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New Year Message for Myanmar Year 1383 sent by Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

THINGYAN, which is a transition from an old year to a new year, is the most notable and solemn traditional festival of Myanmar citizens.

At this moment of saying farewell to the old year and ushering into the New Year, I pray for all the brethren of the Union to enjoy health and happiness and the auspicious days and to be free from the Covid-19 pandemic. I also wish all your wishes come true.

During the previous year, we saw the challenges and hardships triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the formation of the State Administration Council (SAC) by the Tatmadaw as per the delegation of the responsibilities of the State made in accord with the emergency provisions of the 2008 Constitution due to massive vote-rigging generated willfully during the multiparty democracy general election held on 8 November 2020 and an unusual situation.

The SAC is now trying to restore peace and stability and generate socio-economic development, which are the two aspirations of the people, in shouldering the duties of the State. It also promises the utmost efforts to fulfil the wishes of the people.

Not only the government but also the collective involvement of other pillars, political parties and the people are required in carrying out this task. The most important thing is that all should work with the wider outlook and wisdom in generat-



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is extending the New Year Message for the Myanmar Year 1383.

ing national peace and stability and progress towards a gentle transition.

SAC will join hands with all the national brethren and exert utmost efforts for ensuring a peaceful and stable socio-economic life, unity and development for the State and the people.

Efforts and consideration must be made on a national scale in carrying out the task of rebuilding the national economy. Chiefly, we must reform the existing important economic in-

stitutions and build new ones to strengthen the whole economic infrastructure.

The government is constantly monitoring and conducting Covid-19 prevention and treatment undertakings for the public, and it now has a three-stage priority programme for giving the vaccine, produced in India, China and Russia, for over 15 million people in five groups.

Till now, 3.5 million doses have already been arrived in the country, and 28 million more will arrive soon. Priority will be given

to the people in preventing and containing the virus. People will be able to work or learn only if they are healthy. We will be able to shape our better future only if we are healthy.

As for the success of the peace process, the Tatmadaw stays away from any acts that may hinder peace. Hence, all the organizations and persons, who are the stakeholders of the peace process, should join hands for peace and tranquillity of the Union, socio-economic progress, and installing a correct demo-

cratic system to reach this end. Only the enduring peace can bring national development.

In this auspicious Myanmar Year 1383, we all must address the weakness and promote the strengths of the previous year in serving the interests of the country and its citizens.

I send this New Year message urging all the brethren of the Union to join us in collectively serving the interests of the Union happily and vigorously. I wish you all health and happiness.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

sectors of the economy as well

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

3. Social affairs

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

Five future programmes of State Administration Council

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

Over 70,000 acres of non-paddy crops irrigated by Thaphanseik Dam



The irrigation water is reportedly supplied this year because the dam couldn't provide water last year. **PHOTO: LU LAY**

PLANS are underway to supply sufficient water to more than 70,000 acres of non-paddy crops with the irrigation water from the Thaphanseik Dam in Sagaing Region, according to U Win Hlaing Oo, Region Director

of Agriculture Department. “We couldn't supply water last year, but we are irrigating about 70,000 acres of non-paddy crops this year. We will especially plant black sesame and green pea with about 500 acres

of legumes,” he said.

In Sagaing Region, the regular water supply for summer crops is expected to be more than 300,000 acres. However, the Department of Agriculture has informed that the water supply

is limited due to insufficient water in the Thaphanseik Dam and have notified to select crops that use less water in areas where there is no water supply.

Although more than 300,000 acres of paddy were grown

when the irrigation water was available in Sagaing Region, no paddy is grown anymore. The irrigation water is reportedly supplied this year because the dam couldn't provide water last year. —Lu Lay

Myaseinyaung project to implement in 41 villages of Sagaing region

MYASEINYAUNG project will be implemented in 41 villages of Sagaing region in this financial year of 2020-2021. So far, implementation in two villages out of 41 has been completed, according to the Sagaing Region Rural Development Department.

“This FY, Myaseinyaung project will be carried out in 41 villages from nine districts of Sagaing region. The implementation in the two villages has been completed

since the start of January, 2021. These 41 villages were targeted to complete within this year,” says U Win Kyaw Myo, the head of the department.

“The Myaseinyaung village project provides K 30 million for each village unit of the project. It is not a loan but a revolving fund. The authorities formed a management committee and provided a training course to manage those funds.

Then, the villagers will be disbursed the loans initially. The committee will decide how much to provide for agriculture, livestock, manufacturing and other sectors. The interest rate will be between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent. However, the interest is set up 0.5 per cent in a year of COVID-19 stricken period. The training course will also enable the committee to decide on the interest period as to whether to repay in three or

six months,” he added.

The project will be carried out in 41 villages of Sagaing region including one village each in Kalay, Khin-U, Yinmabin and Htigyaing townships, two each in Indaw, Kawlin, Tabayin, Wetlet, Taze and Kanbalu townships, three each in Sagaing, Monywa, Budalin, Ayadaw, Pale, Shwebo and Ye-U townships and four villages in Homalin township.—Lu Lay

In the events of the riots, 16 police members fell, and more than 260 were injured

PROTESTS were staged as of 3 February. The Council solved it in a democratic way. In the events of the riots, 16 police members fell, and more than 260 were injured. Moreover, files of dead cases were opened for the death of 248 rioters in the events.

(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)

Parts of sitting marble Buddha image, throne conveyed to Nay Pyi Taw for seventh time



The seventh ceremony is in progress to convey the parts of Maravizara sitting marble Buddha image and throne to Nay Pyi Taw. Venerable monks and officials are sprinkling scented water on the parts.

THE seventh ceremony to convey the parts of Maravizara sitting marble Buddha image and throne to be built in Nay Pyi Taw took place in Simikhon Village of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

Venerable monks, Lt-Gen Kan My-

int Than of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Oo and officials sprinkled scented water on the parts of the Buddha image and the throne, which will early leave for Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

On the agenda, the modular trailers

carrying part-2 from the main marble rock for the sitting Buddha image weighing 570 tonnes and part-3 weighing 633 tonnes started departure at the auspicious time.

Chairman of Mandalay Region Sangha Nayaka Committee venerable Sayadaw of Pali-New Padetha Monastery from

Masoeysin Monastery, Lt-Gen Kan Myint Than, the commander and congregation paid homage to the parts of the Buddha image.

The ceremony ended with a three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Thitthatu. —MNA

Sand Pagoda Festival held in Twantay

THE 456th Shan traditional Thei Pone Pagoda Festival (Sand Pagoda Festival) was held at Shwesandaw pagoda of Twantay Township of Yangon Region on 17 April (1st day of Myanmar New Year).

The people from four Shan Villages- Shansugyi, Nyaungdaga, Muelaman and Ngakhonmasan collectively carried the sand and built the pagoda.

These four Shan villages yearly hold the festival, and Ngakhonmasan village made diamond for the pagoda this year festival. In contrast, Nyaungdaga village made five-terraced bamboo coils and shaft, Shansugyi village made bell and inverted lotus flower and spreading lotus flower and Muelaman village made um-

rella. The villages alternatively made the parts of pagodas yearly, according to the responsible person of the festival.

The young Shan people preserve the tradition of Shan, and now the festival reaches its 456th anniversary. The four Shan villages have to construct the pagoda in accordance with the measurement fixed by Shan Literature and Culture Association (Twantay). The pagoda is 9 ft high. "The Shan religious hall was constructed in the Shwesandaw pagoda precinct to contribute to Shan literature, tradition and culture to young Shan people," said U Ba Win, member of festival organizing committee. — Myo Hlaing (Twantay)



The young Shan people preserve the tradition of Shan, and now the festival reaches its 456th anniversary.

Myanmar New Year Messages of State Administration Council members



Mahn Nyein Maung, SAC member

I wish all Myanmar people physical and mental well-being. First, I would like to pray for the country to be free from hatred and gain loving-kindness among the people in the New Year. Secondly, our country has been facing more than 70 years of conflict. We, people, including the leaders, are responsible for it to end such a situation. We all are responsible for the peace and tranquillity of the State. So I would like to urge all to take our respective duties with humble minds for the country and people.

U Khin Maung Swe, SAC member

MINGALABA! I would like to extend my best wishes for the health and happiness of the entire people during New Year.

There is a saying in the political field. The political leaders prioritize the victory in the election. But, the leaders who love the country think of only for the improvement of successive generations.

Dear esteemed people, we should consider more than 50 million people, including those we love or hate. It is time for our community to be in a fair situation. Then, I would like to request to implement a well-developed country with the spirit of national unity.

Every citizen has a responsibility to protect the country. There is also proof that the ethnic people Mon, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Chin protected the country from generations to generations. Therefore, we should love or



admire our people and protect our country not to be the follower of other countries by paying respect to the dedicated efforts of our ancestors and the founders of our country. I urge all the people to implement a federal Union, which the entire people want, with the spirit of national unity.

May all Myanmar people and the country be peaceful and healthy.

U Mung Har, SAC member

MINGALABA! I am Chin national. Although I am a Chin national, I worship Buddha, so I would like to make a wish according to the Buddhist tradition. There might be different ways of making wishes in other religions. I recited Pathana starting last December when I was 69. I usually chanted Pathana in Nagmon



of Kachin State every Sunday together with other Buddhists. I can recite the verses at that time. Now, I am 69, and I started reciting the verses for four months. After reciting the verses, I extend metta towards other people, including my parents. Now, I have to make another wish. I pray like may we, the people become the citizens of the peaceful country. That is my wish full of metta and goodwill. May all the people be safe and healthy.

Dr Banyar Aung Moe, SAC member

HAPPY Myanmar New Year. May all the people living around the world be free from the COVID-19 pandemic. I pray to carry out the number one point of the first objective out of nine of the SAC: To build a Union based on democracy and federalism through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just. May all you implement federal Union, that the ethnic people want, stated at stanza (1) of the first objective of nine of the SAC in New Year of 1383 ME. I extend my heartiest best wishes to all people. Thank you all.



U Thein Nyunt, SAC member

THE country faced the situation like the Soviet Union and Yugoslav. It was nearly to encounter the wars like in Iraq and Libya. But the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing saved the country from that situation in 1382 ME.

Moreover, the country dips in poverty, and it needs qualified leaders and systematic leadership. And these needs are filled now, and it is a good thing out of the worst things. Whatever the people say, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and efforts of Tatmadaw should be honoured in history. The people will know who is working for the country and the public soon. Whatever the situation is, the people will come to know the answer, like which leader is trying best for the country very soon. I am sure that the country gains good fortune with proper transition under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

All can see such a situation in 1383 ME. Therefore, there is only one point that I want to say. If we want the best situation of the country and the people have hopes for their future, we all should be ready to build a new era under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and I extend best wishes for all.



Jeng Phang Naw Taung, SAC member

DEAR esteemed people, I wish to pray for the good health and well-being of all people. I would like to make another wish that may the COVID-19 pandemic end soon in the country.

We all should implement the proper plans in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment, COVID-19-hit businesses, keep of public, peace processes, the living standard of government employees and education that can keep abreast with the international countries and create job opportunities for our youths, especially in five future programmes and nine objectives of SAC, peaceful future and prosperity of the people including the ethnic nationals.

I would like to wish all the people and ethnic nationals to cooperate with positive attitudes in building the democratic federal Union. Thank you all.



Saw Daniel, SAC member

I extend my heartiest wishes for the health and happiness of the entire people during Myanmar New Year. Various ethnic people and religions are living in our country. If we treat well each other without any hatred, it will be a peaceful and happy country.

The country is rich in natural resources and human resources. Therefore, it is not that hard to be a well-developed nation. But, we should choose the right persons. Due to some disorders, the country has been standing at the average level for more than 70 years. Therefore, the people should not be extremists regarding the party, policy and people. We should prioritize the intelligent people in the sectors where they are good at. If we carry out hand in hand, there would be signs of progress in our country. We need to fix some sectors. As long as we cannot fix that, we will have to encounter a worse situation than now. I extend my best wishes for the health and well-being of our people. Thank you all.



Announcement of Union Election Commission 14 April 2021

- Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Sagaing and Myinmu townships of Sagaing Region.
- Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	163 polling stations in Sagaing township of Sagaing Region	247,998	201,136	4,179	4,042	35,568
2	66 polling stations in Myinmu township of Sagaing Region	95,805	60,243	4,285	755	10,290

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

4. According to the inspection, a total of 229 polling stations in these two townships took out 379,492 ballots and used 278,332 ballots. It left 98,465 ballots instead of 101,160 ballots. The difference was 3,427 ballots, and it found 732 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Sagaing	163	272,576	199,460	73,116	70,846	2,950	680
2	Myinmu	66	106,916	78,872	28,044	27,619	477	52
	Total	229	379,492	278,332	101,160	98,465	3,427	732

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Sagaing Township

5. A total of 163 polling stations in 34 Wards and 76 Village-tracts of Sagaing Township in Sagaing Region took out 272,576 ballots and used 199,460 ballots. It left only 70,846 ballots instead of 73,116. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal 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	263,650	198,685	64,965	62,695	2,950	680
2	Township ballots	8,926	775	8,151	8,151		
	Total	272,576	199,460	73,116	70,846	2,950	680

6. It found 2,950 missing ballots at polling stations in 22 Wards/Village-tracts of Sagaing Township and 680 extra ballots at polling stations in 7 Wards/Village-tracts.

7. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myothit Ward	2	3,950	2,750	1,200	1,200		
2	Tagaung Ward	2	3,350	2,572	778	778		
3	Seingone Ward	2	4,350	3,292	1,058	958	100	
4	Htonepho Ward	1	1,550	1,128	422	672		250
5	Zayar Ward	3	5,550	3,645	1,905	1,633	272	
6	Meeyahtar Ward	2	3,700	2,601	1,099	1,099		
7	Patahmyar Ward	1	1,950	1,467	483	483		
8	Nilar Ward	1	1,800	1,218	582	582		
9	Shweminwon Ward	4	7,050	5,173	1,877	1,777	100	
10	Parami Ward	1	1,800	1,283	517	467	50	
11	Tinteik Ward	2	4,100	3,276	824	624	200	
12	Sitee Ward	1	2,550	2,106	444	394	50	
13	Tawtapan Ward	2	2,100	1,661	439	439		
14	Yaykyi Ward	1	1,850	1,392	458	458		
15	Ywasite Ward	1	1,000	733	267	267		
16	Thintwe Ward	1	1,850	1,263	587	587		
17	Pinthin Ward	1	750	588	162	162		
18	Kyaungnauk Ward	1	500	355	145	145		
19	Ywaway Ward	1	1,550	1,174	376	376		
20	Thuhtay Ward	1	950	637	313	313		
21	Taungpo Ward	1	750	505	245	245		
22	Myinkywa Ward	1	400	248	152	152		
23	Nyaungngoketo Ward	1	350	270	80	80		
24	Sharpinkan Ward	1	450	317	133	133		
25	Kyarmingyi Village-tract	1	2,100	1,539	561	561		
26	Bauktauk Village-tract	2	3,100	2,111	989	989		
27	Ohnetaw Village-tract	3	5,000	3,963	1,037	937	100	
28	Panchi Village-tract	1	2,250	1,765	485	485		
29	Kyauksi Village-tract	2	3,900	3,186	714	764		50
30	Yonepinkan Village-tract	1	1,600	1,248	352	352		
31	Yaytwingaung Village-tract	2	3,300	2,502	798	798		
32	Marletaw Village-tract	2	3,700	3,095	605	605		
33	Taaeintee Village-tract	1	1,350	1,073	277	277		
34	Saryay Village-tract	1	2,550	2,042	508	508		
35	Sakyin Village-tract	1	1,200	872	328	328		
36	Yaymyet Village-tract	1	600	477	123	123		
37	Padu Village-tract	2	4,550	3,181	1,369	1,369		
38	Taungyin Village-tract	2	3,350	2,580	770	770		
39	Taline Village-tract	1	2,550	1,889	661	611	50	
40	Kyaungpyu Village-tract	1	800	638	162	162		
41	Kyaukpanan Village-tract	2	2,050	1,471	579	579		
42	Kangyigone Village-tract	1	1,350	999	351	351		
43	Khetkha Village-tract	1	1,900	1,470	430	430		
44	Samon Village-tract	1	2,000	1,542	458	458		
45	Kyakhat Village-tract	1	1,200	939	261	261		
46	Wachet Village-tract	2	2,850	2,126	724	724		
47	Arlaung Village-tract	1	1,450	1,050	400	350	50	
48	Htantaw Village-tract	1	1,500	1,138	362	362		
49	Myaytine Village-tract	1	1,200	957	243	243		
50	Chaungpauk Village-tract	1	2,400	1,920	480	480		
51	Kyauktar Village-tract	2	2,750	2,282	468	468		
52	Yaykhar Village-tract	1	1,050	924	126	126		
53	Minkon Village-tract	3	5,850	4,073	1,777	1,609	168	
54	Letpan Village-tract	1	1,900	1,627	273	271	2	
55	Kin Village-tract	1	1,700	1,248	452	452		
56	Htonepho Village-tract	1	1,800	1,281	519	269	250	
57	Mezalichauk Village-tract	1	1,100	823	277	277		
58	Singaing Village-tract	1	850	537	313	263	50	
59	Daweizay Ward	2	5,050	3,537	1,513	1,407	106	
60	Ayemyawadi Ward	2	2,800	2,372	428	428		
61	Nandawun Ward	2	4,050	2,923	1,127	1,127		
62	Moeza Ward	2	2,600	1,916	684	684		
63	Panbetan Ward	2	4,500	3,213	1,287	1,287		
64	Poetan Ward	2	3,400	2,304	1,096	827	269	
65	Ywahtaung Ward	3	5,550	4,231	1,319	1,319		

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66	Minlan Ward	1	2,350	1,793	557	557		
67	Pyukan Ward	1	2,900	1,857	1,043	943	100	
68	Pegatoe Ward	2	3,150	2,508	642	691		49
69	Lintalu Village-tract	2	2,450	1,697	753	553	200	
70	Taunggya Village-tract	1	1,550	1,186	364	364		
71	Taungmyo Village-tract	1	900	765	135	135		
72	Muetar Village-tract	1	1,400	1,038	362	362		
73	Talinekyun Village-tract	1	1,000	800	200	200		
74	Nyaungpinshae Village-tract	1	900	714	186	186		
75	Innsa Village-tract	1	1,450	1,172	278	278		
76	Thazin Village-tract	2	3,250	2,499	751	743	8	
77	Paukma Village-tract	1	2,100	1,463	637	637		
78	Min Village-tract	1	1,400	949	451	451		
79	Tharpyaukgone Village-tract	1	1,700	1,179	521	571		50
80	Htantawseik Village-tract	2	2,900	2,105	795	795		
81	Tegy Ashaetar Village-tract	4	6,200	4,871	1,329	1,329		
82	Nyaukkyeekyun Village-tract	1	1,500	1,301	199	199		
83	Kywelu Village-tract	2	2,650	2,154	496	496		
84	Daungma Village-tract	1	2,350	2,024	326	477		151
85	Maupin Village-tract	2	2,650	2,252	398	478		80
86	Sinmyay Village-tract	1	2,400	2,076	324	324		
87	Byetayaw Village-tract	1	1,700	1,319	381	381		
88	Sintat Village-tract	1	2,100	1,724	376	376		
89	Nyaungpinzin Village-tract	2	4,800	3,118	1,682	1,682		

90	Zichaung Village-tract	1	900	718	182	182		
91	Aungtha Village-tract	2	2,500	2,086	414	414		
92	Natkhayine Village-tract	1	2,150	1,838	312	312		
93	Shantat Village-tract	1	2,300	1,913	387	387		
94	Yinmakyin Village-tract	1	1,400	1,157	243	243		
95	Nyaungpinwon Village-tract	3	4,250	3,236	1,014	1,064		50
96	Nyaungpintha Village-tract	1	2,050	1,655	395	395		
97	Thaphantha Village-tract	1	1,550	1,127	423	323	100	
98	Tapuyinkwe Village-tract	2	2,900	2,191	709	709		
99	Shwehlay Village-tract	2	2,250	1,656	594	594		
100	Nonetwin Village-tract	1	1,050	831	219	219		
101	Legyi Village-tract	2	3,050	2,266	784	784		
102	Moungthaung Village-tract	1	1,350	1,120	230	230		
103	Kywepon Village-tract	1	2,350	1,890	460	460		
104	Tegy Letpantha Village-tract	1	750	575	175	175		
105	Ywathitgyi Village-tract	5	7,700	5,947	1,753	1,678	75	
106	Pyitawtha Village-tract	1	1,850	1,132	718	368	350	
107	Ngatayaw Village-tract	2	2,700	1,536	1,164	864	300	
108	Ywama Village-tract	1	2,100	1,592	508	508		
109	Kinepyin Village-tract	1	1,750	1,354	396	396		
110	Myinse Village-tract	1	2,050	1,583	467	467		
	Ward/village tract ballots	163	263,650	198,685	64,965	62,695	2,950	680
	Township ballots		8,926	775	8,151	8,151		
	Township Total	163	272,576	199,460	73,116	70,846	2,950	680

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Myinmu Township

8. A total of 66 polling stations in 4 Wards and 48 Village-tracts of Myinmu Township in Sagaing Region took out 106,916 ballots and used 78,872 ballots. It left 27,6196 ballots instead of 28,044. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal 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	98,750	78,643	20,107	19,682	477	52
2	Township ballots	8,166	229	7,937	7,937		
Total		106,916	78,872	28,044	27,619	477	52

9. It found 477 missing ballots at the polling stations in 6 Wards/Village-tracts of Myinmu Township and 52 extra ballots at the polling stations in 2 Wards/Village-tracts.

10. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myaukpine Ward	2	2,700	2,112	588	588		
2	Ashaepine Ward	1	2,550	1,966	584	584		
3	Hteesauing Village-tract	2	2,900	2,350	550	550		
4	Nyaungyin Village-tract	1	1,950	1,589	361	361		
5	Paletan Village-tract	1	750	661	89	89		
6	Muwaywahtaung Village-tract	1	1,200	970	230	230		
7	Peku Village-tract	2	4,300	3,360	940	863	77	
8	Menaw Village-tract	1	1,200	878	322	322		
9	Gayu Village-tract	1	1,150	936	214	214		
10	Pyinsargone Village-tract	1	1,450	1,026	424	434		10
11	Yonekar Village-tract	2	1,750	1,432	318	318		
12	Nyaungpinkan Village-tract	1	2,350	1,927	423	423		
13	Gonehnyinseik Village-tract	1	1,450	1,101	349	349		
14	Aeinma Village-tract	1	1,600	1,288	312	312		
15	Ngarkin Village-tract	2	3,700	3,234	466	466		
16	Khwetkhwin Village-tract	1	1,700	1,311	389	389		
17	Hteinkan Village-tract	1	1,300	1,030	270	270		
18	Nabekyue Village-tract	1	950	780	170	170		
19	Kantaw Village-tract	1	2,500	2,089	411	411		
20	Kanpyar Village-tract	1	1,500	1,298	202	202		
21	Nyaungmyit Village-tract	1	1,100	940	160	160		
22	Mumandalay	1	1,200	1,024	176	126	50	
23	Pyawt Village-tract	1	1,650	1,397	253	253		
24	Satpyarkyin Village-tract	1	1,300	1,045	255	255		
25	Shwekyaungkan Village-tract	1	1,400	1,069	331	231	100	

26	Ponnyar Village-tract	1	750	665	85	85		
27	Thapyaytha Village-tract	1	1,100	911	189	189		
28	Magyeekan Village-tract	1	1,050	857	193	193		
29	Anyaukpine Village-tract	4	6,050	4,139	1,911	1,761	150	
30	Taungpine Village-tract	1	2,550	1,923	627	627		
31	Wanpyae Village-tract	2	2,900	2,051	849	799	50	
32	Satpangone Village-tract	1	1,600	1,295	305	305		
33	Kyweyike Village-tract	1	2,350	1,958	392	392		
34	Arletketpa Village-tract	4	5,500	4,575	925	875	50	
35	Lethtoketaw Village-tract	1	1,950	1,509	441	441		
36	Santinkin Village-tract	1	1,400	1,180	220	220		
37	Kyawtmin Village-tract	1	1,900	1,627	273	315		42
38	Chayyartaw Village-tract	1	1,950	1,529	421	421		
39	Gwepintaw Village-tract	1	1,200	965	235	235		
40	Bomingyikin Village-tract	1	1,000	840	160	160		
41	Twingyi Village-tract	1	900	668	232	232		
42	Sibin Village-tract	1	2,300	1,839	461	461		
43	Magyeesu Village-tract	1	950	755	195	195		
44	Kalarpyan Village-tract	1	1,300	1,075	225	225		
45	TawchaungOo Village-tract	2	2,750	2,256	494	494		
46	Padatdine Village-tract	1	2,550	1,971	579	579		
47	Letpakyin Village-tract	2	2,100	1,845	255	255		
48	Thanmantaw Village-tract	1	1,200	927	273	273		
49	Kyun Village-tract	1	700	519	181	181		
50	Shweyinmar Village-tract	1	1,600	1,351	249	249		
51	Letpan Village-tract	1	1,500	1,068	432	432		
52	Petaung Village-tract	1	2,050	1,532	518	518		
	Ward/village tract ballots	66	98,750	78,643	20,107	19,682	477	52
	Township ballots		8,166	229	7,937	7,937		
	Township Total	66	106,916	78,872	28,044	27,619	477	52

Union Election Commission














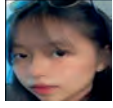












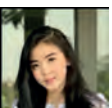







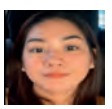




14 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 April, total figure rises to 142,644

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 142,644 after 14 new cases were reported on 19 April 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 131,903 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

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	NyiNyi https://www.facebook.com/gan.nar.1	Lin Thiha 	Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region	505-a		11	Mani Yar Zar Min (Daw Mani) https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10008391543539	Mani Yar Zar Min 	Yankin Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
2	Bo Nma https://www.facebook.com/nyanmyoang.nyanmyoang.92	Nyan Myo Aung 	Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region	505-a		12	Aung Win Htut https://www.facebook.com/ko.aung.9634340	Ko Aung 	Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
3	La Pyae Mg Mg https://www.facebook.com/lightning.lpmm	La Pyae Mg Mg 	Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region	505-a		13	Sayar Kyaw https://www.facebook.com/im.sayarkyaw	Kyaw Min Tun 	Tamway Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Yee Mon Htun https://www.facebook.com/WinsomMakenzie	Yee Mon Htun 	Mayangon Township, Yangon Region	505-a		14	Richard Michael William https://www.facebook.com/Richard-Michael-William	La Pyae Win 	Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
5	Zaw Win Man-zaw https://www.facebook.com/zaw.winmanzaw	Zaw Win 	Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a		15	Tun Myat https://www.facebook.com/n.watann	Tun Myat Nyunt 	Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
6	Hein Zaw Nyo https://www.facebook.com/100015412890047	Hein Zaw Nyo 	Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region	505-a		16	Khant Thu https://www.facebook.com/nga.khant.9022	Khant Si Thu 	South Okkalapa, Yangon Region	505-a	
7	Ye Min Thein https://www.facebook.com/ye.thein.5811	Ye Min Thein 	Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region	505-a		17	Poe Lay (珍珠) https://www.facebook.com/pepoelay12	Poe Lay 	Pabedan Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
8	Myat Noe Tin Aung https://www.facebook.com/minmyat.mahar.5	Myat Noe Aung 	Ye Town, Mon State	505-a		18	Khit Naing https://www.facebook.com/htay.naing.9022	Htay Naing 	Taungdwingyi Town, Magway Region	505-a	
9	Phone Khant https://www.facebook.com/Aaron.khant	Phone Hein Khant 	Yankin Township, Yangon Region	505-a		19	Moe Myint Myant Moon (Hanni Ma) https://www.facebook.com/han.n.00547389	Han Ni Oo 	Muse Town, Shan State	505-a	
10	HlaSoewai https://www.facebook.com/soewai66	Hla Soe Wai 	(Temporary Residing in Canada)	505-a		20	Nilar Sein https://www.facebook.com/nilar.sein	Nilar Sein 	PyinOoLwin Town, Mandalay (Temporary Residing in USA)	505-a	

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

Smokeless industry, a key drive for improvement of Myanmar economy

EVERYBODY has experienced viewing industries with smoke floating in the air, which originates from chimneys. These industries are being operated for manufacturing various kinds of products with the purpose of local consumption and exportation.

The majority of people cannot see the industries without smoke, but they are actually in operation. In fact, the tourism industry is dubbed as a smokeless industry.

The government of Myanmar places emphasis on booming tourism industry with many plans to resume operation of varieties of tourism sector such as inbound, outbound, ecotourism, community-based tourism, mangrove tourism, adventure, trekking, cultural tour and water-related activities, coastal and marine, and so on.

Myanmar people, including tour operators, need to have a broader knowledge and higher techniques on how to manage the tourism industry for booming the State economy.

The country can earn income from the visits of local and foreign travellers. So, it needs to invite travellers to the country. As such, the country needs to give tourism services to local and foreign travellers anywhere while arranging accommodation and foods for the guests.

Tour operators need to widen their scopes of knowledge for the development of their business to forecast and calculate the results from tourism cooperation under the frameworks of the ASEAN, the Greater Mekong Sub-region-GMS, the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam-CLMV, the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy-ACMECS, and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation-BIM-STEAC.

In fact, it is necessary to enhance the awareness of tourist destinations. Consequently, homegrown and foreign tourists will be keen to pay visits to the destinations.

Hence, local authorities need to cooperate with tour operators in arranging transportation, healthcare, accommodation of hotels and lodges, and better catering services in addition to entertainments such as traditional dance and musical performances.

Generally, local authorities and tour operators should give better services to the travellers within the law frameworks to win their heart and soul for being challenging to depart from Myanmar. If so, it is a victory in the tourism sector.

A lot of virgin lands for the tourism sector are mushrooming across the nation. These are good potential for the tourism industry. Myanmar people, including tour operators, need to have a broader knowledge and higher techniques on how to manage the tourism industry for booming the State economy.

Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award in Retrospect

By Maung Hlaing

THE Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award presentation ceremony was successfully held at the hall of Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road on 1 April this year. The ceremony of the National Literary Award was held last year. Due to the period to contain the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award presentation ceremony was postponed to this year.

The ceremony made me pine for my childhood memories. Although I was born in 1948 when Myanmar regained her independence, my childhood days saw insurgency which was at its peak. Most of the townspeople were panicky clashes, and we had to take refuge in the hiding places or bolt-holes.

As I pursued an education at a monastic primary school, I had no books on knowledge to read except school textbooks. The town we lived in had neither reading rooms nor public libraries. Objectively, people found themselves in the dark age. To make matters worse, there were so many illiterates in our community.

However, we could see a silver lining in the dark cloud. It was nothing but a book I got from the bookshelf of the monastery. The title of the book was 'တလင်းဆောင်အုံ' (Tales for Children). On the cover page, I saw a logo with its motto. The logo was an opening book over, which was gleaming light. One side of the book was dark, and its opposite page was white. And a pen was penetrat-

ing through the book. The motto was 'အမှောင်ခွင်း၍ အလင်းဆောင်အုံ' (Light, where darkness was.). Under the logo, I could read the name of the publishing house မြန်မာ့အလင်း (Burma Translation Society). Being a child of tender years, I could not understand what it meant.

The book, indeed, opened my eyes. In those days, almost everyone in my surroundings was illiterate. When I got such books, I read them. Gradually, they came to learn how to read and write. Thus, they could read the books by themselves. In this way, I understood that the motto 'Light, where darkness was' brought them from the darkness to the light.

Since then, I have been quite familiar with the name 'Burma Translation Society' (BTS), popularly known as 'တလင်းဆောင်အုံ' (Sarpay Beikman) today.

As a matter of fact, Sarpay Beikman has a long history. It was the result of the historic conference held on 7 June 1947 at the building of Sorrento Villa, which was situated at 361, Pyay Road in Yangon. The conference gave birth to a 'Two-year Plan on Economic Development to be implemented when Myanmar regained her independence. The plan was widely known as the "Sorrento Villa Plan".

The Sorrento Villa Plan was laid down to bring about not only economic development but also literary development. "A translation department should be established to translate useful books and have them published in the interest of the people", said Bogyoke Aung San in his speech. In order to im-

plement the speech, the Burma Translation Society came into being on 26 August 1947.

Among the 14-point objectives of the BTS, the main aims and objects regarding the literary development were:-

(1) To undertake the translation into Burmese of any publication in English or other foreign languages which is likely to be conducive to the intellectual and cultural development of the indigenous races of Burma;

(2) To undertake or encourage the translation into any foreign language of any of the standard works in the Burmese language or any of the languages of Burma;

(3) To institute or encourage research in Burmese literature and the fine arts with a view to bringing about an improvement in mass education and thereby raising the standard of literacy in Burma;

(4) To produce, publish, distribute or offer for sale of books, pamphlets, periodicals or other reading materials in Burmese or any other language, whether original works, compilations, translations or adaptations and with that end in view to acquire, engage, and/or maintain plants, equipment, production and manufacture of books, pamphlets, periodicals or other reading materials, including illustrations and works of arts.

With these noble aims and objects, the BTS was established and transferred to a house on the campus of Rangoon (Yangon) University in November 1947. Again in 1948, it was transferred to the Sorrento Villa at 361, Prome Road

(Now Pyay Road), Yangon. At the same time, the name of Burma Translation, Society was changed into 'Sarpay Beikman (the name in English, 'Palace of Literature' was used at the outset.)

The idea for the motto came from U Ba Ko (Film Academy winner movie star Bo Ba Ko), who had worked for Sarpay Beikman during the post-independence period. The motto 'အမှောင်ခွင်း၍ အလင်းဆောင်အုံ' was created by Sayagyi Min 'Thu Wun. And the motto was translated into English as 'Light, where darkness was' by Sayagyi U Khin Zaw (K). The logo was depicted by Artist Alinga-Kyaw-zwa Sayagyi U Ngwe Gaing.

From that year onward, Sarpay Beikman produced three literary series- 'လူထုအလင်းစာစဉ်' (Mass Light Book Series), 'လူထုအိတ်ဆောင်စာစဉ်' (Mass Light Book Series), and 'လူထုတက္ကသိုလ်စာစဉ်' (Mass University Book Series). To enable the reading public to gain knowledge on international affairs, including the world culture, the Mass Light Book Series published translation materials. The Mass Pocket Series produced books on the current affairs of both Myanmar and the world. The Mass University Book Series published the reading materials for those who possessed the basic education standard.

The completion of the Myanmar Encyclopaedia (from Volume 1 to 15), begun in 1949, was a milestone in Myanmar's progress towards making world knowledge available to all. As a continuation of the encyclopaedia, Myanmar Year-book has been brought out since

1978. Since 5 March 1956, the Sarpay Beikman Public Library has been open to all, providing services to readers including researchers, compilers, scholars and so on. All in all, the Sarpay Beikman has five divisions -- Myanmar Year-Book, Thuta Padetha monthly magazine, People's Handbook Series, Shwe Thway Children's Journal and Translation division which are performing their diverse activities.

In carrying out the literary development activities in addition to its normal duties, the Sarpay Beikman annually conducts the literary award presentation ceremonies. To implement its aims and objects, the literary award presentation ceremonies have been held since 1948.

The literary award started with the name of 'စာပေဗိမာန်ကာလပေါ် ဝတ္ထုဆု' (Sarpay Beikman Contemporary Novel Award) in 1948. Later, the name was changed into 'စာပေဗိမာန်ဆု' (Sarpay Beikman Award), and it lasted up to 1961. The first and foremost winning work was a novel titled 'Moe Auk Myay Byin' written by novelist 'Min Aung'. The awardee received one thousand kyats as the cash prize.

In addition to the category of novel, another six genres--belles-lettres and translation in 1950; general knowledge in 1953; collection of short stories, drama, and collection of poems in 1957 -- totally seven in number were increased.

In 1969, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award came into being when those who were not able to publish their manuscripts in book form for various reasons were invited to compete for awards. Un-



like the National Literary Award, first, second and third prizes were set apart for the ten genres (except the translation genre for which only the first prize has been designated).

Today, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award includes 14 genres -- novel, collection of short stories, collection of poems, belles-lettres, Myanmar culture and arts, children's literature, youth's literature, political affairs, drama, general knowledge (arts), general knowledge (pure science and applied science), translation (non-fiction), translation (fiction), and English language.

At the outset, the awardees earned K500, K300, K200 for first, second and third prizes. However, today's winners are honoured with K1,000,000, K700,000, and 500,000 for first, second and third, respectively.

As long as the logo and the motto 'Light, where darkness existed, the Sarpay Beikman will give birth to so many promising young writers of the future.

Welcome to 'Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award!

Reference:-The rules of the Burma Translation Society, 1947.

UN atomic energy agency to work with Japan on Fukushima water disposal

THE International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA, said on 14 April that it will work closely with Japan which is preparing to release a million tonnes of contaminated seawater used to cool the stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant.

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said that Japan's solution was both "technically feasible and in line with international practice" -- and that the agency was also ready "to provide technical support in monitoring and reviewing the plan's safe and transparent implementation".

'Unique and complex case'
Controlled water discharges into the sea are routine practice

for operating nuclear power plants in the world after safety and environmental impact assessments, the IAEA chief explained.

"Today's decision by the Gov-

ernment of Japan is a milestone that will help pave the way for continued progress in the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant," Mr Grossi



Japan's decision to release more than one million tonnes of treated radioactive water from the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea has stirred fierce controversy. PHOTO: AFP

said, while also underlining that "the large amount of water" at Fukushima made this a "unique and complex case".

He added: "Tanks with the water occupy large areas of the site, and water management, including the disposal of the treated water in a safe and transparent manner involving all stakeholders, is of key importance for the sustainability of these decommissioning activities."

Two-year wait
According to reports, Japan plans to start releasing the 1.25 million tonnes of contaminated seawater into the Pacific Ocean in two years, but only after it has been filtered and stripped of most

radioactive material.

These include radioactive isotopes strontium and cesium but not tritium, which is linked to hydrogen and said to pose little health risk in low concentrations.

However, China and South Korea have publicly denounced the move, along with environmental group Greenpeace Japan, which described the Japanese Government's decision as "wholly unjustified". Greenpeace argues that radiation hazards would be better contained by storing and processing the water of the longer term.

Building confidence
Releasing all the contaminated seawater will take three

decades.

It comes 11 years after a deadly tsunami flooded the reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, leading to a number of explosions and forcing the evacuation of more than 60,000 people.

"We will work closely with Japan before, during and after the discharge of the water," said IAEA Director - General Grossi, who visited the Fukushima nuclear power plant last year.

"Our cooperation and our presence will help build confidence -- in Japan and beyond -- that the water disposal is carried out without an adverse impact on human health and the environment."

SOURCE: UN News

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 Region 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

သတင်းစာတိုက်ပြည်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြော်ငြာမှု

The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်းခုံသတင်းစာများ မှာယူဖတ်ရှုလိုခြင်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် အခက်အခဲများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်-

> သတင်းနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေး (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၄၁၂၀၀၀၊ ၀၆-၄၃၀၀၁၆၅	> ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(စစ်ဆေး) ဖုန်း-၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၀၅၁၊ ၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၀၆၈
> ချစ်မြတ်စွာသတင်းစာတိုက်(မေယျာသိမ်မြို့နယ်) ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၆၁၁၇၇၊ ၀၆-၄၂၀၅၀၆၈၆၇	> ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(တောင်ကြီး) ဖုန်း-၀၈၁-၂၂၂၁၁၆၄
> မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၉၅၅၄၄၁၇၇၊ ၀၆-၄၅၀၀၄၂၂၀၄	> ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(မန္တလေး) ဖုန်း-၀၆၃-၂၀၂၅၇၇၂
> မြေထဲမှသတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၉၂၂၁၀၀၀၊ ၀၆-၄၅၀၀၂၅၅၅၅	> ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(ကျွန်းဆုံ) ဖုန်း-၀၈၄-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅
> The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၈၆၀၄၄၅၅၂၊ ၀၆-၃၈၃၃၅၅၅၅၅	> ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(ကလေး) ဖုန်း-၀၇၃-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅
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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 Nay Zaw Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Toungoo People's Hospital	Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
2	Dr Han Thi Thi Zaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Toungoo People's Hospital	Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Dr Saw Mark Hal Htoo (Assistant Surgeon)	Toungoo People's Hospital	Min Gyin Nyo Ward, Toungoo Town	505-a	
4	Dr Min Khant Kyaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Toungoo People's Hospital	Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
5	Dr Swe Mar Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Toungoo People's Hospital	Myittha Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
6	Dr Zar Ni Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Indaw People's Hospital	Indaw Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
7	Dr Ye Marn Myoe Win Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Yedashe People's Hospital	Monywa Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
8	Dr Pyae Sone Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Yedashe People's Hospital	Yankin Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
9	Dr Nay Lin Zaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Sittway People's Hospital	South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
10	Dr Ei Ei Khine (Assistant Surgeon)	Sittway People's Hospital	Nyaungdon Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
11	Dr Nwe Nwe Win (Assistant Surgeon)	Loilem People's Hospital	Loilem Town, Shan State (South)	505-a	
12	Dr Phyo Gyan Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Indaw People's Hospital	Htigyaing Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
13	Dr San Aung Lin (Assistant Surgeon)	Kyaiklat People's Hospital	Kyaiklat Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
14	Dr Aung Ko Ko (Assistant Surgeon)	Sittway People's Hospital	Hline Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
15	Dr Chit Taing Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Hlainebon Village Station Hospital	Mawlamyinegyun Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
16	Dr Phyo Wai Zin (Assistant Surgeon)	Myawady People's Hospital	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
17	Dr Arkar Thit Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Mogok People's Hospital	Mogok Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
18	Dr Yu Maung (Assistant Surgeon)	Mogok People's Hospital	Mogok Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
19	Dr Kyaw Thura (Specialist)	Kyatpyin Station Hospital	Mogok Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
20	Dr Thei Wah Lin (Assistant Surgeon)	Mawlamyine General Hospital	Mawlamyine Town, Mon State	505-a	

Among them, Dr Phyo Wai Zin (Assistant Surgeon) of Myawady People's Hospital, Dr Arkar Thit Tun (Assistant Surgeon), Dr Yu Maung (Assistant Surgeon), Dr Kyaw Thura (Specialist) of Mogok People's Hospital and Dr Thei Wah Lin (Assistant Surgeon) of Mawlamyine General Hospital 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.

Myanmar-India border trade surges this FY

BORDER trade between Myanmar and India hit US\$155 million as of 2 April in the current financial year 2020-21 ending September, said a statistical report of Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce.

The border trade during the period increased by \$78.8 million compared with the same period of the previous fiscal year.

Myanmar-India total border trade was shared by Myanmar's export of \$154 million and its import of \$0.7 million.

Some of the border trade zones between Myanmar and India closed the border in March 2020 due to COVID-19, including the crossing between Tamu township and the Indian town of Moreh.

However, the border trade resumed on 6 January as COVID-19 infections in the area have declined.

Most India-Myanmar border trade passes

through the Tamu crossing and the Reed crossing in Chin State.

In contrast, a significant part of the bilateral trade is delivered through ships.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, the total trade volume from Tamu border trading post in FY 2020-2021 was \$31.15 million, with exports valued at \$30.76 million and importing \$0.39 million.

Total trade volume via the Reed border trade post in the same period was \$124 million, with exports valued at \$123.66 million and import of \$0.34 million.

Myanmar mainly exports to India fruits and vegetables, marine and forestry products while importing from India the medicines, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials. — ACM/GNLM

Maritime trade drops by \$4.3 bln in H1



Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products.

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade over the first half (1 Oct-2 Apr) of the current financial year 2020-2021 sank to US\$10 billion, a drastic drop of over \$4.3 billion as against the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at \$4.06 billion, imports have registered at \$6.116 billion. Compared to the same period in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, imports fell by \$2.78 billion, while exports reported a decrease of \$1.53 billion.

Meanwhile, the value of trade through the border this FY was estimated at \$5.6 billion, a decrease of \$264 million as against a year-ago period. Myanmar witnessed a slump in exports and

imports triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts and political changes.

The neighbouring countries tightened the border security and limited the trading time to contain the spread of the virus.

For maritime trade, disruption in the logistic sector, the suspension of some ocean liners and the pandemic-induced container shortage scaled-down the maritime trade somehow.

"The lack of money in circulation due to the closure of private banks decreases economic efficiency," an exporter stressed.

The country's total external trade touched a low of \$15.78 billion, which plunged from \$20.36

billion recorded in a year-ago period.

Myanmar's sea trade generated \$26 billion from an overall trade value of \$36 billion in the last FY 2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products.

At the same time, it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials. The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade. It includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — MM/GNLM

Stock trading value in equity market plummets to record low in March 2021

THE value of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in March 2021 sank to the lowest level in history with just K110 million in March 2021, the YSX's monthly report indicated.

In February 2021, K442 million worth of 77,388 shares were traded on the exchange. The figures extended further drops to K110-million value of 19,816 shares in March 2021.

Additionally, the value of shares traded on the exchange in March 2021 drastically dropped compared with the figures in March 2020 (registered K1.425 billion valued 228,913 shares), the YSX's monthly report indicated.

At present, shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH) and the Ever Flow River Group

Public Co., Ltd (EFR) are being traded on the exchange.

The shares prices last month also declined as against the previous months. The price per share of FMI decreased to K9,400 in March 2021. Similarly, the share price of MTSH slid to K3,500. The stock prices slipped to K8,000 for MCB and K21,500 for FPB, while TMH's share rate remained unchanged at K2,800. The share price of EFR last month was closed at K3,300.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, Myanmar's securities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading.

In 2020, the value of stocks traded on the exchange peaked at K1.48 billion in February. In contrast, trading on the exchange registered an all-time low of K552.9 million in November due to the COVID-19 resurgences in Myanmar; the exchange's monthly report showed.

According to the annual report released by the exchange, a total of K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on the exchange in 2020, a significant drop compared to 2019.

Over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019.

In 2016, only three companies were traded on the YSX — FMI, MTSH, and MCB. One more public company, FPB, was listed on the YSX in 2017. In 2018, TMH debuted on the exchange. EFR entered the exchange in 2020.

Moreover, Amata Holding Public Co., Ltd. (AMATA) released a statement that the listing date will be postponed for a certain period, and the rescheduled listing date will be announced in due time, YSX notified on 26 February 2021.

The stock markets world-

wide have reported their most significant declines since the 2008 financial crisis. Similarly, the local equities market is also scared by the COVID-19 crash, a market observer points out.

At present, people are keeping emergency savings rather than investing in the COVID-19 crisis and current political conditions, he added.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market from 20 March 2020.

Furthermore, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX, YSX stated.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding

the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars. The stock exchange has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge.

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Over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019. — KK/GNLM

Press release on inaccurate death toll in riots

SINCE the State Administration Council has taken over the country, peaceful protests following the democracy led by NLD members and illegally-formed CRPH and the extremists, who support them, have escalated from insurrection to acts of terrorism.

In some cities, they blocked the roads. They attacked the police stations, military headquarters, ward administration offices, schools and private business buildings, public roads and innocent homes with grenades, homemade mines and grenades and fire bottles.

The members and the supporters of the NLD party attacked a total of 63 police stations, 62 ward administration offices, 52 department buildings, 16 roads and bridges, 13 banks, 105 schools and other buildings from 1 February to 15 April. Moreover, they destroyed by fire a total of 13 industries in the Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha industrial zones and in Insein township, Yangon Region.

Status of being attacked and destroyed from 1.2.2021 to 15.4.2021

No	State/Region	Police Station	Ward/village Administration office	Office/department buildings	Road/bridge	Bank	Other places
1	Nay Pyi Taw	1	1	1			5
2	Kachin			2	3		3
3	Kayah			1			1
4	Kayin		6			1	6
5	Chin			1		1	1
6	Sagaing	12		13	10	2	28
7	Taninthayi	1	4	3			6
8	Bago	4		3			11
9	Magway	4	2	3	1		4
10	Mandalay	26	5	4		4	13
11	Mon		5	3			1
12	Rakhine						
13	Yangon	6	37	11	2	5	10
14	Shan	6	1	4			13
15	Ayeyawady	3	1	3			3
	Total	63	62	52	16	13	105

They also accused and abducted innocent people who didn't have the same opinion as to the traitors and killed brutally or punished them inhumanely. There were a total of 17 innocent people who were killed brutally and 30 with severe injuries.

No	State/Region	Death	Injured	Head shaved	Tattoo	Threatening	Home destroyed	Remark
1	Nay Pyi Taw					1		
2	Kachin							
3	Kayah							
4	Kayin							
5	Chin							
6	Sagaing	7	6	2	1		4	
7	Taninthayi	2	2	1				
8	Bago	1	1				1	
9	Magway						1	
10	Mandalay	1	5			1	3	
11	Mon							
12	Rakhine							
13	Yangon	6	12	1		1	2	
14	Shan							
15	Ayeyawady		4					
	Total	17	30	4	1	3	11	

List of people killed/injured as alleged traitors in regions/states from 1.2.2021 to 15.4.2021

Therefore, security forces have been removing roadblocks, patrolling both day and night, arresting terrorists and detaining groups of rioters as per the provision of the Union of Myanmar Riot Manual (1956) and the Riot Monitoring Handbook (2015) of the Myanmar Police Force, the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Since the terrorists led by the extremist members of the NLD party raided the police stations and attacked security forces with live ammunition, security forces had to retaliate as needed depending on the extent of their violence. Due to that, a total of 7 members of the Tatmadaw and 17 police were dead, and 45 Tatmadaw members and 253 police members were injured.

Dead/injured numbers of Tatmadaw members and police members from 1-2-2021 to 15-4-2021

Sr	Region/State	Tatmadaw members			Police members			Remark	
		Dead	Injuries		Death	Injuries			
			Serious	Non-Serious		Total	Serious		Non-Serious
1	Nay Pyi Taw					8	26	34	
2	Kachin			3	3	6	11	17	
3	Kayah						18	18	
4	Kayin		1	1	2		3	3	
5	Chin								
6	Sagaing	1		5	5	7	22	24	
7	Taninthayi	1	1	4	5		2	2	
8	Bago					2	1	32	33
9	Magway			7	7		1	26	27
10	Mandalay	1	1	5	6	4	7	29	36
11	Mon					2	1	7	8
12	Rakhine								
13	Yangon			9	9	2	5	24	29
14	Shan	4		6	6		4	4	
15	Ayeyawady			2	2		15	15	
	Total	7	3	42	45	17	31	222	253

Although there were inevitable casualties on both sides while security forces responded to the insurgents' attacks in self-defence, the security forces have been accused of firing at peaceful protests by illegitimate media outlets, which the State has shut down, in violation of the law and fake news is being biased.

The media, which does not want peace and stability in the country, is plotting to mislead the international community and the public about the security forces' response, and on the other hand, the misinformation they are writing is being spread by unscrupulous people through social media. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), a Thai-based illegal organization, has released a list of actual deaths due to the security forces based on figures compiled based on misinformation from social media. According to them, there were a total of 726 deaths as of 15 April.

In the event of a fatal shooting, security forces conduct a systematic autopsy under the law, providing the necessary assistance until the bodies are buried, and keeping a record of all deaths. According to the official records of the Myanmar Police Force, the death toll from 1 February to 15 April is as follows:

List of rioters died in regions/states from 1.2.2021 to 15.4.2021

No	State/Region	Killed during road-block clearing	Killed during terrorist attack to security forces	Killed during fights between protesters	Killed due to accident during arrest	Killed due to shooting between rioters	Death during protests due to health issue	Death by other ways
1	Nay Pyi Taw		1			1		
2	Kachin		9				1	
3	Kayah		1					
4	Kayin							
5	Chin							
6	Sagaing		22					
7	Taninthayi		13					
8	Bago	2	18	1				
9	Magway	1	14		1			
10	Mandalay	3	33			1	1	
11	Mon		2					
12	Rakhine							
13	Yangon		105				2	2
14	Shan		15					
15	Ayeyawady	1	7					
	Total	7	240	1	1	2	5	2

Of the 258 deaths, only 247 were killed during the clearing operation and the attack on security forces. At the same time, the other 11 were not caused by security forces firing.

It has been found that the AAPP's list of 726 deaths, which has been circulating on social media, is not the result of gunfire by security forces. There were other types of death: such as Ma Mya Thwate Thwate Khaing and Ma Kyal Sin Lin, who

Press release on inaccurate death toll in riots

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died of shooting against each other among the rioters; U Zaw Myat Lin and Ma Lyan Zwarlee, who died of other ways, U Ko Ko Lay and Daw Tin Nwe Yi died of heart diseases; Yar Zar Aung, who died of COVID-19 disease and others who died of killing by terrorists.

It has also been found that there may be missing people who are not confirmed as dead, people under medical treatment in military hospitals for injuries, people fleeing to border areas, and people mentioned under false names and fake addresses just to inflate the list.

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Father's Name	Date of Incident	Deceased Date	Organization	Place of Incidents	Home Address	Township	States/ Regions
2	Mya Thwate Thwate Khaing	F	19	unknown	9-Feb-21	19-Feb-21	Civilian	NayPyi Taw	Hlaykhwintaung, Lower Paunglaung Hydro Power Project	Zeyathiri	NayPyiTaw Region
28	Kyal Sin Lin @ Kyar Shi	F	19	Daw Aye Aye Myint	3 March 21	3-Mar-21	Student	84 Street and 30 Street	15x16, 65 Road	Mandalay City	Mandalay Region
60	Zaw Myat Linn	M	46	U Sein Tun + Daw Sein Nyunt	9 March 21	9-Mar-21	NLD (Shwepyitha Township)	YGN Interrogation Center	9/147 Myamizzu road, 25 waroad, Bokone Shay	Shwepyi-tha	Yangon Region
275	Zuali @ Malan Zwale	F	35	unknown	21 March 21	21-Mar-21	Civilian	Her fifth floor apartment, Mingalar Taung Nyunt	Fifth floor, Kan Taw Lay, 91 street	Mingala Taungnyunt	Yangon Region
624	76 Unknown Name			Unknown Name	9 April 21	9 April 21	Civilian	Maggatic Road		Bago	Bago Region

In addition, some of the people on the list of AAPP did not verify their addresses or the names of their fathers and many people whose cause of death is not clearly mentioned. The list also found to be highly bloated, as 76 incidents were reported in the Bago incident on 9 April, but no one was confirmed dead.

The death toll due to the security shootings posted on social media has been misrepresented based on false information and social media reports. The death toll has risen exponentially. Security forces respond to the rioters in a limited manner, and Myanmar Police Force conduct a systematic autopsy on the victims.—MNA

Mango traders urged to avoid flooding market in border

FLOODING the market could damage the mango market during the early season. Moreover, only a handful of buyers follow lockdown in Shweli (Rui-li), Khwarnyo fruit wholesale centre stated. "As China is stepping up the coronavirus containment measure, there are only a small number of buyers in border market", said a trader from Shweli.

ing mango season, according to Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association. Additionally, mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification. The Agriculture Department has been instituting criteria for long-term organic farming, the association stated. Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers the Seintalone type. Typically, Myanmar's mangoes are primarily shipped to China and sent to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Japan.

The market of Seintalone mango variety relies on the digital market via Wechat for Shweli traders. However, the lockdown in Shweli could affect the market to a large extent. For now, the traders need to ensure quality and good packaging for the same size. At present, about 70 per cent of mango (Seintalone variety) are entering the early maturity stage, which might harm the market. Transport with 16-tonne trucks is suggested to ease the traffic congestion at the border and reduce the freight rate. The mango growers are urged to supply quality mango to maintain the market reputation and observe market conditions.

Ayeyawady Region possesses the most extensive mango plantation acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second-largest producer with 43,000 acres, and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. According to the association, there are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region. — KK/GNLM

နေ့စဉ် သတင်းမှန်၊ အပြစ်မှန်၊ တကယ်အချက်အလက်မှန်များကို မှန်မှန် မြန်မြန် သိလိုပါသလား?

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NASA's Mars helicopter succeeds in historic first flight

NASA successfully flew its tiny helicopter Ingenuity on Mars early Monday, the first powered flight on another planet and a feat a top engineer called “our Wright brothers’ moment”.

At 3:34 am Eastern Time (0734 GMT), the four pound (1.8 kilogramme) rotorcraft lifted off, hovered 10 feet (three metres) above the Martian surface, then came back to rest after 39.1 seconds.

Data and images from the autonomous flight were transmitted 173 million miles (278 million kilometers) back to Earth where they were received by NASA's array of ground antennas and processed more than three hours later.

Engineers were tensely watching their screens at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, where the mission had been



This NASA photo released on 19 April 2021 shows members of NASA's Ingenuity helicopter team in the Space Flight Operations Facility at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as they prepare to receive the data downlink showing whether the helicopter completed its first flight on 19 April 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

designed and planned for the past six years.

They broke into applause as

one of them read off a checklist of tasks Ingenuity had achieved and concluded: “Ingenuity has

performed its first flight — the first flight of a powered aircraft on another planet.”

Ingenuity quickly sent back a black-and-white image from its downward pointing navigation camera, showing its bug-like shadow cast on the surface.

Then came a choppy colour video from the Perseverance rover showing Ingenuity on the ground, in flight, and then once again at rest.

More images and a smoothed-out video are expected to follow.

“We’ve been talking so long about our Wright brothers’ moment on Mars, and here it is,” said lead engineer MiMi Aung to her team, as she doled out virtual hugs. The first powered flight on Earth was achieved by the Wright brothers in 1903 in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. A piece of fabric from that plane has been tucked inside Ingenuity in honour of that feat. —AFP ■

Cape Town fire guts library, moves closer to city

A fire in Cape Town has ravaged part of a university library housing a unique collection of African archives, its director said, as the blaze advanced Monday towards the city centre.

The fire, which broke out Sunday in the foothills of the landmark Table Mountain before spreading to the University of Cape Town (UCT), forced hundreds of students to flee on foot.

The African studies section of the 1930s building and its parquet-floored reading room were “completely gutted”, the head of UCT Libraries Ujala Satgoor said in a Facebook post on Sunday. “Some of our valuable collections have been lost,” she wrote, adding that fire shutters had protected other parts of the building.

Photos accompanying the post showed flames and smoke billowing from the roof and windows of the column-lined build-

ing, which has been closed until further notice.

A full assessment of the damage will be carried out once the building is safe to enter, Satgoor said. Thick smoke hovered over a deserted UCT campus on Monday, blocked off to students and staff. One student, 20-year-old Kosmas Joannou, had walked over from a nearby residence hall to gauge the situation. “It was just horrible,” Joannou told AFP. The sky “was orange, there was ash everywhere and everyone was screaming. It was chaos.” Joannou, a student in business studies, added: “All the history that was lost in the library, that destroys me”.

Hundreds of students housed closer to the blaze have been moved to temporary accommodation, with donors sending food and other essentials.

Firefighters were still bat-

tlung the blaze on Monday as high winds pushed the fire west, closer to the city centre. “The fire is not yet under control,” Cape Town fire spokeswoman Jermaine Carelse said in a statement. “The wind is a major contributing factor,” she added, noting that the wind was also preventing aerial firefighting. Schools in the suburb of Vredehoek, around three kilometres (two miles) away from UCT, have been asked to evacuate. The cause of the fire is under investigation, with one suspect taken into custody overnight, city official Alderman JP Smith said.

The blaze has already destroyed the Cecil Rhodes Memorial Restaurant, private homes and historical structures such as the Mostert’s Hill windmill.

No casualties have been reported so far apart from a few firefighters who have been injured. —AFP ■

Coronavirus: Latest global developments

HERE are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

New Delhi lockdown

India’s capital will impose a week-long lockdown from Monday night as the megacity struggles to contain a huge surge in cases with hospitals running out of beds and oxygen supplies low.

The nation of 1.3 billion people reports a record-high of 273,810 infections — the fifth-consecutive day of more than 200,000 cases — to take the total to 15.06 million.

Bojo trip off

Due to the cases surge in India, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson cancels his already delayed trip there next week.

Families reunite

Emotions run high as excited passengers set off on the first flights to take advantage of a quarantine-free travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand, allowing families split when borders closed to finally reunite.

US vaccine milestone

The world’s hardest-hit country the US passes a hopeful milestone as half its adults have had at least one vaccine dose — that is roughly 130 million Americans aged 18 and over.

Virus-hit Ontario

Canada will funnel addi-

tional health staff and equipment into Ontario as the province battles a worrying spike in infections, says Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Greece opens to some

Greece says travellers from the EU, Britain, the US, Israel, Serbia and the United Arab Emirates who are fully vaccinated or have had a recent negative test will not be subjected to a week-long quarantine when entering the country.

Stricken ship

A Greek cargo ship sailing from Egypt is quarantined in Crete after a sailor is found dead and 10 others test positive.

Infected body ashore

Vanuatu slaps travel restrictions on its most populous island after tests confirm a body that washed ashore on the largely virus-free Pacific nation was infected with Covid-19.

More than three million dead

At least 3,020,765 people have died of Covid-19 around the world since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP. The United States is the worst-affected country with 567,217 deaths, followed by Brazil with 373,335, Mexico with 212,339, India with 178,769 and Britain with 127,270. —AFP ■



Firefighters try, in vain, to extinguish a fire in the Jagger Library, at the University of Cape Town, after a forest fire came down the foothills of Table Mountain, setting university buildings alight in Cape Town, on 18 April 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Week-long lockdown in New Delhi as virus cases soar

INDIA'S capital New Delhi will impose a week-long lockdown from Monday night, officials said, as the megacity struggles to contain a huge surge in Covid-19 cases with hospitals running out of beds and oxygen supplies low.

The nation of 1.3 billion people reported a record-high of 273,810 infections on Monday – the fifth-consecutive day of more than 200,000 cases – to take the total to 15.06 million.

In Delhi – the worst-hit city in India – 25,500 fresh cases were reported on Sunday, with almost one-third of those tested returning positive coronavirus results.

“Delhi’s health system is at a tipping point. The Covid-19 situation is pretty critical,” Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a televised address.

“If we don’t impose a lockdown now, we will be looking at a bigger disaster. From tonight there will be a lockdown until next Monday.” He said businesses would be shut and movement around the northern city of 20 million limited to essential services, from 10:00 pm on Monday to 5:00 am the following Monday.

“The lockdown doesn’t end the pandemic but just slows it. We will use this week-long lockdown to improve our healthcare,” he said, adding that the healthcare system was “under severe strain” and had “reached its limit”.

In the last seven days, India



Police personnel stop vehicles at a checkpoint during a weekend lockdown imposed by the government amidst rising Covid-19 coronavirus cases, in New Delhi on 18 April 2021. PHOTO: AFP

has recorded more than 1.4 million cases – an increase of 64 per cent on the previous week, according to data compiled by AFP.

Experts blame complacency about the virus, with the spike coming after daily cases fell below 9,000 in February.

There is also growing concern that virus variants, including a “double mutant”, are fuelling infections. “It looks like the second wave is due to fast-spreading variants... It’s spreading much faster than the first wave,” virologist T. Jacob John told AFP.

Panic buying

Following the announcement, long queues formed outside Delhi’s food and alcohol stores in several neighbour-

hoods, in scenes reminiscent of the rush ahead of last year’s nationwide lockdown.

Kejriwal tried to address fears that the lockdown would be extended, appealing to migrant workers not to leave Delhi.

Last year’s harsh restrictions put millions of poor daily-wagers out of work, with many fleeing cities for their villages – often on foot with some dying along the way.

“I hope it is not a long lockdown. It gets really tough for people like us,” said flower vendor Surinder Singh. “We are very scared, everyone is scared,” added Sunil Kumar, 25. “One week is good, at least there’s no economic downside.”

By Monday evening, thou-

sands of workers crowded Anand Vihar Terminal in east Delhi, waiting to take buses to their home states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, according to an AFP reporter on the scene. Delhi’s restrictions followed measures in other states, including Maharashtra, home to financial capital Mumbai, and Tamil Nadu.

The northern state of Punjab on Monday announced further restrictions, including an extended night curfew.

Pleas for help

The national government has said it will address states’ appeals for more medical supplies. On social media, families begged for beds, oxygen and drugs. Local media reported long queues at crematoriums. —AFP ■

Japan tightens rules on COVID-19 test certificates for travellers



A passenger from overseas (L) has his coronavirus test certificate checked at Narita airport in Chiba Prefecture on 19 April 2021.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

JAPAN tightened Monday its rules on coronavirus test certificates needed to be submit-

ted by all passengers upon arrival at Japanese airports, with those failing to meet required

conditions to be denied entry into the country in principle.

Since March, Japan had been asking airlines to deny boarding of passengers without negative coronavirus testing results taken within 72 hours of departure.

Until Sunday, the country’s quarantine authorities, however, still allowed those who had come to Japan with insufficient certificates to stay at a designated facility and re-take a coronavirus test after three days.

But the authorities said such alternative treatment will no longer be available, as the country reels from surging infections.

To enter Japan, a pas-

senger needs to obtain a certificate that proves negative results for the virus based on nasopharyngeal or saliva samples, which need to be taken within 72 hours before departure.

Japan does not approve antigen or antibody tests as certificates for entering the country.

Given the spread of the virus, Japan currently only allows entry of Japanese nationals and resident foreigners as well as foreigners “with special exceptional circumstances”.

Japan is also requesting domestic and foreign airlines to restrict the number of passengers planning to enter the country. —Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia, New Zealand resume quarantine-free travel

TRAVELERS from Australia arrived in New Zealand with no quarantine requirement for the first time in over a year on Monday after coronavirus restrictions between the neighbouring countries were eased.

Australia has allowed passengers from New Zealand to arrive freely since October. However, Monday marked the first time quarantine-free, two-way travel between the countries has been permitted since March 2020, when Canberra and Wellington effectively closed their borders to all international arrivals. —Kyodo News ■

Covid alert in Vanuatu after infected body washes ashore

VANUATU slapped travel restrictions on its most populous island Monday after tests confirmed a body that washed ashore on the largely coronavirus-free Pacific nation was infected with Covid-19.

Government sources said the deceased was a Filipino sailor whose vessel had left Port Vila a day before his body was found washed up near a village about five kilometres (3.1 miles) outside the city on Sunday 11 April. —AFP ■

SUV plunges into Philippine irrigation ditch, kills 13

THIRTEEN people, including children, were killed in the northern Philippines when the SUV they were travelling in plunged into an irrigation canal, drowning most of the occupants, police said Monday.

National police chief General Debold Sinas ordered an investigation into the accident in Kalinga province and instructed highway patrol and local police units to strictly enforce rules “against overloading”. —AFP ■

Seven eSport games to be included in 2021 SEA Games

A total of seven games will be included in the upcoming South East Asian (SEA) Games which is slated to be held from 21 November to 2 December, 2021.

There will be seven games that will featured in the eSport

category with 10 events said officials.

The name of the eSport games are Arena of Valor, League of Legends, Free Fire, PUBG Mobile, FIFA Online 4, Mobile Legends and Cross Fire.

One mix team will compete in the Arena of Valor while a total of three events including men's team, women's team and mixed team will compete in the League of Legends.

Next, Free Fire game will

feature one mixed team while PUBG Mobile will have comprised of two mixed teams.

In the meantime, FIFA Online 4, Mobile Legend Bang Bang and Cross Fire games will see with one mixed team each.

eSports were approved as medal events by the SEA Games Federation (SEAGF) Executive Committee for the Hanoi Games, according to the official statement with the ASEAN level authorities. — GNLM

Mourinho sacked by Tottenham after 17 months in charge

JOSE Mourinho was sacked by Tottenham on Monday just six days before they play Manchester City in the League Cup final as the Portuguese boss paid the price for a turbulent campaign.

Mourinho, 58, was dismissed after only 17 months in charge, even though he could have led the club to their first silverware since 2008.

Tottenham have been struggling in their bid to qualify for the Champions League via a top-four finish in the Premier League.

Spurs are currently seventh, five points behind fourth placed West Ham, and suffered a shock Europa League last-16 exit against Dinamo Zagreb.

"The club can today announce that Jose Mourinho and his coaching staff have been relieved of their duties," a Tottenham statement said.

The bombshell news came less than 24 hours after Tottenham



In this file photo taken on 16 April 2021 Tottenham Hotspur's Portuguese head coach Jose Mourinho reacts ahead of the English Premier League football match between Everton and Tottenham Hotspur at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England. Jose Mourinho has been sacked by Tottenham on 19 April 2021, just six days before they play Manchester City in the League Cup final, the club announced on Monday. **PHOTO: AFP**

ham announced they were one of 12 clubs planning to launch a breakaway European Super League. Tottenham's academy coach Ryan Mason, a former player at the club, will take

first-team training this week and is set to pick the team for Wednesday's Premier League clash with Southampton and the League Cup final at Wembley.—AFP ■

Man City wait nervously on De Bruyne injury diagnosis



Manchester City's Belgian midfielder Kevin De Bruyne receives medical attention after picking up an injury during the English FA Cup semi-final football match between Chelsea and Manchester City at Wembley Stadium in north west London on 17 April 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANCHESTER City said Monday they do not know the "full extent" of the injury suffered by Kevin De Bruyne, but the Belgium midfielder will definitely

miss the Premier League leaders' game at Aston Villa on Wednesday. De Bruyne limped off in the second half of Saturday's 1-0 FA Cup semi-final defeat by

Chelsea, which ended City's hopes of a historic quadruple.

The 29-year-old's injury is badly timed for City as they try to retain an eight-point lead over second-placed Manchester United, while looking to win the Champions League and League Cup.

City travel to Villa, then play Tottenham in the League Cup final on Sunday before the first leg of their Champions League semi-final against Paris Saint Germain on April 28. "Manchester City can confirm that Kevin de Bruyne suffered injury to his right foot and ankle in Saturday's FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea," a City statement said on Monday.—AFP ■

3 Japanese bring home gold from Asian championships

THE Asian Wrestling Championships wrapped up in Kazakhstan on Sunday, with three Japanese athletes topping the podium during the six-day tournament.

The competition at Almaty's Baluan Sholak Palace of Culture and Sports served as an important warmup for this summer's Tokyo Olympic Games following the suspension of the international wrestling calendar amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Takuto Otoguro successfully defended his men's 65-kilogramme freestyle title on the penultimate day of the meet after India's Bajrang Punia withdrew from the final due to injury.

"I was able to use the skills and motivation I'd been building up for the past year, so it felt like it hadn't been in vain," Otoguro, the 2018 world champion, said.

"I'll do everything in my

power to win the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics."

Tsushika Shimoyamada won the men's 67-kg Greco-Roman title on the second day, beating Kazakhstan's Almat Kebispayev in the final.

Yu Shiotani was victorious in the 55-kg Greco-Roman competition on the opening day, earning gold with a win over Uzbekistan's Ilkhom Bakhromov.

The Japanese women's team withdrew from the championships ahead of their departure for Kazakhstan after a member was suspected of being in close contact with someone infected with the coronavirus. The Japan Wrestling Federation is looking at alternatives to prepare them for the Tokyo Games. The federation said Sunday a total of five athletes and staff who traveled to the meet had tested positive for the coronavirus since returning to Japan.—Kyodo News ■



Takuto Otoguro shows off his medal after winning the men's 65-kilogramme freestyle title at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Almaty. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**