. It left 72,106 ballots instead of 86,515. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village-tract ballots	256,100	170,375	85,725	71,314	16,088	1,677
2	Township Advanced ballots	1,793	1,003	790	792		2
	Total	257,893	171,378	86,515	72,106	16,088	1,679

6. It found 16,088 missing ballots and 1,677 extra ballots at 379 polling stations in 109 Village-tracts in 12 Wards of Kyaukpadaung Township. They withdrew 1,793 township advanced ballots and used 1,003 ballots. The exact remaining ballots must be 790 but it left 792 and so they used 2 extra ballots.

7. Findings were as follows :

Sr	Ward/ Village-Tracts	Total Polling Sta-	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Tampawadi Ward	3	3,000	2,175	825	325	500	
2	Myomakwetthit Ward	1	800	632	168	168		
3	Sanpya Ward	4	4,050	2,753	1,297	947	350	
4	Butar Ward	2	2,650	901	1,749	699	1,050	
5	Aungmingalar Ward	3	4,050	2,871	1,179	979	200	
6	Myoma (south) Ward	1	900	666	234	234		
7	Myoma Ward	1	1,950	1,445	505	55	450	
8	Thirimingalar Ward	3	3,850	2,692	1,158	808	350	
9	Zalinntaung Village-tract	2	650	446	204	104	100	
10	Dakharma Village-tract	2	1,300	926	374	374		
11	Thaevokema Village-tract	5	2,150	1,379	771	771		
12	Nyaunghto Village-tract	6	2,850	2,253	597	397	200	
13	Wetgyikan Village-tract	3	1,750	1,306	444	494		50
14	Mangyitine Village-tract	5	2,050	1,340	710	810		100
15	Sintinekan Village-tract	4	2,900	2,116	784	684	100	
16	Inntawkyel Village-tract	2	1,300	784	516	516		
17	Sintetkyin Village-tract	1	600	405	195	195		
18	Inntaw Village-tract	1	1,050	809	241	241		
19	Sipaukan Village-tract	2	1,450	1,030	420	370	50	
20	Bingwa Village-tract	2	800	521	279	279		
21	Zaygone Village-tract	4	2,150	1,229	921	871	50	
22	Dawa Village-tract	2	1,200	691	509	509		
23	Intine (east) Village-tract	2	1,650	981	669	619	50	
24	Ywalu Village-tract	2	2,200	1,675	525	525		
25	Leyar Village-tract	6	4,100	3,006	1,094	684	410	
26	Monekan Village-tract	3	1,650	974	676	676		
27	Nyaungkandaung Village-tract	4	2,050	1,391	659	559	100	

28	Talinngone Village-tract	6	2,500	1,360	1,140	640	500	
29	Sinkhaung Village-tract	3	1,300	660	640	690		50
30	Ywakauk Village-tract	3	1,450	689	761	711	50	
31	Kyetsutaw Village-tract	1	400	262	138	138		
32	Letpanpyar Village-tract	6	4,050	2,884	1,166	1,116	50	
33	Teepinte Village-tract	8	3,750	2,448	1,302	1,002	300	
34	Gyoepintha Village-tract	2	1,050	727	323	323		
35	Khapaunggone Village-tract	4	3,250	1,933	1,317	817	500	
36	Taungpaw Valon Village-tract	2	1,050	635	415	415		
37	Kyetyit Village-tract	2	1,100	587	513	263	250	
38	Kywekan Village-tract	2	1,150	722	428	428		
39	Ainehyar Village-tract	1	700	490	210	160	50	
40	Kataw Village-tract	5	2,600	1,515	1,085	990	95	
41	Kanlwin Village-tract	3	1,700	1,289	411	411		
42	Nyaungpintha Village-tract	3	3,250	2,307	943	543	400	
43	Mangyeengoketo Village-tract	1	650	427	223	223		
44	Yaysone Village-tract	6	4,200	2,810	1,390	690	700	
45	Kanni Village-tract	1	600	418	182	182		
46	Twinpyu Village-tract	4	2,100	1,292	808	858		50
47	Ainehyar (north) Village-tract	4	1,750	1,256	494	544		50
48	Mangyeegone Village-tract	9	4,500	2,563	1,937	1,737	200	
49	Legyitaung Village-tract	3	1,450	944	506	606		100
50	Khinmon Village-tract	4	2,200	1,350	850	650	200	
51	Hinkhwetaine Village-tract	6	3,100	2,151	949	999		50
52	Thayettaw Village-tract	2	1,000	676	324	384		60
53	Kyauksitkan Village-tract	4	3,100	2,253	847	397	450	
54	Pharagyigone Village-tract	2	1,500	987	513	263	250	
55	Mingaungtaung Village-tract	3	1,600	1,101	499	499		
56	Ngarshantaung Village-tract	1	950	505	445	295	150	
57	Sone Village-tract	5	2,700	1,736	964	414	550	
58	Mingaung (north) Village-tract	5	2,700	1,691	1,009	958	51	
59	Medee Village-tract	8	3,900	2,574	1,326	1,134	192	
60	Ahmyaukan Village-tract	3	2,200	1,553	647	297	350	

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61	Pwaykyit Village-tract	4	2,250	1,340	910	910		
62	Talinekan (a)Kazi Village-tract	4	2,450	1,531	919	919		
63	North Pyitawtha Ward	3	4,250	2,802	1,448	1,248	200	
64	Thayaaye Ward	6	7,300	5,228	2,072	1,653	419	
65	Lwatlatyay Ward	3	4,250	2,474	1,776	326	1,450	
66	Zaykwethit Ward	1	1,250	953	297	297		
67	Bemyar (a)Siyinsu Village-tract	2	1,100	908	192	192		
68	Kine Village-tract	2	800	553	247	247		
69	Nyaungchyine Village-tract	3	1,850	1,167	683	683		
70	Taungzin Village-tract	2	1,850	1,412	438	238	200	
71	Letpanainet Village-tract	1	400	264	136	136		
72	Kanpauk Village-tract	4	3,050	2,241	809	529	280	
73	Letpanpin Village-tract	7	4,100	2,422	1,678	729	949	
74	Hnityatkhwé Village-tract	3	3,250	2,379	871	871		
75	Kanpatle Village-tract	7	5,350	3,762	1,588	1,386	202	
76	Tangarkan Village-tract	7	4,000	3,168	832	782	50	
77	Kampyu Village-tract	6	5,750	3,370	2,380	2,270	110	
78	Thanbo Village-tract	2	1,150	672	478	428	50	
79	Sepauk Village-tract	4	3,550	2,578	972	1,022		50
80	Natkanle Village-tract	3	2,600	1,949	651	701		50
81	Khwetaukgon Village-tract	2	2,250	1,572	678	678		
82	Kule Village-tract	1	600	411	189	239		50
83	Taungpaw (north) Village-tract	2	950	563	387	287	100	
84	Hlyawtaw Village-tract	1	850	677	173	173		
85	Se Village-tract	2	1,050	809	241	231	10	
86	Taungpaw (south) Village-tract	2	1,550	1,087	463	413	50	
87	Myauktaw Village-tract	2	1,650	1,126	524	274	250	
88	Legyeemyauk Village-tract	1	950	621	329	329		
89	Kyauktaga Village-tract	2	1,300	573	727	457	270	
90	Myinthataung Village-tract	2	2,100	1,471	629	629		
91	Pokepalwin Village-tract	4	1,900	1,062	838	488	350	
92	Pokepa Village-tract	6	5,000	3,803	1,197	1,497		300

93	Laypin (south) Village-tract	3	1,750	1,135	615	515	100	
94	Supyugone Village-tract	2	1,000	599	401	401		
95	Deedoke Village-tract	8	5,650	3,934	1,716	1,366	350	
96	Daungle Village-tract	3	2,900	2,033	867	867		
97	Hlaingtha Village-tract	5	3,100	2,271	829	779	50	
98	Seiktain Village-tract	6	5,400	3,384	2,016	2,116		100
99	Kyuakkhwet Village-tract	2	1,100	741	359	359		
100	Sonegone Village-tract	3	2,250	1,488	762	462	300	
101	Kyarnayaine Village-tract	3	1,450	1,024	426	426		
102	Gabarte (south) Village-tract	2	1,600	880	720	620	100	
103	Theegone Village-tract	3	2,550	1,684	866	766	100	
104	TaungOo Village-tract	6	4,500	2,642	1,858	1,808	50	
105	Bywesininn Village-tract	1	500	308	192	42	150	
106	Phattaway Village-tract	1	550	357	193	193		
107	Lunaine Village-tract	2	900	661	239	239		
108	KhaungYe Village-tract	2	850	629	221	271		50
109	Sinmyint Village-tract	3	2,800	1,568	1,232	1,232		
110	Kyaukchaw Village-tract	4	2,150	1,347	803	503	300	
111	Aohnmoeyoe Village-tract	2	750	449	301	301		
112	Ainema (north) Village-tract	2	1,050	751	299	299		
113	Thapyaykine Village-tract	2	1,100	781	319	319		
114	Ku Village-tract	2	600	350	250	350		100
115	Kyaukpon Village-tract	3	2,100	1,290	810	410	400	
116	Thittain Village-tract	1	600	343	257	307		50
117	Moenankyin Village-tract	2	400	299	101	168		67
118	Yayngan Village-tract	2	950	871	79	429		350
119	Pyinngan Village-tract	2	700	539	161	161		
120	Wattharchin Village-tract	1	800	523	277	277		
121	Thetkelkyin Village-tract	2	750	354	396	396		
	Ward/village-tracts ballots	379	256,100	170,375	85,725	71,314	16,088	1,677
	Township advance ballots		1,793	1,003	790	792		2
	Township Total	379	257,893	171,378	86,515	72,106	16,088	1,679

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Mahlaing Township

8. A total of 210 polling stations in 52 Village-tracts in 4 Wards of Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region took out 138,979 ballots and used 97,208 ballots. It left 39,529 ballots instead of 41,771. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village-tract ballots	130,906	96,723	34,183	30,795	3,738	350
2	Township advanced ballots	485	485				
3	Township remaining ballots	7,588		7,588	8,734		1,146
	Township Total	138,979	97,208	41,771	39,529	3,738	1,496

9. It found 3,738 missing ballots and 350 extra ballots at 210 polling stations in 52 Village-tracts in 4 Wards of Mahlaing Township. It found 8,734 remaining ballots instead of 75,88 at the township election sub-commission and so the extra ballot was 1,146.

10. Findings were as follows:






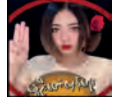






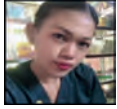
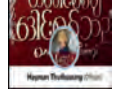
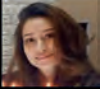
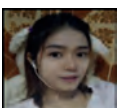



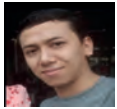


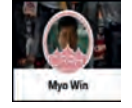





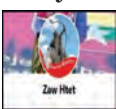









Sr	Ward/Village-tract	Total Polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact Remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	No (3) Ward	4	4,000	3,030	970	820	150	
2	No (4) Ward	2	1,950	1,411	539	289	250	
3	Htanpinkan Village-tract	2	2,050	1,820	230	184	46	
4	Hmayoe Village-tract	5	1,950	1,633	317	317		
5	Phatkone Village-tract	3	1,500	1,219	281	281		
6	Htammagyee Village-tract	3	1,100	840	260	260		
7	Ywathit Village-tract	3	1,550	1,246	304	304		
8	Kangyee Village-tract	4	2,300	1,793	507	381	126	
9	Kugyee Village-tract	5	2,050	1,664	386	327	59	
10	Yonetaw Village-tract	2	1,500	1,051	449	449		
11	Oakpo Village-tract	3	1,850	1,393	457	307	150	
12	Natsingone Village-tract	4	2,050	1,395	655	480	175	
13	Wakhwa Village-tract	4	2,350	1,725	625	625		
14	Myintwin Village-tract	3	1,750	1,273	477	417	60	
15	Sonetwin Village-tract	3	2,950	1,747	1,203	953	250	
16	Thaekan Village-tract	6	3,650	2,385	1,265	1,065	200	
17	Wanbelu Village-tract	2	950	749	201	201		
18	Thapyaykan Village-tract	5	2,200	1,820	380	280	100	
19	Kywekan Village-tract	4	3,450	2,427	1,023	1,027		4
20	Thetkelkyin Village-tract	5	4,200	3,300	900	881	19	
21	Aeingyitaw Village-tract	1	700	574	126	126		
22	Thayetkaungpin Village-tract	2	1,950	1,605	345	345		
23	Thonetaung Village-tract	3	1,900	1,556	344	344		
24	Pyawbwe Village-tract	1	1,200	913	287	287		
25	Hnawkan Village-tract	2	1,950	1,717	233	183	50	
26	Baukkhwetaw Village-tract	3	2,700	2,113	587	487	100	
27	Nyaungoake Village-tract	3	1,400	1,057	343	337	6	
28	Latswe Village-tract	8	3,800	2,868	932	899	33	

29	Myaukle Village-tract	3	1,900	1,442	458	408	50	
30	Yengan Village-tract	4	2,200	1,819	381	381		
31	Ainemayoe Village-tract	2	750	636	114	114		
32	No (1) Ward	4	3,050	2,211	839	576	263	
33	No(2) Ward	5	3,650	2,607	1,043	547	496	
34	Htantaw Village-tract	3	2,404	1,648	756	547	209	
35	Legyi Village-tract	2	1,250	1,050	200	200		
36	Kambarpyu Village-tract	2	1,550	1,178	372	372		
37	Panaine Village-tract	5	3,250	2,478	772	772		
38	Yayni Village-tract	3	2,202	1,667	535	535		
39	Yayhwet Village-tract	5	2,550	1,921	629	629		
40	Pyaukseik Village-tract	5	2,000	1,503	497	487	10	
41	MyinOoHlet Village-tract	6	4,450	2,648	1,802	1,405	397	
42	Kyauktan Village-tract	7	5,050	3,726	1,324	1,085	239	
43	Kantwin Village-tract	5	2,750	2,242	508	508		
44	Konete Village-tract	2	1,350	954	396	296	100	
45	Theingone Village-tract	2	1,400	953	447	447		
46	Thabwatgone Village-tract	6	3,000	2,459	541	641		100
47	Yonepinzauk Village-tract	5	2,150	1,663	487	487		
48	Aokegyi Village-tract	4	2,650	1,726	924	924		
49	Kyetse Village-tract	7	3,800	2,629	1,171	1,121	50	
50	Seto Village-tract	8	4,900	3,549	1,351	1,501		150
51	Dahattan Village-tract	2	1,200	942	258	258		
52	Letaw Village-tract	1	1,000	846	154	154		
53	Hpaukseik Village-tract	4	2,500	1,528	972	924	48	
54	Yaycho Village-tract	3	1,750	1,235	515	515		
55	Yargyigone Village-tract	6	3,200	1,871	1,329	1,227	102	
56	Lebyar Village-tract	4	2,050	1,268	782	878		96
	Ward/village-tract ballots	210	130,906	96,723	34,183	30,795	3,738	350
	Township advanced ballots		485	485				
	Township remaining ballots		7,588		7,588	8,734		1,146
	Township Total	210	138,979	97,208	41,771	39,529	3,738	1,496

## Those spreading false 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	Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein <a href="https://www.facebook.com/phyuphyukyaw-theinonline/">https://www.facebook.com/phyuphyukyaw-theinonline/</a>	Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein 	Bahan Township, Yangon Region	505-a		11	Sandaku Zaw <a href="https://www.facebook.com/kulay.kulay.77">https://www.facebook.com/kulay.kulay.77</a>	Sandaku Zaw 	Katha Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
2	Htet Eaint <a href="https://www.facebook.com/htet.eaint.5">https://www.facebook.com/htet.eaint.5</a>	Htet Eaint(a) Htet Htet Eaint 	Thuwunna, Yangon Region	505-a		12	Henry Htet Aung Myat <a href="https://www.facebook.com/henry.htetaung">https://www.facebook.com/henry.htetaung</a>	Htet Aung Myint 	Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Ko Nyi Nyi <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Ko-Nyi-Nyi-1688773178044880">https://www.facebook.com/Ko-Nyi-Nyi-1688773178044880</a>	Nyi Nyi 	Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region	505-a		13	Snow Kophyo <a href="https://www.facebook.com/snow.kophyo.1">https://www.facebook.com/snow.kophyo.1</a>	Ko Phyo 	Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
4	Shwe Yee <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009835872870">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009835872870</a>	Shwe Yee 	Mawlamyine Township, Mon State	505-a		14	Hayman Thuthuaung <a href="https://www.facebook.com/haymanthuthuaung1988">https://www.facebook.com/haymanthuthuaung1988</a>	Hayman Thu Thu Aung 	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
5	Yoon ThiRi Shwe Sin <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100006771347917">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100006771347917</a>	Yoon Thiri Shwe Sin 	Toungoo Township, Bago Region	505-a		15	Yan Naing <a href="https://www.facebook.com/vann.naing.33865">https://www.facebook.com/vann.naing.33865</a>	Dr Yan Naing 	Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
6	Neonatal Chef <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100012652424437">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100012652424437</a>	Kyaw Zwar Chan Myae 	Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region	505-a		16	Myint Mo San <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010817287712">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010817287712</a>	Myint Mo San 	Hlegu Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
7	Myo Win <a href="https://www.facebook.com/myowin84">https://www.facebook.com/myowin84</a>	Myo Win 	Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region	505-a		17	Nan Akary <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014706255236">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014706255236</a>	Nan Akary Soe 	Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	Aaron Kyaw Thet <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AaronKyawThet">https://www.facebook.com/AaronKyawThet</a>	Kyaw Thet 	Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region	505-a		18	ZawHtet <a href="https://www.facebook.com/100013721643006">https://www.facebook.com/100013721643006</a>	Zaw Myo Htet 	Bahan Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
9	M Zaw Aung <a href="https://www.facebook.com/myanmarjobstudent/">https://www.facebook.com/myanmarjobstudent/</a>	Zaw Aung 	Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region	505-a		19	Kaung Khant Hein <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ednkaung.khant">https://www.facebook.com/ednkaung.khant</a>	Kaung Khant Hein 	Ngazun Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
10	Khine Khine Win <a href="https://www.facebook.com/khinekhine.win.3">https://www.facebook.com/khinekhine.win.3</a>	Khine Khine Win 	Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a		20	Han Lin Oo <a href="https://www.facebook.com/chitthu.lay.10888">https://www.facebook.com/chitthu.lay.10888</a>	Han Lin Oo 	Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	

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

## 9 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 April, total figure rises to 142,605

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,605** after **9 new cases** were reported on 13 April 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **131,874** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

# Health guidelines, important for Thingyan revellers

**M**AHA Thingyan, one of the traditional festivals, falls in mid-April yearly before Myanmar New Year Day. Myanmar people, young and old, are eager to enjoy the water throwing festival by treating refreshment to each other as a lovely Myanmar tradition.

This year, the government allows the construction of pavilions with 20 by 20 feet areas made of coconut palm leaves as country style. In fact, fresh palms of coconut plant used in traditional pavilions can give shade to the people.

To safely enjoy the festival, the Ministry of Health and Sports issued health guidelines recently because events on infection of Covid-19 continue in Myanmar. The infection rate may rise at the crowds according to the nature of the virus. As such, all the people need to abide by preventive measures of the pandemic strictly.

Generally, those wishing to enjoy the water splashing festival need to wear surgical masks and gloves without fail and often wash their washes with water and soap or hand sanitizer/gel.

They must take enough distance to each other, especially six feet in the minimum of physical distancing at all sites during the festival.

Moreover, if they suffer from symptoms of Covid-19 such as ailing, squeezing, coughing and sudden loss of smell and taste, they need to inform nearby health care units about such symptoms and should take medical treatments in time.

At the festival, all the people should supply refreshments to each other through a take-away system as an act of performing meritorious deeds.

As an important thing, those enjoying the festival must take care of their surgical masks. It is because the wet surgical masks cannot prevent infection of the virus. Hence, they need to change the wet surgical masks with new ones.



# Spinoza's Philosophical Determinism: A Brief Comparative Glimpse

By Dr Myint Zan

**21** February 2021 (to use the historic present tense) is the 344th anniversary of the death of philosopher Baruch Spinoza (24 November 1632-21 February 1677). This article will only comment on a paragraph reproduced in English translation below in one of Spinoza's letters.

Stretching a bit or perhaps a lot the postulates of Spinoza's determinism -- as this writer discerns it -- it might have been pre-determined (that about 350 years after he wrote) I would comment on a few sentences in one of his letters in the late 17th century namely his 'stone analogy' (please see below)

To try to explain from my recollection and understanding of the 'stone postulate' (English translation excerpted below) Supposed, wrote Spinoza, a stone that was thrown into the air (I suppose by a human hand) has (human or human-like) consciousness it (the stone) would think that he (or) she or it is 'marching' out of its own free will.

But wrote Spinoza, the stone's trajectory has already been determined 'beforehand' at the time of the throw. (Query in the context of human beings, hundreds of billions of them who was or is the thrower? God? Accident? (in the widest, amorphous sense of the words or is it the Biblical 'The Word?') The 'Big Bang' about roughly (plus or minus a few hundred million years) 1380 million years ago? Or the formation of the Earth 4,500 million years (plus

or minus a few hundred million years) ago? (Due to no fault of his Spinoza was not privy to the information about 'Big Bang' cosmology nor about the formation of the Earth which 20th century science postulated so to speak)

Human beings are not (from my understanding of Spinoza's stone analogy) 'dancing', 'living' or 'free-willing' to their own tunes. Spinoza claimed that free-will is an illusion through this stone analogy which, I first read this around May 1970 in Myanmar language in either the second volume or third volume of the late Myanmar scholar U Aye Maung's (2 February 1914-11 May 2002) book in Myanmar ('Buddha and Buddhism').

Twenty-eight years later, I read it, in 1998 in English translation an essay in the book THE NIGHT IS LARGE written by the late Martin Gardner (October 1913- May 2010)

In my view, Spinoza's postulate is, if not contrary to, then at least does not conform to either Christian or modern (perhaps) not entirely Christian based philosophical concept of free will or, for that matter, lack of free will. It is also, in this writer's opinion, not in conformity with the canonical Buddhist doctrine of Karma (Sanskrit) or Kamma (Pali).

It may be closer to perhaps have shades of- though perhaps not identical with the Catholic philosopher Augustine (13 November 354- 30 August 430) claim that 'God' stood above time and have (perhaps?) have (had?) both

foreordained and therefore has (had?) foreknowledge of the 'past, present and future'. It is also arguably analogized with though not fully equitable with the Protestant theologian Calvin's doctrine that the (Christian) God had already pre-ordained who will believe (in?) Him (?) (or if God is a she?) in 'Her'. Australian scholar Margaret Davies has written in her book Asking the law question that 'God', may as well be, a 'She' as Margaret continuously referred to 'God' as 'She'.

But Spinoza at least furtively, if not almost openly, rejects or eschews the (Christian) God idea in his DEUS SIV NATURE (God or nature) posit.

If Spinoza were to read (in Latin or Dutch translation) this comment, he may at least equivocate about my 'juxtaposition' of his views with that of Augustine and Calvin, who are even more adamant or 'determined' even than the gentle Spinoza that his views are right. (Spinoza apparently once wrote, according to her biographer Margaret Ghulla-Whur in 'Within Reason: A Life of Spinoza' that his is not the 'best philosophy' but the correct philosophy.)

Now, my brief attempts to juxtapose or posit Spinoza's views with the Buddhist doctrine of KAMMA, Canonical Theravada Buddhism arguably or ostensibly rejects the doctrine or idea that every human event (individual or collective, so to speak) are due or entirely due to the Will (will) of a Creator or Deity. (ဣန္ဒာရ နိဗ္ဗာန ဝေဟနိဋ္ဌိ) It also rejects the postu-



late or belief that every human phenomenon, vicissitudes are due to the actions of deeds and misdeeds done in past lives. (လူဝေဟန ဝေဟနိဋ္ဌိ) Canonical Buddhism also rejects that human events, phenomena occur without any moral or metaphysical cause, (ဝေဟနတ ဓာတိနိဗ္ဗာနိဋ္ဌိ) Kamma or Karma in Canonical Buddhism from this writer's readings while not totally relegating the actions of an individual's past lives as irrelevant, put more emphasis on current volitional actions and their current efforts volitional actions form or constitute one's own Karma.

I am not sure to what extent Spinoza's metaphysics based on the 'stone analogy' is furthest from or comparatively closer to any of the doctrines which I emphasize (in my reading and understanding) 'original' Buddhism seems to reject, but my view is that Spinoza's determinism both at the metaphysical and arguably theological. /moral levels also do not seem to fit in with Buddhist metaphysics and moral (?) framework of the Buddhist WELTANSCHAU-

UNG (world view) as well. And Canonical (rather than popular) Buddhism is also quite a far cry from the 'predestination' concept of both the Augustinian and Calvinistic kinds, albeit the adherence to a form or overemphasis on past lives actions almost solely determines individuals 'fate' seems to be in its own cultural and religious milieu a form of 'predestination' shorn of the 'Creator's Will' of some of the Christian theologians.

Spinoza, again due to no fault of his own, has apparently indeed almost certainly not aware and have not read even in summary Latin and Dutch translations the basic doctrine of Buddhism unlike the German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer who flourished well over a century after Spinoza. This brief is to briefly add to a remark found in a letter written by Spinoza in commemorating his death anniversary of this philosopher

**QUOTE** "Further conceive, I beg, that a stone, while continuing in motion, should be capable of thinking and knowing that it is endeavour-

ing, as far as it can, to continue to move. Such a stone, being conscious merely of its own endeavour and not at all indifferent, would believe itself to be completely free and would think that it continued in motion solely because of its own wish. This is that human freedom, which all boast that they possess, and which consists solely in the fact, that men are conscious of their own desire, but are ignorant of the causes whereby that desire has been determined."

— Baruch Spinoza

**UNQUOTE** Perhaps with an eye towards future centuries so that not only his writings but also his correspondence may be preserved, Spinoza had smartly hand-copied perhaps most of his letters (before he posted them). In his times in the late 17th century, there were no scanners, photocopy machines or cyclostyle machines, not to say email or 'Cloud Storage' facilities.

Dr Myint Zan, a retired Professor of Law, taught Jurisprudence (Legal Philosophy) for ten years at Multimedia University, Malacca, Malaysia. He edited the book 'Legal Education and Legal Traditions' published by Springerlink publishing. He had also established 'Myint Zan Fellowship in Philosophy' at one of his alma maters, The Australian National University, for academic years 2018 to 2021 for early career researchers and also 'Myint Zan prize in the Philosophy of Science' in perpetuity for undergraduate philosophy students also at the ANU.

# Pandemic poses new problems for anti-dopers

**T**HE global reduction in travel and human contact over the last year may have played an important role in battling Covid-19 but it has added a new layer of complexity to fighting the doping cheats ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

For more than a year, the anti-doping policemen of the sports world have been battling the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Social distancing, travel restrictions and the basic lack of knowledge about confirmed participants have all created problems for testers ahead of the Games which were originally scheduled for July-August 2020 before being pushed back a year.

For a part of last year, when the sports world shut down in March and April, there was effectively no testing.

It resumed when competition started again in the summer but

under a range of restrictions as each nation imposed their own Covid regulations.



Anti-doping testing teams have faced a difficult year operating within the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

"We test around 50 sports almost all over the world, so it's a logistical nightmare," explained Benjamin Cohen, the secretary general of the International Testing Agency (ITA), which leads the anti-doping programme for the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

One problem is the daily need to stay up to date with the regulations of each country. "The testing department constantly has to update the list of national measures, for example to integrate the difficulty of collecting blood samples in certain countries due to the distancing rules," said Cohen.

Another problem is the practical difficulty that testers face when

trying to do their job.

"We had a DCO who went to Dubai," Travis Tygart, the head of the American agency USADA, told AFP "And all the constraints they had to go through... take a Covid test, demonstrate they were negative, quarantine in the hotel for a period of time. "To then be at the event to do the testing. It was above and beyond anything we could have foreseen."

**'Wide net'** The role of national anti-doping agencies has, by necessity, been strengthened. But not all are blessed with similar resources and nor are they endowed with the same integrity and zeal to weed out the cheats.

SOURCE: AFP

## Announcement

The Molotov journal is not signed on the list of books and periodicals allowed by the Ministry of Information for legal publishing under the Printing and Publishing Law (2014). The Molotov journal is illegally published. It is announced that action will be taken against anyone who operates the journal works without a permit and provides assistance, according to the existing law.

Ministry of Information

## 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

သတင်းစာတစ်ပြည်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြေးမုံ

The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်းခုံသတင်းစာများ မှာယူဖတ်ရှုလိုခြင်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု ပမာဏတိုးတိုးကြောင့် အသက်အခံများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်-

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# Record of Press Conference (4/2021) held on 9 April 2021 by the State Administration Council's Information Team

## CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

13. Firstly, U Maung Maung Tun, reporter of Voice of Myanmar (VOM), asked where the ballot papers were printed. How many numbers of ballots were printed? Who is the supervisor of this process? Was it conducted under a tender system or by UEC?

14. UEC member U Khin Maung Oo explained that relevant matters are also presented in former press conferences. All the ballots of 2010 and 2015 elections and by-elections are also ordered at the Ministry of Information as they are important. The order numbers were 139,331,120. The UEC also cooperated in this printing process. The ballots were printed in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon. The printing staff of MoI and director-level representative of UEC monitored the processes, including examining the ballots papers and also jointly granted the ballots.

15. Dr Zaw Than, reporter of Sankei Shimbun news agency, said he noticed the question of another reporter regarding the PR system of UEC in the former press conference. He asked about the potential of the PR system and how would the circumstance change if that system has good potential?

16. U Khin Maung Oo replied that Myanmar is currently adopting the FPTP system. When the officials met with the political party on 26 February 2021, the parties also proposed a PR system convenient with the country. Such a case was also briefed in the previous conferences. The officials also informed the political parties to send the papers regarding with PR system. Meanwhile, three political parties replied to them with documents about this system. The PR system is not a new one. A Hluttaw MP also urged the Hluttaw to decide for using PR system and carry out law amendment processes and UEC to practice the PR system during the first Amyotha Hluttaw session. The motion was accepted at Amyotha Hluttaw, and a commission on the PR system was formed. There were also reports to the commission. About ten political parties submitted letters to use the PR system instead of the FPTP system in the first Hluttaw Term. The PR system means the broad area of the



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

constituency and designates the numbers of candidates. Then, the system selects the representatives in a ratio based on the votes of the candidates of political parties or independent candidates. There are various PR systems in the world.

There are about three systems mainly used in 80 countries. Therefore, the country should use a system that conforms with the Constitution, forming a government and political affairs. The three PR systems are Party List Proportional Representation System, Mix Member Proportional System and Single Transferable Vote (STV). Among these three systems, the first two are mostly common. The final one is not widespread in use for some issues like calculating or complexity. If the PR system is used, one should study such necessary things as the Constitution, whether they are in conformity with the Hluttaw Election Law; whether they are needed to be amended, effectiveness on self-administer division and zones according to the 2008 Constitution, the situation of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region/State Hluttaw to adapt the PR system, designation of constituencies which are convenient with PR system, calculation system on the ratio of parties and representatives, and voting results.

There are also procedures for it. It needs to hold coordination meetings with the relevant department and stakeholders like parties, civilian organizations. It needs to draft, amend and release the law and rules. It needs to provide pieces of training to the members of the sub-commission and poll heads. It also should raise public awareness for the voters. In practical sectors, systematic measures play a crucial

In conclusion, the system, which is suitable for the country and is simple to understand for the voters, should be used. The initial findings are currently displayed, and efforts are being made by cooperating with the relevant political parties and organizations.

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17. Dr Soe Myint Oo, editor-in-charge of Myanmar Public Press, raised the question of whether vote-rigging affects the parties. How is these parties' existence in coming elections? Can the new parties make registration and when?

18. U Khin Maung Oo said that one-third of voting frauds and findings in inspections are released to date. But some of the cases are left to announce. But about half of the cases have already released. So the situation is just on the inspection by reviewing the overall vote-rigging and manipulation. For the registration of parties, there were announcements of former UEC. They once issued a large state

when the 2020 General Election drew near, and they also said the registration was not allowed later that period. The current UEC will also release the information regarding the party registrations.

19. Editor-in-Chief Amet Dain of Ye Ye Tauk Journal commented that the country is under the state of emergency. The first thing is that the President has the authority to assign UEC according to the Constitution. But all the election-related matters are concerned with the UEC's decision, and so due to such weakness, the elderly have extreme beliefs on the President and UEC. Therefore, such deficiency can cause the loss of democracy in the country. None of the significant changes of UEC are seen in holding the election with which way according to the Constitution. Therefore, it is conducted with a PR system, and it can maintain democracy. Some of the parties are interested in this issue. Therefore, does the UEC have the plan to start that system

by negotiating with the parties? When will the UEC meet with the parties?

20. U Khin Maung Oo replied that the UEC Chairman has already discussed this issue during the meeting with the parties on 26 February. The PR papers are accepted, and the officials will discuss these papers during the next 2 or 3 months. Then, all will coordinate for this issue. Therefore, the progress in this period will be announced soon.

21. The Editor-in-Chief of Ye Ye Tauk Journal continued that the country is far from a democratic pathway for another reason. The point is that there were parties who ran in the election with foreign assistance. I will present one piece of evidence for this case. On 10 April 2019, US Ambassador Scot Marciel once said in his speech, "There is no support to Myanmar but the US provided \$950 million to NLD" during the stake-driving ceremony for the US Embassy Liaison Office in Nay Pyi Taw. Although I thought it was National Democratic Party and the party Chair U Soe Maung also opposed this issue. The next reason is that, the US embassy provided \$46 million in the election period. But that time, the UEC Chairman said they did not receive any financial assistance. Then, the NLD's spokesperson said the processes are being conducted in the scope of government authority, and the government will manage this issue. In reality, Monwya Aung Shin is not the representative of the government and is just representative of the party. He made a response in this case and talked about the financial management system of government. But there is no objection to UEC in this case. Therefore, these facts are the main reason that the country is far from a democratic pathway. How is the plan of the current UEC regarding these issues?

22. Then, U Khin Maung Oo said the Constitution stated Chapter 9 – Election, Chapter 10 – Political Parties and Chapter 11 – Provisions on the State of Emergency. But we are concerned with Chapter 9 and 10. In Constitution, it includes only six sections for political parties. Similarly, there are also Political Party Registration Law and Rules. In this law, a party must follow the stipulations of Section 6, and if they break Section 12, they have

no right to subsist. However, the primary source is stipulated in the Constitution, and it is Section 407. If a political party infringe one of the following stipulations, it shall have no right of continued existence: (a. having been declared an unlawful association under the existing law; b. directly or indirectly contacting or abetting the insurgent group launching an armed rebellion against the Union or the associations and persons determined by the Union to have committed terrorist acts or the association declared to be an unlawful association; c. directly or indirectly receiving and expending financial, material and other assistance from a foreign government, a religious association, other association or a person from a foreign country; d. abusing religion for political purpose. Therefore, if the commission received solid evidence, actions will be taken in accordance with the law.)

23. The Chief Editor of Ye Ye Tauk Journal also said the term of the State Administration Council is one year. The UEC should carry No (1) and No (5) out of the five future work programmes of the Council. Although it has been three months in carrying out the No (1) programme, it just completed only half of the process.

The public wants to know about abolishing parties that are not pursuant to the election law and rules, reviewing the new parties, amendment of election law, and work plans as the elections draw near. Does the UEC have a timetable for these processes, and how is the schedule?

24. U Khin Maung Oo explained the work plans in implementing the No (1) out of five future work programmes of the SAC. Then, the UEC reviews the

PR system, including the Constitution and election law in a timely manner. The outcomes and decisions will also be announced to the public later.

25. Editor-in-Chief of NP News (National Post) U Kyaw Myo Win said the SAC has already announced the holding of the election. But what will happen if the people have no trust in this election or do not accept the holding of an election, or do they not cast their votes, or do most of the parties not compete in the election?

26. U Khin Maung Oo said there are law and rules in every process. There are also procedures for election and work plans to be conducted in the election period. But they will be carried out in line with the law and rules. They also have full provisions.

27. Editor-in-Chief of NP News (National Post) U Kyaw Myo Win asked if the proper numbers of people cast votes, the election would be a successful election.

29. U Khin Maung Oo

continued that the UEC will announce in accord with the election process while other officials will register the lists. But the UEC has not faced such a situation yet, and the previous elections were also successfully held despite the challenges. Therefore, the UEC will carry out in accordance with the law, rules and guidelines for the coming election.

29. The journalist of Pyidaungsu Daily Newspaper U Ko Ko Lwin said he would ask about public healthcare regarding CDM. There are CDMs and Non-CDMs currently. For example, if there are many doctors like a doctor from Kan Htoo Ma station hospital of Taze Township, how will the SAC appreciate them? How will the SAC take action against the healthcare staff who fail to enter their duties despite the warnings of SAC?

30. Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said the Non-CDM doctor from Kan Htoo Ma station hospital did not join CDM not because of the government but because of the patients. The government also

in this sector. The government employees should perform their duties in professional ways.

31. Then, reporter U Ko Ko Lwin said the quick arrest of suspects under Section 505 and other Sections is needed, and it also needs to take actions against them. Some of the destructive manners can be seen in some wards and villages. Although the suspects who commit incitement to affect the stability of State are announced in state-run newspapers, MRTV and MWD, there are very few numbers of audience. He asked if there were plans to publish vinyl photos in each township.

32. Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun appreciated his advice. He also said there are also suggestions regarding the cases occurring at a low level. The SAC knows about social bullying and threats. The SAC knows everything is happening at the lower level. The officials investigate the cases and seek confirmations. He also admitted that they could not offer complete safety in these cases. But the SAC is making efforts for safety and

work plans, cooperated areas and sub-areas, implementation of decisions made by submitting an approval of fund. On the same day, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting. He discussed the important role of private sectors in region economy integration, cooperation work in processes of ASEAN Business Advisory Council in 2021, the commitment of Myanmar to carry out the international agreements in accord with the stipulated laws and to safeguard the businesses allowed in the former government term and priority sectors in solving the difficulties of permitted businesses. On 5 March, Vice-Chairman of SAC Vice-Senior General Soe Win met with the US Ambassador via video conferencing while Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met with Japanese Ambassador on 8 March and Vice-Chairman of SAC Vice-Senior General Soe Win discussed with the Head of the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) via video conferencing on 9 March. Moreover, the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Military Operation Meeting was held via video conferencing on 10 March. Union Minister for Information U Chitt Naing and party also attended the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information Meeting and exchanged views on ASEAN: A Digital Community with Accessibility for All. Then, the 46<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Human Rights Council was also held on 11 March. The Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs U Chan Aye sent his video message and joined the meeting online. Moreover, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met with Brunei's Foreign Minister via video conference.

The Chairman of SAC Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services joined the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces' Meeting online. The Deputy Defence Minister of the Russia Federation attended the 76<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day. These are the cooperation work between the international countries and the government's performance just in March. Therefore, recognition or non-recognition are just the words of unscrupulous persons. The SAC has the proper relationship between the international countries and neighbouring countries. The government exercises independent and active foreign policy.

**TO BE CONTINUED.**



Media persons are viewing the homemade weapons used in riots.

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think that the government employees must serve the interests of the public no matter what the government is. But they have the right to show their attitude, such as they are satisfied with the government or not.

The government also refers to such an attitude. All the operations from the rank of clerk to senior officials are professional ones. And so they must have professional manners. The SAC also presents prizes to dutiful employees and provides assistance to the staff of ministries, especially in the Thingyan period. The government and ministries operate the machine as normal. In health sectors, although there are weaknesses, it can work in full soon as the military medics participate




















tranquillity across the nation.

33. Correspondent U Thwin Htoo Aung of ONE News said some international community does not recognize the current situation. He then asked whether there was cooperation between international countries.

34. Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun replied that the one-month performance is being broadcast via MRTV and MWD per month. Therefore, international relations will be one of these performances. The 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was held on 1 April via video conferencing, and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing joined the meeting. Then, they discussed the cooperation, infrastructure development, effective

## Files opened against medical doctors who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

THE following medical doctors have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and health staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr.	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Dr Naw Marthay (Professor)	People's Hospital (1000-bed) Zabuthiri Township	Hline Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
2	Dr Kyaw Zwar Lwin (Director)	Director Ministry of Health and Sports	Dawei Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
3	Dr Hlaing Moh Moh Thu (Medical Superintendent)	Sangha Hospital, Pyinmana Town	Pyinmana Town, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
4	Dr Maung Maung Chit (Medical Superintendent)	Kawa People's Hospital	Monywa Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
5	Dr Ko Ko Naing (Medical Superintendent)	Htigyaing People's Hospital	Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
6	Dr Thet Paing (Medical Superintendent)	Ye Town People's Hospital	Thakayta Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
7	Dr Moe Kyaw Thu (Medical Superintendent)	Bilin Town People's Hospital	Insein Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
8	Dr Nay Min Myo Tun (Medical Superintendent)	Taikkyi Town People's Hospital	Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
9	Dr Khun Win Latt (Medical Superintendent)	Ywangan People's Hospital	Taunggyi Town, Shan State	505-a	
10	Dr Myo Zaw (Medical Superintendent)	Loilem People's Hospital	Loilem Town, Shan State	505-a	
11	Dr Sai Myat Thura (Medical Superintendent)	Panglong People's Hospital	Panglong Town, Shan State	505-a	
12	Dr Aung Naing Oo (Medical Superintendent)	Namhsan People's Hospital	Namhsan Town, Shan State	505-a	
13	Dr Aung Zaw Oo Township Medical Officer	Tangyan Township People's Hospital	Tangyan Town, Shan State	505-a	
14	Dr Ei Zin Nyein Township Medical Officer	Lewe Township People's Hospital (100-bed)	Lewe Town, Nay Pyi Taw	505-a	
15	Dr Aung Kyaw Thu (Specialist)	Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed)	Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw	505-a	
16	Dr Htet Lin (Specialist)	Tatkon Township People's Hospital (100-bed)	Tatkon Town, Nay Pyi Taw	505-a	
17	Dr Mie Mie Sein Toe (Specialist)	Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed)	Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw	505-a	
18	Dr Swe Swe Hlaing (Specialist)	General Hospital (200-bed) Bhamo Township	Bhamo Town, Kachin State	505-a	
19	Dr Wah Wah Min (Specialist)	General Hospital (200-bed) Bhamo Township	Bhamo Town, Kachin State	505-a	

Among them, Dr Aung Kyaw Thu (specialist), Dr Htet Lin (specialist), Dr Mie Mie Sein Toe (specialist), Dr Swe Swe Hlaing (specialist) and Dr Wah Wah Min (specialist) participated in CDM activities without performing medical treatments at assigned hospitals but gave medical treatments at private hospitals/clinics according to the documentary photos.

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those medical doctors charged, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those medical doctors, and work licences of the private hospitals/clinics which allowed them to give medical treatments will be closed. Deterrent action will be taken against owners of these hospitals/clinics under the law. Action will be taken against any health staff under the law for taking charges of providing healthcare services to the people and giving assistance to private hospitals/clinics with participation in CDM activities without discharging assigned duty. Severe action will be taken against owners of private hospitals/clinics which admit those medical doctors and health staff for supporting the CDM participants. —MNA

## Riotous insurgents attack camps of security forces

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force's press release, crowds of riotous insurgency attacked bases of security forces and members by taking advantage of surprise.

At about 8:30 pm on 12 April, some 30 members of an armed insurgent group (under

scrutiny) taking positions from east, north and west wings opened fire at Kinmunchaung police station in Kyaihto Township.

Servicemen of the camp led by the camp leader performed counter-attack against the insurgents. At about 9:10

pm, the insurgent group retreated from the scene. In the incident, no servicemen and families were injured.

At 9:15 am yesterday, insurgents exploded a mine (under scrutiny) against a patrol convoy at the junction of Zay Road in Ayemyatha ward. Four

security personnel on board the patrol vehicle were injured and sent to the military hospital.

So, security forces performed appropriate security operation around the scene.

At 10 am yesterday, some ten rioters attacked security

forces on the duty of security at No 4 Basic Education High School in Ward 13 of Myingyan with the use of homemade guns, catapults and iron hooks. Counter-attacks of the security forces cracked down the rioters at 10:10 am. — MNA

## Jaggery price in bear market this year

THE jaggery price in Kyaukpadaung Township, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region remains bearish from the early toddy season.

Jaggery fetched only K1,200 per viss (a viss equals 1.6kg) in April, showing a small decrease of K300 as against last year. Regardless of Thingyan Festival, the demand is pretty weak this year.

The palm tree that bears the fruits is the female tree, and that has the stalks of the fruit is male palm tree. Mainly the male palm tree gives more date sap than the female tree. The male palm tree season is going to expire, and the female palm tree season is going to start. Yet, the price is on the downward trend.

There is a vast area of toddy palm farm in NyaungU Township. However, the jaggery cannot keep up with the sugar business. Moreover, the local jaggery business is less popular among



The toddy palm tree climbing is a traditional business in Ngathayouk town in NyaungU District.

young people. Earlier, all the villagers solely relied on toddy palm cultivation. At present, the

number of toddy palm farmer dropped by half, said a farmer U Soe Win.

The toddy palm tree climbing is a traditional business in Ngathayouk town in NyaungU

District. Yet, the industry is not financially secure. Consequently, the local people migrate to South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia for agriculture and hard labour. The growing number of migrant workers from Ngathayouk town are seen.

The toddy season starts in January and February in Ngathayouk town. The business is physically demanding but less secure. The toddy palm tree climbers and jaggery makers closely observe the market to produce the jaggery.

Jiggery price is declining. The local people from the central part of the country are struggling to survive from the production of jaggery and palm juice only. Sometimes, palm fruits are used as snacks as well as feedstuff. It was believed as a product with a low grade. Some trees were even cut down to use as firewood in the previous years. — KPD/ GNLM

## Pigeon pea price remains on the rise

ACCORDING to the Win Win depot from Mandalay, the pigeon pea (red gram) price continues rising in early April. It fetched up to K90,000 per three-basket bag on 10 April.

The traders set the selling price at K90,000 per bag. The majority of them accept only immediate cash payment.

The pigeon pea market is expected to remain bullish even after the Thingyan holidays (13-19 April), a trader from the Mandalay market shared his opinion.

The pigeon pea price was on the rise in March-end 2021 amid the low yield and the dollar gain.

According to the domestic market, the pigeon peas market saw a slight upward trend in price along with the appreciation of the US dollar against Kyat.

The price showed a remarkable increase of K16,000-18,000 as against January's rate.

As there is no demand by India, the traders are keeping them for now, said U Myo Swe from Mandalay wholesale market.

Myanmar's pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India and exported to Singapore, the US, Canada, Pakistan, the UK,

and Malaysia.

But, the export volume to other countries rather than to India is minimal.

More than 249,245 tonnes of various pulses and beans were exported to foreign markets between 1 October and 4 December of the current financial year 2020-2021, with an estimated value of US\$217 million.

Of them, the pigeon pea export accounted for 83,758 tonnes, generating an income of \$57.94 million, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy, and it contributes to over 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Products.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans.

Its second-largest production is the pulses and beans, counting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres.

Among them, black gram, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage.

Other beans, including peanut, chickpea, soy pea, black-eyed beans, butter bean and rice bean, are also grown

in the country.

The domestic bean market is positively related to supply and demand law, said Secretary U Min Ko Oo of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Since 2017, India has been setting import quota on beans, including black grams and pigeon peas.

Therefore, the growers face difficulties to export their beans to the Indian market.

India's restriction of the importation of pulses in August 2017 severely affected growers in Myanmar.

The price of pulses also drastically plummeted.

In the 2017-2018 FY, over a million tons of black grams, pigeon peas, and green grams were shipped to foreign countries.

Nevertheless, the earnings were registered at just \$713 million owing to the price drop.

Myanmar shipped over 1.6 million tonnes of different varieties of pulses, especially black grams, with an estimated worth of US\$1 billion, to other countries in the FY2018-2019.

During last FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, the country delivered 1.6 million tonnes with an estimated value of \$1.195 billion. — MM/ GNLM

## Myanmar-Thai border trade reached \$1.9 bln in FY2020-21

BILATERAL border trade between Myanmar and Thailand reached over US\$1.9 billion as of 2 April in the current budget year 2020-21, which started in October, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The country's export to Thailand totalled \$1.3 billion while its import shared \$589 million during the period.

Compared to the same period in the last FY, the financial year's figures declined by \$370.

Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with neighbouring Thailand through seven border checkpoints — Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

During the over six-month period, the Myawady land border topped with \$729 million of bilateral trade. Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate, coconut (fresh and dry), beans, corns, bamboo

shoots, sesame seeds, garment, footwear, plywood and veneer, broken rice and other commodities to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics, edible vegetable oil and food products from the neighbouring country.

The bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand stood at \$1.9 billion in FY2020-2021 (as of April), \$5.1 billion in FY2019-2020, \$5.5 billion in FY2018-2019, \$2.9 billion in the mini-budget year of 2018 or transitional period from April to September this year, \$5 billion in FY2017-2018, \$4.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$4.8 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$5.7 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$5.6 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$4.7 billion in the 2012-2013FY, and \$4.5 billion in the 2011-2012FY, according to the Myanmar Ministry of Commerce. — Zwe/ GNLM

## Visitors crowd in Ngwehsaung beach in water festival holiday



THE Ngwehsaung beach closed in the COVID-19 period, is being flocked with the visitors in the Thingyan water festival holiday.

Ngwehsaung Beach is a popular resort and one of the top tourist attractions in Myanmar to relax by soaking in the sea because of the finer sand and clearer. It is about a six-hour drive from the commercial capital. The visitor can also reach Bird Island, lovers Island, Snake Island, and three pagodas through Ngwehsaung beach.

Road links between Yangon-Pathein and Pathein-Ngwehsaung have upgraded, and delivery of freshwater has also developed.

“We can take relaxation at the beach by enjoying the fresh air and tasting hygienic foods,” said a visitor.

The coast guard and Discipline committee is carrying out the rules and regulation process thoroughly along the beach to ensure visitors’ safety. Most of the people visit the Ngwehsaung beach to have rest and recreation during the water festival.

The Ngwehsaung beach hosted about 832 local visitors and 79 foreigners from 24 March 2021 to 12 April 2021, according to the official statistics of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Department. — (Ngwehsaung IPRD)/GNLM

The Ngwehsaung beach hosted about 832 local visitors and 79 foreigners from 24 March 2021 to 12 April 2021.

## Agro exports soar to \$2.95 bln in current FY

THE agricultural exports have topped US\$2.95 billion as of 2 April 2021 in the current financial year since 1 October 2020. According to the Ministry of Commerce, the figures reflect a significant rise of \$809.8 million this FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The agro exports were registered \$2.14 billion in the corresponding period of the 2019-2020 FY.

The agricultural exports unexpectedly surge regardless of the coronavirus’s impact on foreign demand for other export groups and political changes.

At present, some ocean liners suspended cargo transport from Myanmar in recent days. The cargo transport will double or triple if we conduct the trade with small ships. It could harm the export sector somehow, according to *Myanmar Mercantile Marine Development Association*.

However, Myanmar’s border trade with China is steadily conducted. Around 1,000 trucks are daily seen flowing in and out of the Muse, a central cross-border post between Myanmar and China, the traders said.

Myanmar is daily shipping rice, broken rice, green grams, peanuts, various pulses and beans, onion, chilli, fishery products, consumer goods, watermelon and muskmelon to China with over 700 trucks. Meanwhile, building materials, electric appliances, medical devices, con-

sumer goods, and fertilizer are imported daily with 200 trucks.

The closure of private banks forced the traders to turn to the operators running ‘hundi’, an informal money transfer system, in order to make transactions in the border trade.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for over 22 per cent of overall exports. The chief export items in the agricultural industry are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, In-

dia, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

The country requires specific export plans for each agro product. They are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. Contract farming systems, regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups must meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with such challenges as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and unpredictable weather conditions. — HH/GNLM



In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for over 22 per cent of overall exports.

## India-Myanmar border trade up by \$78.8 mln amid strict border control



Between 1 October and 2 April in the current budget year, trade values were registered at over \$31.15 million via Tamu border and \$124 million via Reed.

THE value of border trade between India and Myanmar jumped to US\$155 million between 1 October and 2 April period of the current financial year 2020-2021 amid the closure of border posts by India. The figures reflected an increase of \$78.8 million as against a year-ago period.

India tightened border control in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The traders suffered the negative impact of the outbreak. The cross-border trade between Myanmar and India has become sluggish. The reopening of the crossings has been put off for now.

Myanmar conducts border trade with neighbouring India through Tamu, Reed, and

Htantlang border posts.

Between 1 October and 2 April in the current budget year, trade values were registered at over \$31.15 million via Tamu border and \$124 million via Reed. There was no trade recorded at the Htantlang post.

Myanmar exports mung beans, pigeon peas, green grams, areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves, fishery products, fruits, and vegetables to India. At the same time, it imports pharmaceuticals, oil cakes, electronic appliances, motorbikes, steel and other construction machines and building materials from the neighbouring country. — KK/GNLM

# Jordan royal feud stirs unease in Saudi Arabia

SAUDI Arabia fervently denies involvement in Jordan's royal feud, but the arrest of an advisor to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has stirred unease in Riyadh, which sources say is pushing for his release.

Bassem Awadallah, seen as an influential figure familiar with the inner workings of the Saudi leadership, was ensnared in a rift within Jordan's royal family that played out in full public glare.

Riyadh officially threw its support behind Jordan's King Abdullah II, who has sought to draw a line under the damaging row with his half-brother

Prince Hamzah as state television showed them together on Sunday for the first time since the crisis erupted.

Saudi officials dismiss speculation it was behind the split, insisting that such royal infighting could have dangerous ripple effects for other monarchies in the tinderbox region.

The speculation arose as Jordan suggested a "foreign" hand was behind the crisis, with observers immediately pointing the finger of suspicion at Riyadh.

The crisis followed media reports that warming Saudi-Is-



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, also known as MBS. PHOTO:AFP

rael ties could cost Jordan -- home to a large Palestinian population -- its custodianship

of Jerusalem's holy sites including Al-Aqsa mosque, a key source of legitimacy for

Amman's ruling Hashemite dynasty.

But a source close to the leadership of Saudi Arabia, no stranger to royal ructions, told AFP that Riyadh has "zero interest in destabilising Jordan", a longstanding regional ally.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan led a delegation to Amman last week to express what he called solidarity with Abdullah. The trip came, the source said, as Saudi rulers felt "the (Jordanian) king was being fed rumours by other parties that they needed to refute in person and not over the phone".—AFP ■

## Ramadan breeds dread in crisis-hit Iraq



Iraqis are bemoaning the rising cost of living as they stock up on food ahead of the fasting month of Ramadan during which families get together for iftar meals after sunset. PHOTO: AFP

FACED with sharp price rises, a decline in the buying power of the dinar and rising unemployment, Iraqis enter the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan with a feeling of dread.

"After a whole day of fasting, we have to eat something," even if the price of a kilo of tomatoes has more than doubled, said Umm Hussein, a single mother of five who has no salary.

She struggles each month to raise the \$45 rent for their modest home.

Like 16 million of Iraq's 40-million population living under the poverty line, Umm Hussein relies on her ration card for food.

Under the legacy from the 1990s when Iraq's Saddam Hussein was under a stringent international embargo, every Iraqi whose household heads earns less than \$1,000 a month is entitled to certain basic provisions at subsidised prices.

But this year, "we've only received the rations for Febru-

ary", said Abu Seif, 36, who like his father before him has the job of distributing bags of subsidised goods.

"We still haven't got the rations for Ramadan," during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, a period that starts this week.

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi had promised extra rations for the holy month. But "people are coming in or calling every day to ask when they're arriving", said Abu Seif. —AFP ■

## Mexican villagers take anti-narco fight into own hands

MEXICAN children toting replica rifles march alongside armed members of a self-defence force who say they have been left to defend their village against drug traffickers all by themselves.

The inhabitants of Ayahualtempa in violence-plagued Guerrero state accuse the authorities of abandoning them to their fate

despite past killings and kidnappings. They blame a local gang called Los Ardillos which they say is seeking to muscle into their village of bean and maize (corn) farmers located in a major opium producing region.

At least nine locals have been murdered since 2019, but the residents complain that their pleas

to the authorities have fallen on deaf ears.

"It's been 15 months since the government came here and promised to support us. So far we haven't seen any help," said self-defence leader Bernardino Sanchez. Chayo joined the community police force at the age of 15. —AFP ■

## Minneapolis under curfew after officer shoots Black motorist dead

FRESH protests broke out Tuesday night in Minneapolis despite a curfew implemented after a police officer fatally shot a young Black man when she appeared to confuse her handgun with her taser, fueling tensions in a US city already on edge because of the George Floyd murder trial.

Shortly before 9:00 pm local time (0200GMT Tuesday), nearly two hours after the curfew went into effect, dozens of protesters continued to wave signs and chant slogans in front of the police station in Brooklyn Centre, where Sunday's killing occurred.

Demonstrators taunted police through newly-erected wire fencing around the station, and carried signs saying "Jail all racist killer cops," "Am I next?" and "No justice, no peace".

Police fired tear gas at the protesters several times and ordered them to disperse.

This was the second consecutive night of protests after 20-year-old Daunte Wright was shot dead by police while driving with his girlfriend.

In police body camera video released earlier Monday in Brooklyn Centre, an officer shouts "Taser! Taser! Taser!" but then instead fires a gun at the victim.

"The officer drew their handgun instead of their taser," said Brooklyn Centre police chief Tim Gannon.

Gannon said it was his belief that the officer, now on leave pending an investigation, "had the intention to deploy their taser but instead shot Mr Wright with a single bullet." —AFP ■



People gather holding signs before curfew to protest the death of Daunte Wright, who was fatally shot by a police officer in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. PHOTO: AFP

## Centralized venues confirmed for upcoming Asian Qualifiers

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has previously approved the centralized venues for the Asian Qualifiers for the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 matches and FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, scheduled to take place from 31 May to 15 June 2021 according to the statement with the AFC.

China will host the Group A qualifiers, which comprises Syria, the Philippines, Maldives and Guam.

Next, Kuwait will take the host position for Group B, which comprises Australia, Jordan, Nepal, and Chi-

nese Taipei.

Meanwhile, Bahrain will make the host for Group C, including Asian powerhouse Iran, Iraq, Hong Kong and Cambodia. In contrast, Saudi Arabia will host Group D matches, including Uzbekistan, Singapore, Yemen and Palestine.

Likewise, Qatar, the host country for FIFA World Cup 2022, will welcome Group E opponents Oman, Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh.

Japan will stand as a host for Group F, which features Myanmar, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Mongolia.

The United Arab Emirates will be a host for Group G, with ASEAN powerhouses Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. At the same time, South Korea will welcome Group H's matches, which comprises Turkmenistan, Lebanon, North Korea, and Sri Lanka. —GNLM ■

## Olympic torchbearers run laps in empty Osaka park due to COVID spike



Former Olympic swimmer Aya Terakawa carries the Olympic torch at the Expo '70 Commemorative Park in Suita, Osaka Prefecture, on April 13, 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TORCHBEARERS for this summer's Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday ran laps in an empty park in Osaka after the flame relay in the western Japan prefecture was rerouted from

public roads due to a sharp rebound in coronavirus infections.

A day before the 100-day milestone to the opening of the Olympics, Osaka, a metropolis

that recently has been hit by record numbers of daily COVID-19 infections, became the first prefecture in Japan to give up on holding the relay in its planned format.

Runners carried the flame for about 200 meters in the Expo '70 Commemorative Park in Suita, which was closed to the public, instead of on public roads where large crowds could have gathered.

Each was allowed to invite up to four people to watch, including family.

More than 100 torchbearers are scheduled to run over two days at the park in Osaka, the 10th prefecture that the flame has visited since the start of the relay on March 25, while public support for the Olympics remains low in Japan.

With the event being streamed online, many torchbearers waved and posed for cameras during their run in the park, which was created on the site of the 1970 Japan World Exposition and known for the iconic Tower of the Sun artwork by the late Taro Okamoto. —Kyodo News ■

## Frankfurt coach Huetter to take charge of Moenchengladbach next season

AUSTRIAN Adi Huetter will quit as Eintracht Frankfurt head coach at the end of the season to take charge of Bundesliga rivals Borussia Moenchengladbach, both clubs confirmed Tuesday.

After weeks of speculation, Huetter, 51, will sign a three-year contract as head coach of Gladbach, replacing Marco Rose, 44, who is leaving to take over at Borussia Dortmund for the 2021/22 season.

With six games left, fourth-placed Frankfurt are on the verge of qualifying for the

Champions League next season. They have a five-point lead over fifth-placed Dortmund.

In contrast, Gladbach are eighth in Germany's top flight, 13 points from a place in the Champions League.

By coincidence, Borussia Moenchengladbach host Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Huetter informed Eintracht's bosses on Monday, and the team on Tuesday morning, that he is leaving due to a release clause in his contract. —AFP ■



Frankfurt's Austrian head coach Adi Huetter is leaving at the end of the season to join Borussia Moenchengladbach. **PHOTO: AFP**

## More Ibrahimovic controversy after lockdown restaurant 'meeting'

ZLATAN Ibrahimovic was again in the headlines for non-football reasons on Monday after he was reportedly pictured in a Milan restaurant while the city was in a coronavirus lockdown.

Italian news website Fanpage published photos it says were taken at lunchtime on Sunday of the AC Milan forward with friends, all without masks and surrounded by wine glasses, in the restaurant which should have been closed to on-site diners.

Sunday was the last day



Zlatan Ibrahimovic was sent off in AC Milan's 3-1 win at Parma on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

of lockdown in the Lombardy region where Milan is located and several other regions with improving contagion statistics.

Lombardy will be reclassified from a "red zone" area to an "orange" area, where people face fewer travel curbs, shops can reopen, although a ban on dining in bars and restaurants remains.

A source from Ibrahimovic's entourage claimed to AFP that the Sweden attacker was there for a "work meeting", while the

restaurant's owner Tano Simonato told Fanpage that the group, which he says also included former Milan player Ignazio Abate, had not eaten in the restaurant.

"They didn't eat, as friends we had a glass of wine," Fanpage quoted Simonato as saying.

The photos caused controversy also because in the autumn Ibrahimovic, who contracted Covid-19 in September, promoted social distancing and mask wearing for the Lombardy regional government. —AFP ■