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Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Home Affairs Press Release

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs declared an illegally-formed Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH and the organizations formed by the committee as unlawful associations under Notification No. 2/2021 on 21 March 2021.
2. Hence, the information was released that National Unity Government-NUG formed by the unlawful association Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH and participants in the NUG as an illegal association and illegitimate association members.

Ministry of Home Affairs

Sal Eain Tan beach, ideal spot to go on mini-breaks

SAL EAIN TAN BEACH, the closest beach to Yangon, is alive and crowded during the Thingyan holidays.

“I also went there on the third day of Thingyan (Akyat) with my friends,” said a traveller.

“Although I went there two years ago during the Thingyan period, I didn’t have a chance to go there for the COVID-19 pandemic. But, during this year I made a plan to pay a visit to the beach. I arrived at Dala Township at 10 am on Thingyan Akyat. I found only three passenger buses to other townships at the bus terminal and did not find the bus to Sal Eain Tan Beach. According to the suggestion of one resident, I hired a Probox taxi with my friends at K4,000 each to Kawt Dune Village and reached the beach by motorbike at about 11 am,” she recounted.

“We can see more entry and exit of vehicles at about 2 pm at Sal Eain Tan beach. It’s located in Sal Eain Tan Village of Kanyin Kone Village-tract in Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region,” she added.

Visitors and swimmers throng the place, and the restaurants are open in line with COVID-19 health rules.

The beach became famous in early 2017. When the water covers the beach’s sand, the vis-



Local travellers are seen on the Sal Eain Tan beach during the Thingyan holidays. PHOTO: PWINT THITSA

itors go around the beach by car or motorcycle. When there is no tide, the people play on the sand.

On Thingyan Akyat, the beach offered a picturesque sunset view, and the visitors took photos of such beautiful scenes.

The youths ride horses, speedboats and four-wheel cycles. The people take commemorative photos with the statues of male mermaid and female mermaid near the beach.

More than 50 food stalls at the beach provide famous curries like Nga Tha Lauk Oh Hmauk, crab and prawns.

It is also an excellent place for movie shooting and is always crowded with people, according to the locals.

“There are very few visitors from Yangon to here during this year, Thingyan. Most of the visitors are from Dala and Kungyangon townships.

There are only about 50 food stalls this year. The people do not take food so much compared to the previous years. Most of the people play water. The food stalls had good transactions on the weekends and the days of religious significance. We received about K50,000 per table. But now, the people eat only Kyauk Pwint and pickled tea leaf salads. We expect there would be many visitors this year. Due

to some travel restrictions of the COVID-19 outbreak, the people mostly go to Khayu beach. It can be supposed as a rival to us. But, the beach is crowded more year by year,” said an owner of the restaurant.

The government also implements development programmes for Sal Eain Tan beach, and so the visitors should not miss that beach.—Pwint Thitsa/GNLM

Gel & Spray

To prevent the spread of COVID-19

- Wear a mask
- Clean your hands
- Keep a safe social distancing

6 feet

To prevent dry skin and damage contains Vitamin-E and Glycerin.

Information about disinfection in third wave of COVID-19

MORE than 142 million global people are suffering from COVID-19 till the morning of 20 April 2021, over three million of whom died of infection of the pandemic, and now, the pandemic continues infection with momentum.

Root causes of pandemic infection are gene mutation of COVID-19 virus, causing crowds for various reasons, easing restrictions by the countries which face declining of disease infection, weakness of the majority of the people in following ways to prevent the pandemic and deficiency of the already vaccinated people in continuously abiding by preventive measures of the pandemic.

According to the data collected till the morning of 20 April, more than 15 million were infected people in India, the neighbour of Myanmar, and over 180,000 people died in the infection. It was the second-largest amount in the world. People of India are facing the disease of the COVID-19 third wave. On 18 April alone, a record was set that the pandemic infected 275,306 people. Meanwhile, UK Variant (B.1.1.7) with 70% higher infection rate and South Africa Variant (B.1.351) with increased infection rate and declining effectiveness of some drugs were found. Likewise, more than 700,000 people were infected by the pandemic. Over 10,000 people were dead in the outbreak of COVID-19 in Bangladesh, suffering from the third wave of disease. On 7 April alone, 7,626 people were infected by the pandemic with a high infection rate. There are more than 40,000 infected people and over 100 dead people in the outbreak of COVID-19 in Thailand. As of early April 2021, the number of infected persons remarkably increased as the third wave of the pandemic. On 18 April alone, 1,767 people were infected, and daily infected persons reach more than 1,000.

Not to infect the third wave of COVID-19 and variant COVID-19 from neighbours to Myanmar, all the entire people are urged to abide by preventive measures for COVID-19 without fail as follows:-

1. systematically wear masks whenever goes out of the home and wear face shields while contacting the public.
2. Stay with each other in enough distance.
3. Systematically wash hands for 20 seconds.
4. Avoid tightly-closed rooms, air-conditioned rooms and badly-ventilated rooms as much as possible.
5. Those who often go out need to avoid close relations with older persons above 60 years old and patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart.
6. Fully participate in the quarantine process.
7. Don't buy goods from vendors who do not wear masks.
8. Inform each other about the pandemic.
9. Continuously follow preventive measures of COVID-19 after receiving the vaccination.
10. Immediately contact nearby health units and receive early treatment when you suffer from symptoms of fever, coughing, suffocation, exhaustion and sudden loss of smell and taste.

Ministry of Health and Sports

Construction of retaining wall jetty in Kalewa finished by 40 per cent



THE construction of retaining wall jetty was finished 40 per cent in Kalewa town market, Kalay district, Sagaing region, said an official from Kalay Township Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Department.

“The construction of retaining wall jetty was completed by 40 per cent today in Kalewa town market jetty.

We have expected to complete the whole project in May,” said the official from Kalay Township WRRSD.

The project was started on 21 January 2021 and com-

pleted by 40 per cent so far. The Kalewa town market jetty is being constructed with a 350-foot long retaining wall by Chindwin Dragon (Chindwin Nagar) Company.

The retaining wall project started its construction with a spending of over K150 million from the region government's fund for the 2020-2021 financial year. Upon completing the construction project, the jetty will be clean and beautiful to be suited to the city features that will benefit the town's people and prevent landslides. — Lulay/GNLM

The retaining wall project started its construction with a spending of over K150 million from the regional government's fund for the 2020-2021 financial year.

USD vs MMK exchange rate rises up to K1,600 per dollar

THE US dollar exchange rate against Myanmar Kyat has risen to K1,600 per dollar in the local exchange market.

Although the dollar exchange rate hit only around K1,500 per dollar in the local market on 31 March, the rate jumped to K1,605 per dollar on 20 April with a rise of about K100 per dollar within three weeks.

Though the dollar ex-

change rate stood at around K1,330 per dollar at the local market at the end of January, the rate jumped to over K1,465 per dollar in February. The exchange rate skipped by K130 per dollar in a few days.

Consequently, the CBM sold US\$6.8 million on 3 February at a foreign currency auction system to stabilize the exchange rate.

Since the beginning of the year, the bank has been purchasing and selling the US dollar in the auction market to control the rise and fall of the exchange rate.

In the domestic market in 2021, the highest and lowest exchange rate is currently fixed around K1,327-1,345 in January, K1,335-1,465 in February and K1,420-1,550 in March.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In the last six months in 2019, the rates were fixed at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit a record high of K1,650 in the local exchange market. — NN/GNLM

People are in troubles for the closure of hospitals

THE Ministry of Education is striving for reopening schools as quickly as possible. NGOs and INGOs shaped service personnel in undisciplined democracy. Rioters hang pictures of Buddhist monks assaulting Buddhism. People are in troubles for the closure of hospitals. The Tatmadaw gives a helping hand to them. The Tatmadaw sent 44 medical doctors to the Naga area in 2015.

(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)

Daily Newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 115/2021

9th Waxing of Tagu 1383 ME
20 April 2021

Appointment and duty assignment of Judges of Region High Court

The following persons are appointed and assigned by the State Administration Council to the duties of Judges of Region High Courts shown against each of their Region High Courts according to Section 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Daw Su Su Win | Sagaing Region High Court |
| 2. Daw Aye Aye Than | Taninthayi Region High Court |

By Order,

Sd/ Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

MoALI holds meeting on the use of modern techniques in farming sector



THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation organized a coordination meeting on the short-term project for significant development in farming sectors with modern techniques yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo discussed food and nutrition security, job opportunities based on agriculture and livestock breeding, relief plans for businesses badly hit by COVID-19, the use of modern techniques in farming and technical assistance for the farmers.

Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi briefed those present on the budget management system in line with the existing law. The Directors-General and Rectors

discussed the plans for developing farming sectors, arrangements to set exam for the final year students of the agricultural university, and work schedules to extend livestock breeding diploma courses.

Then, the Union Minister stressed the need to emphasize the Union-level work plans and arrangements of officials of the relevant regions in implementing the co-operative and rural development programmes.

He also instructed them to understand the policies, missions, visions, and directives of the ministry and assign duties systematically to cooperate with the relevant region administration councils. —MNA

Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo chairs the MoALI coordination meeting on 20 April 2021.

Second-month performance of the State Administration Council

By Kanaung

MILITARY songs played by an army band filled the air as troops from the Anawrahta Column, Kyan-siththa Column, Bayintnaung Column, Aungzeya Column, Hsinbyushin Column, Bandoola Column and Aung San Column took up positions on the parade ground. This was the tradition-rich Tatmadaw, commemorating the 76th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day, an unforgettable scene for a citizen.

The troops assembled on the parade ground represented the Tatmadaw Army, Navy and Air forces, the Myanmar Police Force, Navy SEALs, members of female special operation task force, and mechanized and airborne divisions of the Tatmadaw. The magnificent scene was a reminder of the long and proud history of the Tatmadaw, established after the country's hard-won independence from the British. Throughout Myanmar's pre-independence periods into the present, the Tatmadaw had commemorated its Silver, Gold and Diamond Jubilee milestones. Tatmadaw and police forces are the ones who sacrifice their lives to protect the country so that all citizens may live in peace, tranquillity, law and order.

March 2021 is also the month that marks the second-month tenure of the State Administration Council. The State Administration Council is steadfastly carrying out its State duties in accordance with its Five-Point Road Map and Nine Objectives. In these endeavours, the 2008 Constitution provides the overarching framework for ensuring peace and stability, and for serving the country and people. This report provides an overview of the work of the State Administration Council in March, as obtained from media releases.

Deliberations of the State Administration Council

On 1 March 2021, at the 4/2021 meeting of the State Administration Council, the State Administration Council Chairman noted the instigating role of social media posts in spreading unrest and fuelling violence and emphasized that the security forces would continue to exercise utmost restraint and the lowest level of response possible in every situation, in line with international norms for riot control. A democratic system provides for people to express their likes



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing is inspecting the Assembled Columns of Armed Force and Myanmar Police Force on 27 March 2021.

or dislikes within the rule of law. However, civil servants need to carry out the duties conferred on them by their positions in accordance with rules and regulations. Township administrative officers need to be free from party politics in order to restore order and stability.

Moreover, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services discussed the Five-Point Road Map, emphasizing the need for States and Regions to increase

tion Council Chairman said although the security forces had used internationally accepted measures of crowd control and had not used forcible or violent means against protesters, the protests had turned into riots and violence from 28 February. In attempting to restore human security and rule of law, the security forces had employed the lowest level of response possible in the specific situation, in line with international norms for

to serve the public. In all cases, the media should act responsibly by providing balanced and neutral coverage of events.

The country must be well-equipped and prepared for responding to defence and security needs. To this end, when stability is restored, the State Administration Council Members would need to consider the implementation of the 2010 People's Militia Law, which allows for conscription. Matters pertaining to actions taken against those participating in the illegal Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and related organizations were then discussed. Other issues highlighted at the meeting include programmes to promote public awareness of political affairs and educate the public on electoral fraud, actions taken with regard to citizen registration and identification cards in accordance with the prevailing laws, the reopening of Buddhist monastic schools, the status of ceasefire and peace negotiations and mine clearance operations, and the status of healthcare services.

On 15 March 2021, at the 6/2021 meeting of the State Administration Council, the Chairman highlighted the implementation of security measures to enable the banks to reopen. The need to reopen universities and schools as soon as possible was emphasized, given the impact of closures on students, parents, and the country. Measures would be taken to invite local and foreign investment in industry and agriculture, especially the production of value-added agrobased goods. The State Administration Council also discussed the

issue of providing greater support to ethnic language teachers and measures related to reviving domestic tourism.

On 22 March 2021, at the 7/2021 meeting of the State Administration Council, the agenda focused on efforts to accelerate the graduation of Myanmar from the list of the Least-Developed Countries as defined by the United Nations, the easing of travel restrictions, the review and scrutiny of region and state municipal committees, long-term planning of improvements in transport and communications for Phayathonzu region, the organization of the steering committee and working committees for the peace process, and measures to be taken to provide citizenship scrutinizing cards to every eligible citizen and every member of Myanmar's national ethnic peoples.

On 11 March 2021, at the 3/2021 meeting of the Management Committee of the State Administration Council, the Chairman and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services raised issues relating to the work of staff in the respective ministries. The government staff in each ministry are expected to discharge their duties responsibly, following democratic norms and principles. To this end, sessions should be held to clarify and raise staff awareness on workplace duties and responsibilities. The meeting also discussed the systematic steps being taken to reopen banks, hospitals and schools, together with the measures to ensure healthcare workers return to their duties.

The State Administration Council Chairman and Com-

The doctors in public hospitals who had joined the CDM were only harming the patients - the sick and the poor who can only afford to use public hospitals. Similarly, banks need to open as soon as possible to serve the public. In all cases, the media should act responsibly by providing a balanced and neutral coverage of events.

productivity and enhance agriculture. Measures should also be taken to revive sports competitions, including Myanmar martial arts, and reinvigorate the tourism and industrial sectors, in accordance with COVID-19 health protocols.

On 8 March 2021, at the 5/2021 meeting of the State Administration Council, the issue of stability and order was highlighted. The State Administra-

riot control. The so-called Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) is a deliberate planned attempt to harm the country's economy, aimed at destroying factories, industries, tourism, cash flow and production. The doctors in people's hospitals who had joined the CDM were only harming the patients - the sick and the poor who can only afford to use people's hospitals. Similarly, banks need to open as soon as possible

mander-in-Chief of Defence Services also toured the remote locations of Myanmar to meet with the military personnel and family members serving in those locations. These included the Myeik, Kyunsu and Cocogyun military stations on 20 March, the Tachilek military station on 28 March, and the Kengtung military station and the Triangle Region Command on 29 March 2021. During his visits, the Chairman explained the current situation of responsibility for State duties and on the plans and activities being implemented to advance the country's development. The Chairman brought gifts of food for the troops, met and encouraged their families, and made appropriate arrangements to meet the requirements in those military stations.

From 11 to 14 March 2021, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe

genuine multiparty democracy. The State Administration Council Members then deliberated on issues concerning national security, the rule of law, religious and social affairs, and regional development programmes. These included the peace process, the review of the law on child rights, the establishment of special courts in areas of the critical need for such justice, the amendment of income taxes to alleviate the public's tax burden, control of rumours on social media, and reforms of news media.

76th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

The Parade of the 76th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day was successfully held on 27 March 2021 and live-streamed on national television. State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing took the salute of the Assembled Columns of military forces and

Accordingly, the Tatmadaw would always stand by the Myanmar people and, through rain or shine, strive to ensure peace and security for all citizens. The Tatmadaw would work towards securing a peaceful and developed Union based on democracy and federalism, for the Myanmar nation and people to stand tall on the world stage.

traditions throughout successive generations over decades.

In his speech, the Senior General reiterated the principle that the Tatmadaw is part of the nation and that military personnel are part of the people. Accordingly, the Tatmadaw

to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

National Unity and Peace Restoration

The State Administration Council's Central Committee on National Unity and Peace Res-

of the National Defence and Security Council to resolve the problem of vote-rigging. Therefore, the Tatmadaw had no choice but to assume the duties entrusted to it by the Constitution.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Central Committee Chairman highlighted that given the diverse views on democracy and federalism in building a Union based on the principles of democracy and federalism, it would be necessary to choose a system suitable for the country. He emphasized that while there were different interpretations and standards regarding the term federalism, one could say that its main essence lay in Union and harmony. There is no State or Region in Myanmar that has only one ethnic race. Rather, States and Regions have many ethnic races living together, and a given ethnic group is also spread across more than a single State or Region. Therefore, all National peoples living in each State or Region are equal stakeholders for that State or Region, with equal ownership. It would benefit national unity immensely if each State or Region could be named to reflect the ownership of all National peoples living in that State or Region.

Regarding the position of the Tatmadaw, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services emphasized that after measures were taken to assure the required peace and stability, elections would be held, and the Tatmadaw would ensure the smooth transition of power to the winners and the formation of a new government. During this period, when the Tatmadaw had taken the reins of State power, ongoing processes, including the peace process, and various initiatives in the respective regions, would continue without losing momentum. Moreover, activities and systems not in accordance with the Constitution and activities detrimental to national solidarity and national security would be addressed in accordance with the Constitution and prevailing law. Such undertakings underscore the important role of the Tatmadaw in always safeguarding the national interest.

The peace process

In the peace process, it was necessary to continually engage in dialogue along four fronts: informal discussions, formal dialogue, bilateral meetings to stabilize ceasefire arrangements, and formal meetings and conferences mandated by the NCA.

TO BE CONTINUED.



Win met with military personnel, family members and military cadets in Kalaw, Aungban, Bahtoo and PyinOoLwin military stations. He explained the current situation and made appropriate arrangements to address their various needs. On 29 March 2021, the Vice-Chairman met with personnel serving in the Mandalay Station and the Mandalay Region Police Force.

On 30 March 2021, at the 8/2021 meeting of the State Administration Council, the Chairman emphasized that collective leadership was being exercised on the path to achieve the democracy to which people aspired. The Tatmadaw was only supporting the civilian administration bodies who are undertaking State duties. Despite the desire of the people for genuine multiparty democracy, the massive electoral fraud in 2020 had made a mockery of the democratic process. The Tatmadaw had taken a firm decision on helping the country achieve

Myanmar Police Force, after which he inspected the Columns. All participants then saluted the flag of the Union. Member of the armed forces then saluted the fallen Tatmadaw personnel who had sacrificed their lives for the country and took the Four-Point Pledge of Loyalty.

In his address at the 76th Armed Forces Day of Tatmadaw, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services highlighted the immense prestige of the Tatmadaw that was etched in the annals of history, and the steadfastness of the Tatmadaw's commitment to protecting the motherland throughout successive terms of government. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services pointed out that the event had originally been planned to commemorate the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Armed Forces Day but had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Tatmadaw should be proud that it has upheld its noble

would always stand by the Myanmar people and, through rain or shine, strive to ensure peace and security for all citizens. The Tatmadaw would work towards securing a peaceful and developed Union based on democracy and federalism, for the Myanmar nation and people to stand tall on the world stage.

On 25 March 2021, the Defence Services Museum held a ceremony to honour the past and present Commanders-in-Chief of Defence Services by unveiling their seven statues. The State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services spoke on the occasion, highlighting that the statues were made to honour those who had led the efforts to make the Tatmadaw the strong and durable institution it is today. The statues were a reminder that Myanmar's independence must be cherished, a patriotic spirit must be nurtured, and human resources must be developed

tation held its first meeting on 3 March 2021. In this meeting, the Central Committee Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing re-emphasized one of the key components in the State Administration Council Five-Point Road Map, that the clauses in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement would be implemented as a priority to achieve durable peace.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services summarized the events that had led to the current situation. He had requested the previous government in person many times to hold the National Defence and Security Council meeting, as stipulated by the 2008 Constitution, with the wish to improve civil-military relations. But the previous government had repeatedly ignored the request. More recently, the previous government had also rejected the Tatmadaw's repeated calls for dialogue between the Union Election Commission and political parties and for a meeting

Announcement of Union Election Commission

19 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 Thabeikkyin and Ngazun townships of Mandalay 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	101 polling stations in Thabeikkyin township of Sagaing Region	113,669	100,448	29,416	736	9,132
2	66 polling stations in Ngazun township of Sagaing Region	111,707	81,163	8,306	689	11,572

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

4. According to the inspection, a total of 243 polling stations in these two townships took out 246,845 ballots and used 166,380 ballots. It left 65,689 ballots instead of 80,465 ballots. The difference was 16,046 ballots, and it found 1,270 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	Thabeikkyin	101	118,995	81,115	37,880	30,572	7,678	370
2	Ngazun	142	127,850	85,265	42,585	35,117	8,368	900
	Total	243	246,845	166,380	80,465	65,689	16,046	1,270

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Thabeikkyin Township

5. A total of 101 polling stations in 5 Wards and 22 Village-tracts of Thabeikkyin Township in Mandalay Region took out 118,995 ballots and used 81,115 ballots. It left 30,572 ballots instead of 37,880. 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	118,550	80,688	37,862	30,554	7,678	370
2	Township Advanced ballots	445	427	18	18		
	Total	118,995	81,115	37,880	30,572	7,678	370

6. It found 7,678 missing ballots and 370 extra ballots at 101 polling stations in 5 Wards and 22 Village-tracts of Thabeikkyin Township. The numbers of remaining ballots at the township election sub-commission were 18. It found 18 remaining ballots in the inspection, so the numbers conformed with the findings.

7. The inspection team examined only the ballot papers as it did not find the ballot receipts used at No (8) polling station in Kwin (30) (2) of Oh Zone Village-tract and at No (5) polling station in Myaing Thaya of Inn Net Village-tract of Thabeikkyin Township. Therefore, the exact numbers of advance ballots and remaining ballots were not known.

8. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-tracts	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Seikkan Ward	2,550	1,715	835	835		
2	Kabe Ward	2,050	1,307	743	647	96	
3	Khonhmitmine Chantha Village-tract	8,400	5,455	2,945	2,007	938	
4	Wapyutaung Village-tract	3,400	2,834	566	366	200	
5	Kyaukleebee Village-tract	1,900	1,374	526	526		
6	Ohnezone Village-tract	24,000	16,499	7,501	6,249	1,252	
7	Chaunggyi Village-tract	11,150	8,116	3,034	2,902	132	
8	Kyaukgyi Village-tract	1,650	1,004	646	396	250	
9	Gwaypinhmaw Village-tract	1,400	734	666	666		
10	YaynyarU Village-tract	900	660	240	240		
11	Twinnge Village-tract	6,350	4,876	1,474	1,423	51	
12	Sanpanago Village-tract	4,600	2,988	1,612	1,112	500	
13	Kyaukphya Village-tract	1,400	1,077	323	323		
14	Kyarnhnyet Village-tract	10,200	8,358	1,842	1,746	96	
15	Wayonegone Village-tract	2,900	2,191	709	708	1	
16	Letpan Village-tract	2,200	1,329	871	571	300	
17	Magyeegone Village-tract	4,400	2,928	1,472	1,632		160
18	Kyaukpyu Village-tract	2,900	1,991	909	909		
19	Minedine Village-tract	2,200	1,446	754	964		210
20	Ainnet Village-tract	5,750	3,713	2,037	1,338	699	
21	Phonkone Village-tract	3,650	2,225	1,425	1,173	252	
22	Kyaukaike Village-tract	1,350	381	969	659	310	
23	Pauktapin Village-tract	3,250	2,348	902	551	351	
24	No (1) Ward, Tagaungmyo	3,450	1,855	1,595	595	1,000	
25	No (2) Ward, Tagaungmyo	2,300	1,510	790	690	100	
26	No (3) Ward, Tagaungmyo	1,800	1,250	550	550		
27	Sezingone Village-tract	2,450	524	1,926	776	1,150	
	Ward/village-tract ballots	118,550	80,688	37,862	30,554	7,678	370
	Township Advanced ballots	445	427	18	18		
	Township Total	118,995	81,115	37,880	30,572	7,678	370

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Ngazun Township

9. A total of 142 polling stations in 4 Wards and 44 Village-tracts of Ngazun Township in Mandalay Region took out 127,850 ballots and used 85,265 ballots. It left 35,117 ballots instead of 42,585. 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	118,200	85,067	33,133	24,765	8,368	
2	Township Advanced ballots	198	198				
3	Township Remaining ballots	9,452		9,452	10,352		900
	Total	127,850	85,265	42,585	35,117	8,368	900

10. It found 8,368 missing ballots at 142 polling stations in 4 Wards and 44 Village-tracts of Ngazun Township. The numbers of remaining ballots at the township election sub-commission must be 9,452, but it found 10,352 remaining ballots in the inspection. Therefore, it found 900 extra ballots.

11. According to the inspection, the ballot receipts and remaining ballots used at No (3) polling station in Ma Gyi Kyat Village-tract in Ngazun Township were not returned to the officials. Some of the Ward/village-tract polling stations did not follow the stipulations of law, rules, and procedures. They replaced the ballot receipts and remaining ballots to the township election sub-commission after the election.

SEE PAGE-7

FROM PAGE-6

12. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	No (1) Ward	2	3,200	2,054	1,146	755	391	
2	No (2) Ward	1	850	537	313	113	200	
3	No (3) Ward	1	1,400	1,024	376	276	100	
4	No (4) Ward	1	1,750	1,242	508	458	50	
5	Thoungpyin Village-tract	3	1,350	929	421	321	100	
6	Anauktaw Village-tract	3	2,250	1,667	583	273	310	
7	Gyo Village-tract	1	1,300	1,067	233	185	48	
8	Pan Village-tract	6	3,500	2,623	877	577	300	
9	Taungletaw Village-tract	3	2,550	1,968	582	482	100	
10	Htuntha Village-tract	1	1,250	973	277	277		
11	Tamarpin Village-tract	5	2,750	2,055	695	595	100	
12	Ywathit Village-tract	5	2,750	2,248	502	402	100	
13	Kyauktalone Village-tract	6	4,150	2,848	1,302	1,302		
14	Chinthaylet Village-tract	4	3,450	2,574	876	776	100	
15	Thanatsit Village-tract	6	5,200	2,936	2,264	464	1,800	
16	Sitaung Village-tract	2	1,600	1,165	435	235	200	
17	Myotha Village-tract	7	7,600	5,907	1,693	1,293	400	
18	Gyunkan Village-tract	3	2,400	1,392	1,008	358	650	
19	Shwetaung Village-tract	1	1,200	949	251	251		
20	Thayetkan Village-tract	4	2,800	1,805	995	995		
21	Pyinhlataw Village-tract	5	2,450	1,635	815	711	104	
22	Kywezein Village-tract	3	2,100	1,567	533	483	50	
23	Paukseim Village-tract	1	850	510	340	140	200	
24	Minnaygone Village-tract	1	1,000	826	174	174		

25	Thanbo Village-tract	2	1,900	1,297	603	603		
26	Pyutwingone Village-tract	1	700	566	134	134		
27	Kaungzin Village-tract	1	900	613	287	287		
28	Thangone Village-tract	5	3,400	2,772	628	628		
29	Ngarlont Village-tract	2	1,500	1,161	339	339		
30	Setpyarkyin Village-tract	2	2,000	1,424	576	266	310	
31	Magyee Village-tract	2	2,250	1,717	533	533		
32	Yaylethoung Village-tract	7	3,550	2,541	1,009	659	350	
33	Kalar Village-tract	2	2,950	2,456	494	494		
34	Sintat Village-tract	2	2,150	1,510	640	640		
35	Ywabo Village-tract	2	1,450	1,196	254	254		
36	Sinpyugone Village-tract	2	1,550	1,032	518	418	100	
37	Letpantha Village-tract	1	1,050	851	199	199		
38	Yayzin Village-tract	4	2,800	2,270	530	530		
39	Thakyin Village-tract	3	4,250	3,150	1,100	950	150	
40	Letpakyin Village-tract	4	3,950	3,042	908	658	250	
41	Magyikya vt Village-tract	3	3,400	1,964	1,436	576	860	
42	Netgyi Village-tract	2	2,400	1,667	733	633	100	
43	Mayoegone Village-tract	2	1,200	795	405	355	50	
44	Moetaung Village-tract	3	2,550	1,757	793	743	50	
45	Thayetchopin Village-tract	2	1,700	1,295	405	305	100	
46	Konele Village-tract	5	3,050	2,251	799	511	288	
47	Nganhmyar Village-tract	6	5,800	3,811	1,989	1,532	457	
48	Ainetha Village-tract	2	2,050	1,428	622	622		
	Ward/village-tract ballots	142	118,200	85,067	33,133	24,765	8,368	
	Township Advanced ballots		198	198				
	Township Remaining ballots		9,452		9,452	10,352		900
	Township Total	142	127,850	85,265	42,585	35,117	8,368	900

Union Election Commission

Work licences of private hospitals, clinics that were not in line with the laws

DR Wai Yan Oo, an out-service surgeon from 3rd street in Ward 2 of Maubin, Ayeyawady Region, gives medical treatment at private clinic Htoo Wai, posting on his social network page he would provide medical treatments to patients holding OPD books from Maubin Hospital free of charge. He fully supports the CDM activi-

ty of Maubin District People's Hospital. As he incited State service medical doctors on duty to join CDM activity, a file was opened against him under Section 505-A of the Penal Code.

Likewise, out-service Dr Naing Htoo from Moe Pyae Sone clinic on Minn Street in Ward 10 of Maubin led the

riots.

A file of the lawsuit was opened against him at the respective police station under Section 505-A of the Penal Code.

Under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service medical doctors to join CDM activity and leading riots, Htoo Wai clinic

and Moe Pyae Sone clinic, which admitted Dr Wai Yan Oo and Dr Naing Htoo, will be revoked of their work licences under the Law Relating to Private Health Care Services.

Moreover, medical doctors from people's hospitals participating in CDM activities, not in line with the medical doctor ethics and codes

of conduct of civil service personnel, private hospitals and clinics which admitted those medical doctors and private hospitals and clinics of the medical doctors taken action under the law for inciting CDM activity and participating in riots would also be revoked of their licences. — MNA

Military medical corps provide healthcare in township hospitals



Tatmadaw medics are providing healthcare services to locals.

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

The Tatmadaw medical team continued to provide healthcare services such as surgery, dental and oral healthcare, osteoporosis, obstetrics and , gynaecology, otorhi-

nology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in healthcare services difficulties in Thazi Township Hospital, Hanza Station Hospital, Yinmabin Station Hospital, Nyaungyan Station Hospital, Pintale Station Hospital in Wundwin Township, Tagaung Station Hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Madaya Hospital, Singaing Hospital in Kyaukse township, Yintaw Station Hos-

pital in Pyawbwe township, Myintha Township Hospital, Kume Station Hospital, Welaung Station Hospital in Taungtha Township, Hospital in Kyaukpadaung Township, Kyaukdaga Township Hospital in Bago Region, Thayawady District Hospital, Donzayit Station Hospital in Shwegyin Township and Latpadan Township Hospital yesterday.

Similarly, the Tatmadaw medical team provided healthcare services to patients at People's Hospital in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region.

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

Military hospitals continue providing healthcare to civilians



Residents are receiving treatments at the military hospital.

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 148,643 outpatients and 4,447 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 7,003 major operations and 3,633 minor operations. The senior doctors treated serious

cases. These hospitals managed for the birth of 9,465 babies while bringing 9,465 pregnant women to the respective military hospitals. Of those 3,699 cases are done in caesarean section and 5,766 cases in ordinary delivery.

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

Take care of rising heat in summer

THE hotness of summer gradually increases from the last week of February to the last week of May on a yearly basis. Climate change such as volcanic eruption, shaking of earthquakes, high tide, and fires have unprecedented impacts on the global people.

As such, the World Health Organization warned the global people to avoid increasing heat as over 130° F is a danger for humans.

Heatwaves can bring heat stroke and heat exhaustion to humans. Heat can cause thickness of blood in the body and loss of hydration.

Hot sunray can break out diabetes, hypertension, cardiac and cancer diseases in humans. Hence, all Myanmar people need to notice the high temperature in summer, which can harm the health and lives of the people.

The poor people, drunkards, homeless people and labourers working under the sunray are victims of high temperature in summer. Fortunately, trees and forests are still covering many parts of Myanmar, giving shade and shelters to the people in summer.

As for tips on health in summer, people need to avoid physical exercise and drink liquors during the high-temperature period. Older persons and children need to take shelter in summer. Everybody should not take a bath in the day time.

Health organizations and social associations should prepare to provide emergency healthcare services to the people who suffer from the impacts of hotness in summer.

Whenever heat index value reaches more than 120° F, local authorities and health organizations need to warn the people to avoid the high hotness of summer at shelters. They should provide necessary protections to the people to be free from the dangers of hotness.

That is why people should take shelter at day time or stay in the rooms facilitated with air-conditioners if possible.

They should take care of children and older persons as well as people suffering from chronic diseases. Also, they should wear light clothes in white colour, take a bath during the low-temperature period and abide by physicians' directives.

Global people should make strenuous efforts to shape all the parts of the world under trees and forests as a long-term benefit for greening the environs. That can reduce the heat of summer and change the climate to normalcy as much as possible.



Covid death toll nears 3m as India cases surge

Hopes that South Asian countries might have seen the worst of the pandemic have been dashed, with India recording over two million new cases this month alone and Bangladesh and Pakistan imposing new shutdowns.

THE global coronavirus death toll was expected to reach three million 19 April, as the race for immunization continues and countries like India grapple with rising infections and new lockdowns.

The virus that surfaced in late 2019 in central China and the ensuing pandemic has infected more than 100 million people, leaving billions more under crippling lockdowns and ravaging the global economy.

India's capital New Delhi went into a weekend lockdown on 19 April as the world's second-most populous nation faces more than 200,000 fresh daily cases and families clamouring for drugs and hospital beds.

Hopes that South Asian countries might have seen the worst of the pandemic have been dashed, with India recording over two million new cases this month alone and Bangladesh and Pakistan imposing new shutdowns.

In Japan, rising virus cases have stoked speculation that



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

the Olympic Games — postponed last year due to the pandemic — could be cancelled.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, in his first meeting with US President Joe Biden, said his government was listening to experts and doing its "utmost" to prepare for the Tokyo games

in July. "They are doing everything possible to contain infection and to realise safe and secure games from scientific and objective perspectives," Suga told a joint news conference, at which Biden backed Japan's efforts to host the global event.

Coronavirus preparations are being made for another global sporting showcase — the World Cup in Qatar next year.

The Gulf kingdom is in talks with coronavirus vaccine makers to ensure all fans attending the 2022 World Cup in the country have been vaccinated, its

foreign minister said yesterday.

The virus continues to impact events elsewhere in the world. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II bids a final farewell to her late husband, Prince Philip, at a funeral restricted by coronavirus and likely watched by millions from afar. The public has been asked to stay away because of the global pandemic.

'Cautious Optimism in Europe'

In Brazil, the country with the third-highest death toll in the world, night shifts have been added to several cemeteries as diggers work around the clock to bury the dead.

One of these is Vila Formosa, the largest cemetery in Latin America and a showcase for the lethal cost of the pandemic in Brazil, where more than 360,000 people have died from Covid-19.

Despite the high infection rate, the government of Brazil's most populous state Sao Paulo announced it will allow busi-

nesses and places of worship to reopen from tomorrow.

But there was better news in Europe, where some countries are easing their lockdowns in response to not only fatigue, but falling infection numbers and progress with vaccinations.

Italy announced yesterday it will ease coronavirus restrictions for schools and restaurants from April 26.

Expressing "cautious optimism", Prime Minister Mario Draghi said his government was taking a "calculated risk".

Italy will also allow up to a thousand spectators at outdoor events from May 1, when it eases its stadium fan ban in regions less affected by the coronavirus.

In more good news for Brits after the partial reopening of society this week, Germany on Friday removed the United Kingdom from the list of risk zones for coronavirus infections, meaning that travellers will no longer need to quarantine upon arrival.

SOURCE : AFP

CO2 emissions set to surge, IEA warns

The IEA sees a 4.5-per-cent jump in coal demand, surpassing the 2019 level and approaching its all-time peak from 2014, as the biggest reason behind the rise in CO2 emissions.

CLIMATE-CHANGING CO2 emissions are set to surge by the second-biggest amount in history this year as the global economy recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic, the IEA warned Tuesday, days before a major climate summit.

The International Energy Agency estimated in its annual Global Energy Review that CO2 emissions will increase by almost five per cent this year to 33 billion tonnes, largely reversing the decline registered last year as the pandemic idled swathes of the global economy.

While CO2 emissions are expected to remain below their 2019 level, the IEA expects global energy demand to surpass its 2019 level, with both gas and coal rising above pre-pandemic

levels. "Global carbon emissions are set to jump by 1.5 billion tonnes this year — driven by the resurgence of coal use in the power sector," the IEA's Executive Director, Fatih Birol, was quoted as saying in a statement.

"This is a dire warning that the economic recovery from the Covid crisis is currently anything but sustainable for our climate."

He called the Leaders Summit on Climate to be hosted by US President Joe Biden on Thursday and Friday a critical moment for nations to pledge immediate actions before the UN Climate Change Conference set for November in Glasgow.

"Unless governments around the world move rapidly to start cutting emissions, we

are likely to face an even worse situation in 2022," said Birol.

The IEA sees a 4.5-per-cent jump in coal demand, surpassing the 2019 level and approaching its all-time peak from 2014, as the biggest reason behind the rise in CO2 emissions.

The electricity sector accounts for three-quarters of this increase.

More than four-fifths of the rise in coal demand is to come from Asia, led by China, although the United States and Europe are also set to see increases.

While the increase in coal use will dwarf that of renewables, electricity generation from renewable sources is still tipped to jump by more than eight per cent this year.

SOURCE : AFP



The IEA sees a 4.5-per-cent jump in coal demand, surpassing the 2019 level and approaching its all-time peak from 2014, as the biggest reason behind the rise in CO2 emissions. PHOTO: 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 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

သတင်းစာတစ်ပြည်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြေးမုံ၊ The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်းခုံသတင်းစာများ မှာယူဖတ်ရှုခြင်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် အခက်အခဲများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

- သတင်းနှင့်စာမိတ်ဆက်ရေးဌာန (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၄၁၂၀၀၊ ၀၆-၄၃၀၁၁၆၂
- အခြေစိုက်သတင်းစာတိုက် (ဧရာဝတီမြို့နယ်) ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၆၁၁၇၊ ၀၆-၄၂၀၇၀၆၀၆
- မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက် (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁၀-၉၅၄၄၁၇၊ ၀၆-၄၄၀၀၂၂၀၄
- မြေပုံသတင်းစာတိုက် (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁၀-၉၂၂၁၀၀၊ ၀၆-၄၅၀၀၂၅၅၀
- The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁၀-၈၆၀၄၅၂၊ ၀၆-၉၀၃၉၂၅၅၀
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မန္တလေး) ဖုန်း-၀၂-၄၀၃၂၇၂၈၊ ၀၂-၄၀၃၂၅၅၀
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မုံရွာ) ဖုန်း-၀၇၀-၂၀၂၅၃၃၊ ၀၇၀-၂၀၂၅၃၃
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မော်လမြိုင်) ဖုန်း-၀၅၇-၂၀၂၅၅၅၊ ၀၅၇-၂၀၂၅၅၆
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (စစ်တွေ) ဖုန်း-၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၅၅၊ ၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၅၆
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တောင်ကြီး) ဖုန်း-၀၈၁-၂၀၂၅၅၅
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မေတ္တာ) ဖုန်း-၀၆၃-၂၀၂၅၅၅
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (ကျိုင်းတုံ) ဖုန်း-၀၈၄-၂၀၂၅၅၅
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (ကလေး) ဖုန်း-၀၇၃-၂၀၂၅၅၅
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (မြစ်ကြီးချား) ဖုန်း-၀၇၄-၂၀၂၅၅၅
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (လားရှိုး) ဖုန်း-၀၈၂-၂၀၂၅၅၅
- ကိုယ်ပိုင်သတင်းစာတိုက် (ပြတိုက်) ဖုန်း-၀၅၆-၂၀၂၅၅၅

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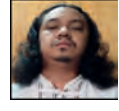
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Those spreading false news to affect State stability charged under Section 505-A

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	Noe HtetHtet Naing https://www.facebook.com/noehtethtet.naing.7	Hnin Pwint Phyu 	Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region	505-a		11	Wint Wah Htun https://www.facebook.com/wint.wah.357	Wint Wah Htun 	Shadaw Town, Kayah State	505-a	
2	Han Nay Tar https://www.facebook.com/hannaytarr	Han Nay Tar 	Chauk Township, Magway Region	505-a		12	Sai Lao Hliang Pan https://www.facebook.com/sai.hliangpan	Sai Lao Hliang Pan 	Muse Town, Shan State	505-a	
3	J Fire https://www.facebook.com/JFireOfficialFB-Page	Aung Ko Nyein 	Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region	505-a		13	Moe Tain Lay https://www.facebook.com/moe.t.lay.1466126	Moe Tain 	Indaw Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
4	Aung Khaing Swe https://www.facebook.com/WinsomMakenzie	Min Aung Khine (a) Aung Khine Swe 	(Singapore)	505-a		14	AK Moe (Nsk) https://www.facebook.com/nskool.tesr	Aung Kyaw Moe 	Tamway Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
5	Thuya Thet Tin https://www.facebook.com/za.w.phay.71	Thuya Thet Tin 	Magway Town, Magway Region	505-a		15	Han Soe https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100020649821849	Han Soe 	Dawbon Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
6	Nila Sein https://www.facebook.com/nilar.sein.75	Nila Sein 	Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region	505-a		16	Htaiktan Mortor-cycle Repairing Work Shop https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014195943320	Hein Yazar Tun 	Nyaung U Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
7	Lanmadaw - Thein Zaw https://www.facebook.com/110155084170605/	Thein Zaw 	Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region	505-a		17	Shwe Yin Khat https://www.facebook.com/dawnilar.win.94009	Nilar Win 	Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	San Htar Nyo https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100026980665579	Shwe Yi Oo 	Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region	505-a		18	John Htoi Aung II (Ko John) https://www.facebook.com/johnhtoiaung2	Ko John 	Muse Town, Shan State	505-a	
9	Zwe Hlaing Hmee https://www.facebook.com/ze.hlainghmee	Zwe Hlaing Hmee 	Insein Township, Yangon Region	505-a		19	U Khin https://www.facebook.com/khin.zaw.948	Khin Zaw 	Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
10	Thet Pai https://www.facebook.com/thet.pai.3994	Thet Pai 	Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region	505-a		20	Moe Thway https://www.facebook.com/Moethway	Moe Thway 	Shwetaung Township, Bago Region	505-a	

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

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 Pan Ei Khine (Assistant Surgeon)	Kulachaunggyi Station Hospital	North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
2	Dr May Zun Ei San (Assistant Surgeon)	Ottwin People's Hospital	Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
3	Dr Hein Htet Soe Khine (Assistant Surgeon)	Kyibinsu Station Hospital	Insein Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Dr Yin Yin Soe (Assistant Surgeon)	Minywa Station Hospital	Madaya Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
5	Dr Ye Win (Medical Superintendent)	Letpadan People's Hospital	Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
6	Dr Zaw Phyo Paing (Assistant Surgeon)	Kywepwe Station Hospital	Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
7	Dr Min Zaw Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Toungoo People's Hospital	Taungtha Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	Dr Lin Thiri Khine (Assistant Surgeon)	Toungoo People's Hospital	Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
9	Dr Kyaw Zin Maung (Assistant Surgeon)	Thaton People's Hospital	Thaton Town, Mon State	505-a	
10	Dr Khant Phyoe Naung (Assistant Surgeon)	Hpa-an General Hospital	Hpa-an Town, Kayin state	505-a	
11	Dr Ngu Wah Sein (Assistant Surgeon)	Kyaikto People's Hospital	Kyaikto Town, Mon State	505-a	
12	Dr Myat Su Wai (Assistant Surgeon)	Theinzayat Station Hospital	Theinzayat Town, Mon State	505-a	
13	Dr Su Pyae Sone Khin (Assistant Surgeon)	Paung Township People's Hospital	Paung Township, Mon State	505-a	
14	Dr Hnin Swe Swe (Assistant Surgeon)	Kyaiklat People's Hospital	Kyaiklat Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
15	Dr Han Thasi (Assistant Surgeon)	Thaton People's Hospital	Thaton Town, Mon State	505-a	
16	Dr Kyaw Min Thet (Specialist)	Patheingyi Township People's Hospital	Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
17	Dr Zaw Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Amarapura Township, Talingyi Station Hospital	Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
18	Dr Win Htut Lin (Assistant Surgeon)	Mawlamyine General Hospital	Mawlamyine Town, Mon State	505-a	
19	Dr Aye Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Pakokku People's Hospital	Pakokku Town, Magway Region	505-a	
20	Dr Min Lwin (Township Medical Officer)	Phakant Township People's Hospital	Phakant Town, Kachin State	505-a	

Among them, Dr Kyaw Min Thet (Specialist) of Patheingyi Township Hospital, Dr Zaw Tun (Assistant Surgeon) of Amarapura Township, Talingyi Station Hospital, Dr Win Htut Lin Mawlamyine People's Hospital, Dr Aye Tun (Assistant Surgeon) of Pakokku People's Hospital and Dr Min Lwin (Township Medical Officer) of Phakant People's 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.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win discusses medical services of hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Health and Sports presided over the meetings to discuss treatment sectors of Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed hospital and other people's and general hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meetings, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said the patients rely on the people's hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, and so Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed hospital should be an ideal one for being located in the capital city of Myanmar. It is vital to provide proper medical services as usual, and health workers should fill the healthcare needs of people.

As the hospitals do not provide treatment now, the people face difficulties in the healthcare sectors. They have to go to private hospitals or clinics or go to remote areas. Although the government allocates the budget, the hospitals do not operate in full. So the people have to spend their money on medical treatment.

He then highlighted the ethics of medics for the public and efforts to run the hospitals as usual.

He continued that the estimated budget for the procurement of medicines is K300



The MoHS Union Minister chairs the meeting on the Nay Pyi Taw hospitals' healthcare services yesterday.

billion, and arrangements will be made to apply human resources with a contract system in treatment sectors. The Ministry also makes plans to provide financial assistance to the healthcare workers, and the meal allowances will be provided to night-shift workers soon. Cash awards will also be provided based on the degrees they achieved.

Moreover, arrangements are being made to present cash

awards as Risk Allowance for those who conduct diagnosis and treatment services. It can be seen the resurgent COVID-19 across the world in March 2021. Although the country is provided with the needed labs, it is difficult to estimate the infection rate due to the low numbers of healthcare workers.

The Ministry keeps carrying out the COVID-19 preventive measures and releasing the new confirmed cases daily.

It also lifts stay-at-home order. It is crucial for the people to follow the health rules as the government eases the restrictions to run the operations as usual.

Moreover, one million and seven hundred thousand people received the COVID vaccine first jab. According to the research, the vaccine can prevent the disease, and those infected with the disease have a less severe condition.

The Union Minister urged them to cooperate in conducting vaccination programmes not to occur next COVID-19 wave.

He then instructed the healthcare workers to be vaccinated as they are the frontline workers.

The PPEs and medical equipment are provided in full. The superintendents, professors and specialists are the role models of young medics, including nurses, to follow the Civil Service Personnel rules and regulations. They also should persuade their colleagues who lead to the wrong way. The Ministry also welcomes all the staff who return to their duties. The officials also opened Call Centre starting February 2021 for those who face difficulties returning to their responsibilities. Therefore, all should cooperate and should not hand over the bad habits like not serving duties for some unsatisfied cases to the next generations.

The Union Minister also said following the civil service personnel rules and regulations and ethics is the safest way. Then he coordinated the discussions of the professors and specialists. — MNA

MoSWRR discusses 5th and 6th joint report for UNCRC implementation

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a presentation on the draft version of the 5th and 6th joint report of the country to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win talked about the reports submitted to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), plans to submit the 5th and 6th combined report, the crucial role of the reports and recommendations of UNCRC.

She also discussed holding meetings with the committee on the child's rights, including the National Committee on the Rights of the Child.

She also said the Child Rights Law was enacted on 23 July 2019, adding that further rules being drafted now will be submitted to the national committee.



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win holds talks on the 5th and 6th combined report on UNCRC yesterday.

Then, the Deputy Minister stressed the need to study the reports of NGOs in arranging the 5th and 6th combined report.

The director in-charge explained four core principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, five facts to be followed, formation of the National Committee on the Rights of the

Child in Nay Pyi Taw Council, Regions and States including the plans to organize committees in districts and townships, the implementation of four rights for the child, and followup monitoring and assessment.

Then, the Union Minister instructed them to express the difficulties in operations, including budget status and

recommendations. However, the reports are prepared as per the Reporting Guideline of UNCRC.

Next, the coordination meeting on the national procedures for receiving trafficked victims, reintegration and rehabilitation was held in the noon.

During the event, the Union Minister highlighted the public

services of the ministry being conducted across the nation, rehabilitation programmes for the disabled, those who quit using drugs and trafficked victims, proper support of families for the reintegration of these people and further work plans of the ministry.

Then the Deputy Minister discussed the receiving of trafficked victims, reintegration and rehabilitation programmes, the target of human traffickers, trafficked victims including men to work on the floating fishing rafts while the women face forced marriage.

The Deputy Minister stressed the need to conduct counselling with the trafficked victims, including their family members, to create job opportunities and raise public awareness.

Then, the attendees to the meeting coordinated the discussion.—MNA

China tech stampede into electric cars sparks auto sector buzz

THOUGHT Big Tech was taking over your life through smartphones? It may be coming for your car next as Chinese firms lead a stampede into auto manufacturing in their battle for more consumers.

Cars are the next major prize in the battle for digital territory, industry insiders say, and the deep pockets and data muscle of big Chinese tech firms will fuel even faster growth in "smart-electric" vehicles -- and possibly hasten the

arrival of autonomous cars.

In recent weeks, Chinese smartphone giants Huawei and Xiaomi, e-commerce leader Alibaba, and even DJI, the world's top drone manufacturer, have thrown their hats into the ring.

"This sort of competition is a good thing and will greatly accelerate innovation," William Li, founder, chairman and CEO of Chinese electric vehicle (EV) producer NIO, told AFP in an interview just ahead of

the Shanghai Auto Show.

The first major auto industry gathering of the year opens to the public Wednesday with the global sector looking to China -- the world's biggest and most rapidly electrifying auto market -- to lead the way into a post-pandemic future. Sales in China contracted two per cent to 25.1 million vehicles last year -- nearly one-third of the global total -- but are rapidly recovering thanks to the expanding popularity of electric cars. —AFP ■



China is the world's biggest and most rapidly electrifying auto market. PHOTO: AFP

Asian markets fall after overnight Wall Street retreat

TOKYO led a sell-off in Asian markets on Tuesday after Wall Street pulled back from record levels in overnight trade and with Japan fearing a renewed Covid-19 surge.

Both the Dow and S&P finished last week at new peaks and also posted their fourth consecutive weekly gains, following on the heels of strong data for American housing starts, employment and retail sales. But analysts said that a combination of dollar weakness and a lull in fresh data ahead of upcoming corporate results had conspired to tamp down enthusiasm. "It seems like



The Nikkei was down nearly two percent heading into lunch after investors took in calls for new states of emergency in the Osaka region and possibly Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

investors might be having a bit of a second thought up here as US earnings season starts to heat up and peak optimism is beginning to set in," said Stephen Innes of Axi. Investors were looking to "cash in some chips"

to move back into real world assets, he added, citing the big drop in bitcoin down to around \$54,700 on Tuesday.

The digital currency had crept above \$62,000 in a fresh high last week despite bubble concerns.

The Nikkei was down nearly two percent at the break after investors took in calls for new states of emergency in the Osaka region and possibly Tokyo, prompted by rising case numbers. The new measures could involve tougher restrictions including asking shops and restaurants to close, according to local media.

"Along with increased new coronavirus infections, the possibility of a state of emergency declaration is growing, which is turning on an amber light for economic recovery," Okasan Online Securities said in a commentary.—AFP ■

People smugglers reap billions selling American dream

THE tide of migrants sweeping across Mexico to the US border is not just a humanitarian crisis -- it is also a highly organized, multibillion-dollar trafficking business dominated by the drug cartels. Fleeing poverty, 35-year-old Honduran migrant Juan Macias paid around \$7,000 in March to a smuggling network, borrowing the money from his relatives. Macias said that he dealt with eight different traffickers during the journey he made with around 30 other migrants.

"They work through organizations. They're called guides. Then the cartels are on the border,"

Macias told AFP at a shelter in Mexico's border city Ciudad Juarez after he was deported from the United States. Each trafficker gave him a code to pass on to the next smuggler along the chain. "We were identified by the code when we arrived at the place," said Macias, whose name AFP has changed to protect his identity. "They don't say anything, just 'follow me'," he added. A 2018 report from the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime estimated the annual revenue generated by smuggling migrants overland to North America to be up to \$4.2 billion, out of a global total of \$7.0 billion.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA COBURG VOY. NO. (114S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA COBURG VOY. NO. (114S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-4-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

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M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (098N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (098N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-4-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

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Foreigners hold over 4.5 million shares in equity market so far

ACCORDING to statistics released by the exchange, foreign investors have purchased 4,502,760 shares of four listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) as of 9 March 2021.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market from 20 March 2020. 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, and Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFR) — are available for local investors for trading. FMI, MTSH, TMH and EFR accepted foreign shareholding, and FPB is for block trade only. The foreign shareholding ratio of the companies on the exchange, except FMI, is less than one per cent.

The upper limit for FMI's foreign shareholding amount is at 14 per cent, with 4,635,357 shares. The foreign investors are about to reach the limit for shareholding. Consequently, the status of buy order acceptance is suspended on



The security companies will monitor the daily trades of foreigners in keeping with the rules and regulations so that they do not exceed the limit set for each listed company.

1 December 2020. As of 9 March 2021, foreigners hold 4,458,136 shares of FMI, 32,054 shares of MTSH, 5,445 shares of TMH and 7,125 shares of EFR.

The SECM, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, issued a notice on 12 July 2019, announcing that foreigners would be allowed to invest in shares listed on the YSX. After opening bank and securities accounts, an investor can send buying/selling orders under the stock trading

rules stipulated in the Trading Business Regulations, the SECM notified. Last year, the senior executive manager of the Yangon Stock Exchange highlighted how foreign participation would entail better capital inflows and a long term and sustainable investment. It would also encourage good corporate governance and support market orientation, he added.

Regarding share trading, the foreign investors must strictly comply with the rules stipulated

by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The security companies will monitor the daily trades of foreigners in keeping with the rules and regulations so that they do not exceed the limit set for each listed company. Under Section 42 (a) of the Securities and Exchange Law and Section 4 of the Trading Participant Business Regulations, the YSX has granted trading qualifications to the following securities companies — Myanmar Securities Exchange

Centre Co. Ltd. (MSEC), KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities Co. Ltd. (KBZSC), CB Securities Limited (CBSC), AYA Trust Securities Co. Ltd. (AYATSC), KTZ Ruby Hill Securities Co. Ltd. (KTZRH), and UAB Securities Limited (UABSC).

According to the stock exchange, investors have to send their buy or sell orders to the YSX through the securities companies who have been issued a license by the SECM as well as a trading qualification by the YSX. 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. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, Myanmar's securities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading. — KK/GNLM

Heightened coronavirus measures in China hurts watermelon exporters

AS China is stepping up the coronavirus containment measures in the border areas, watermelon exporters are suffering.

Some watermelon trucks are returning from the Myanmar-China North-East border checkpoint as the watermelon is not traded, and the truck drivers no longer bear the cost and tariff on the China border.

Additionally, starting from 20 April 2021, the coronavirus test is mandatory for cross-border traders.

Following the coronavirus cases on the border in Ruili of China to restrict border access at the Mang Wein checkpoint.

Ruili-Kyalgaung river crossing is also closed.

Furthermore, China imposed the lockdowns on Kyalgaung and Ruili cities.

Kyinsankyawt and Wan Ding posts also restricted trading, truck drivers said.

Around 400 trucks of watermelon and muskmelon

previously entered China via Kyinsankyawt and Wan Ding posts.

For now, only a hundred trucks loaded with other goods are seen in the border area.

Watermelon and muskmelon will be harvested up to May-end across the country, except Kayah and Chin states.

Therefore, the cross-border fruit depots suggest that the growers harvest the watermelon depending on the market condition.

As border post is sluggish amid the coronavirus resurgence, many watermelon trucks are stranded in Muse.

Consequently, watermelon supply exceeds the demand, leading to possible market failure, Khwar Nyo Fruit Depot warned.

A truckload of watermelon (855 variety) fetches 45,000-65,000 Yuan in mid-March.

At present, watermelon price is drastically plunging, and it does not even cover the truck freight rate.

Myanmar's watermelon market earlier relied only on China. Myanmar shipped 45 tonnes of seedless watermelon to the Dubai market in December 2020 and January 2021.

After the country achieves success in the Dubai market, Myanmar plans to expand its market to Hong Kong SAR, the UAE and Qatar, the association stated.

On 5 January 2021, 105th mile Fruit Wholesale Centre released a statement that the number of watermelon and muskmelon trucks for exports is to be set to govern the market.

During the previous financial year, the growers and the traders suffered the loss due to the price instability and transportation difficulties triggered by the COVID-19.

Myanmar yearly exports over 800,000 tonnes of watermelon and about 150,000 tonnes of muskmelons to China, the association stated. — KK/GNLM

Gold bull market predicted to continue in 2021

THE gold bull market is predicted to continue in 2021 and likely to reach K1.5 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes) sooner or later as gold is the best safe-haven asset, an investment observer shared his opinion.

The price of precious pure gold metal remarkably soared to K1,444,000 per tical in the third week of April 2021, following the hike in international gold prices.

The price of domestic yellow metal reached K1,440,000 per tical tracking the positive international trends. The global gold prices were hovering around US\$1,745-1,787 per ounce in recent days.

The price stood at only K1,302,000 per tical on 4 March, and then, it rose above K1,385,000 per tical on 23 March. According to the domestic market, the price has now increased by around K60,000 per tical within a month.

The gold price was ranged between the minimum of K1,316,000 per tical (28 January) and the maximum of K1,336,000 per tical (6 January). It reached an all-time high of K1,410,000

per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical on 2 February. The rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March), the gold traders said.

According to gold traders, the local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). The rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,317,000 (9 November) and the lowest of K1,270,000 (30 November). In December, the pure yellow metal priced moved in the range of K1,280,000 (1 December) and K1,332,000 (28 December).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over K1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019. — GNLM

Massive increase of migrant children at Mexico-US border: UNICEF

THE number of migrant children trying to reach the United States from Mexico has increased ninefold since the beginning of the year, UNICEF said on Monday.

The rise from 380 to 3,500 youngsters registered at reception centers at the southern side of the border has overwhelmed the facilities, the UN children's agency said.

"It breaks my heart to see the suffering of so many young children, even babies, on the Mexican border with the United States," said Jean Gough, the fund's director for Latin America and the Caribbean, who is based in Panama.

"Most of the shelters I visited in Mexico are already overpopulated and cannot accommodate the growing number of children, adolescents and families migrating northwards,"



A migrant shelter in El Chaparral, Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico where the number of children has increased dramatically. PHOTO: AFP

added Gough, following a five-day visit to the border.

Mexican authorities are recording an average of 275 new migrant children a day waiting

to cross into the United States or having been sent back from the northern side of the border, according to UNICEF.

Mostly coming from Hon-

duras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico, minors make up 30 per cent of total migrants — the highest such figure ever registered for children.—AFP ■

Venezuelan newspaper boss decries \$13 mn damages ruling



El Nacional newspaper once employed 1,100 people but is now down to a skeleton staff of 100 working on an online edition. PHOTO: AFP

THE president of a Venezuelan newspaper hit with a \$13 million damages judgment, on Monday

accused the state of "expropriation."

The Supreme Court of Jus-

tice (TSJ) on Friday ordered El Nacional to pay Diosdado Cabello — the second most powerful person in Venezuela after president Nicolas Maduro — \$13.4 million as a punishment in a defamation case. In 2015, Cabello, second in command of the governing Socialist Party, took the newspaper to court for reproducing a report by Spanish newspaper ABC that accused the politician of having links to drug trafficking.

The court said Cabello had been the "victim" of "very serious moral damage". "With this sentence they are going to charge \$13 million, we're going to tell

them we can't pay ... so they will seize the building, the equipment, everything there is here ... and give it as compensation to Diosdado Cabello," said Miguel Henrique Otero, also the newspaper's director who is highly critical of the governing party. "It's a covert expropriation... which is making a lot of noise at a world level," Otero added in a video conference call with foreign media. Otero said El Nacional's infrastructure, including its headquarters in the wealthy eastern part of the capital Caracas, is worth "no less than \$20 million" under "normal" circumstances.—AFP ■

Lebanon's crisis-hit farmers turn to growing hashish

FOR three decades Abu Ali planted potatoes to provide for his family, but Lebanon's economic crisis has driven up production costs and forced him to swap the crop for cannabis.

"It's not for the love of hashish," the 57-year-old told AFP in the eastern Baalbek region, the heart of Lebanon's illicit cannabis industry.

"It's just less expensive than other crops... and allows you to live with dignity."

Lebanon is in the throes of a spiralling economic crisis compounded by the coronavirus



Farmers hit by Lebanon's economic crisis say growing hashish is less expensive than growing basic produce such as potatoes or green beans. PHOTO: AFP

pandemic.

As the value of the local

currency plunges on the black market, the cost of imported fuel,

seeds, fertilisers and pesticides priced in dollars has skyrocketed.

More and more small farmers, who were already in dire straits before the crisis, are deciding to grow cannabis instead.

"With agriculture, we were always losers," said Abu Ali, who asked to use a pseudonym over security concerns.

After decades of neglect by the state, many of Abu Ali's colleagues are now indebted to banks or loan sharks and have had to sell land or property to settle dues.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former US Vice-President Walter Mondale dies at 93

FORMER US Vice-President Walter Mondale, a liberal icon who famously told voters to expect a tax increase should he win the presidency, died Monday, US media reported. He was 93 years old.

No cause was given for Mondale's death, according to reports citing a statement from his family. Mondale served as vice-president under President Jimmy Carter, from 1977-1981.

"Today I mourn the passing of my dear friend Walter Mondale, who I consider the best vice president in our country's history," Carter said in a statement, extending his condolences to his former number two's family.

"He was an invaluable partner and an able servant of the people of Minnesota, the United States, and the world."

Prior to his stint at the White House, Mondale had served as attorney general to his home state of Minnesota from 1960-1964, and then as US senator from that state from 1964-1976.—AFP ■

Oriental lute makes comeback on Iran music scene

THE Oriental lute is making a comeback in Iran after decades in the shadows as musicians reconnect with an instrument integral to Arab and Turkish musical tradition in a fragmented region. Known as the oud in Arabic, it is commonly called the barbat in Persian, although some would argue the instruments differ slightly.

"The number of (oud) students has increased considerably over the past 15 years or so; before a known teacher would have had a dozen students whereas today they'll be about 50," said Majid Yahyanejad, a 35-year-old oud teacher in Tehran. Noushin Pasdar, a 40-year-old musician in the Iranian capital, made the same observation. She started teaching the stringed instrument "about 23 years ago" after graduating from professional arts school, known as honarestan in Persian.—AFP ■



ONE Championship Light Heavyweight Champion Aung La N Sang will defend his title against Vitaly Bigdash in Singapore on 29 April. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Aung La N Sang ready to defend Light Heavyweight title against Bigdash

AUNG LA N SANG “The Burmese Python” is now ready to defend his ONE Light Heavyweight World Championship title against Vitaly Bigdash at the “ONE on TNT IV” event, which will be held at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on 29 April, according to his interview with the ONE Championship.

The Burmese Python is now preparing his best ahead of the thrilling fight.

Axe throwing is one of Aung La’s hobbies, and he was playing with axes after his training, according to the ONE Championship.

Aung La has also expressed his feeling about his excellent opponent.

“He lives about five miles from me. He has a big, big yard,” the Burmese

Python said. “So one day, we just went over and threw some axes.”

“It’s just something fun to do besides training because that’s all we do – train, eat, sleep, repeat,” he explains. “It’s kind of cool to be able to throw a weapon in the air and land it [on a target].”

“Having a good aim and hitting the target. Hitting the mark,” Aung La N Sang says.

“By hitting the target, you hit it with your weapon. When you hit something, don’t hit with your forearms. Hit it with your elbows.”

“I don’t know how good Vitaly is,” Aung La N Sang adds. “But I’m assuming he hasn’t had much practice, so I should win that.”—GNLM ■

Qatar defies virus, presses on with major sport events

QATAR has defied soaring coronavirus numbers to stage high-profile sporting events, serving as a test bed ahead of the Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 World Cup, but also suffering high-profile setbacks.

Doha, among the most controversial World Cup hosts of the modern era, has bucked the trend of more established sporting nations which have cancelled or postponed a slew of elite events.

Instead it has deployed multi-billion dollar venues, luxury hotels-turned-quarantine centres and formidable virus testing system to host football, golf, tennis, motorcycling, judo and beach volleyball events — some with spectators.

Simon Chadwick, professor of Eurasian Sport at EM Lyon



A sanitation worker sprays disinfectants on the goal post following a FIFA Club World Cup football match at the Education City Stadium in Qatar. **PHOTO: AFP**

University, said full-fledged tournaments complete with fans were key to Qatar’s strategy to diversify its economy away from gas and oil dependence.

“It is reckless to be staging

events during times of rising infection, but... the inconvenient truth for Qatar is that the country has rolled the dice big on sporting events,” he said. —AFP ■

FIFA ‘strongly disapproves’ of Super League: Infantino

FIFA boss Gianni Infantino on Tuesday blasted the proposed European Super League and warned that the clubs involved could face “consequences”. Twelve major clubs launched plans Monday for a new breakaway league which would drastically change the landscape of the world’s most popular sport.

“At FIFA we can only and strongly disapprove the creation of the Super League, of a Super League which is a closed shop, a breakaway from the current institutions, from the leagues, from the associations, from UEFA, and from FIFA,” Infantino told a UEFA congress in Switzerland. “There is no doubt whatsoever of FIFA’s disapproval for this.”

Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur are the six English clubs involved, together with Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid from Spain and Italian trio Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan. UEFA has said the teams would be banned from domestic and other European competitions, including the Champions League.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez, the head of the new ESL, has insisted that would be “impossible”, but Infantino threatened action as FIFA took a stronger stance than it did with its initial statement when the news first broke. —AFP ■

Barty sees Roland Garros defence as a ‘fresh start’

AS Ashleigh Barty prepares for the start of Roland Garros on May 24, she insisted Monday that she does not regard herself as the defending champion.

The Australian won her only major singles title in Paris in 2019. The tournament was cancelled last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“It’s a long time since I’ve played at the French Open,” she said in a teleconference from Stuttgart on Monday ahead of her first match on European clay in almost two years.

“It’s a fresh start, a fresh start for everyone at that event.”

She made clear that her approach was also practical.

“If you go into a tournament thinking you’re defending your title, it’s the wrong way to approach it,” she said. “It’s a fresh tournament, and it’s a new opportunity.”

The 24-year-old Barty and American Jennifer Brady crushed American pair Kaitlyn Christian and Sabrina Santamaria 6-3, 6-1 in the Stuttgart doubles round of 16 on Monday.

Barty received a bye to the singles second round, where she will face one of two Germans, either Laura Siegemund or Mona Barthel.

After Stuttgart she plans to play on clay in Madrid and Rome before Roland Garros.

She opened her clay-court season by reaching the quarterfinals in Charleston, South Carolina, at the start of the month. —AFP ■



As Ashleigh Barty prepares for the start of Roland Garros on May 24, she insisted Monday that she does not regard herself as the defending champion. **PHOTO: AFP**