

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Many countries facing challenges related to poverty employ more child labour at workplaces: Vice-Senior General

THE Myanmar national committee on child labour eradication held the fourth coordination meeting as Zoom meeting at the office of the State Administration Council at 2 pm yesterday, with an address delivered by Chairman of the national committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said eradicating child labour is a global issue of the current era. It is necessary to implement the long term project, which is a big challenge for the country, by accepting it as a national duty. He pledged to forge friendly relations with all countries while inviting foreign investments to develop the economic sector further. Investments will be handled under the existing laws without harming anything.

He stressed the need for respective work committees to hold coordination meetings among them. They must accept it as a national duty as Myanmar's national action plan on eradicating child labour is to protect the social rights of work-



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win is delivering the address at the online fourth coordination meeting of the Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication on 21 April 2021.



ers.

According to the 2017 census of the International Labour Organization, a total of 218 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 worked throughout the world, some 152 million — 88 million males and 64 million females of whom were child labour. Among them, about 73 million children worked at dangerous workplaces. The world's census stated that there were 152 million child workers — 72.1 million in African countries, 62.1 million in Asia-Pacific region

countries, 10.7 million in countries of America, 1.2 million in Arab countries and 5.5 million in European and the Middle East countries. In accord with the 2017 report on youth policy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, as the number of workable youth across the world reached some 1 billion of the global population, accounting for 18 per cent, the world's youths face advancement of economic, social and technical affairs, cultural gap and diversities among regional countries and social organizations. As the development role of youths and children are of great importance in shaping the future image of a country, youths and children are invaluable resources of the country.

The majority of regional developing countries employ youths and children who may contribute to productivity as employees. Most of them face challenges related to poverty and employ more child labour at workplaces. Development of State economy, improvement of living standard and promotion of education are directly related

to the main factors of employing child labour. Moreover, these main factors are concerned with consequences of global climate change happening in today's global countries, such as food insufficiency based on storms, flooding, droughts, forest fire and earthquakes and poverty and migration depending on some internal conflicts. Due to socio-economic crises, it is regrettable that child labour, youths and young workers miss the chance to choose learning opportunity for their education. However, they are employed as child labour in the majority of developing countries.

The Vice-Senior General urged region and state administration councils, including Nay Pyi Taw Council, ministries, social partnership organizations, NGOs and INGOs, to steadfastly implement the Myanmar child labour eradication project as a national duty by considering all sectors. The majority of children are working at all sorts of jobs such as house workers, seafood industries, garment and footwear factories so as to provide assistance to families because

they are poor and lack learning opportunity.

Children are facing pressure to work for earning income without fail. Generally, they are working as child labour in the agriculture, service and industrial sectors. Hence, the national child labour eradication action plan was drawn and implemented to protect the children from workplaces. The Myanmar national committee on child labour eradication was formed with 37 members in 2018, holding three national committee meetings. The Myanmar national child labour eradication action plan was approved. Eight work committees were formed, and each committee is implementing the plan in their respective sectors. The State Administration Council will constitute the national committee with 39 members led by the Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council with the aim of continuously carrying out eradication of child labour in Myanmar with momentum since its assumption of the State duty.

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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.

## Myanmar press council re-elects council members



Acting Chairman Dr Myo Thant Tin makes the speech at the MPC meeting and election of council members yesterday.

THE Myanmar Press Council held a meeting yesterday afternoon in Yangon. The meeting was attended by Acting Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council Dr Myo Thant Tin, and the members.

The meeting focused on the council's activities and the processes to proceed in line with the council's law, rules, and regulations.

“Today is the meeting with the new council members, as

many of the members quit, and now there are only two,” said Dr Myo Thant Tin, the council's Acting Chairman.

“According to the Press Law, if there are less than 15 people, they have to be added. The selection committee re-elected 14 members today, and with the remaining two, there are 16. As there are more than 15 members, it is informed to the public under the rules and regulations,” he added.

He also said the Press Council is the essential fourth pillar as the country moves towards democracy. They are working to prevent this fourth pillar from collapsing, adding that it is critical for the news.

Among the elected members, 11 were nominated by relevant media organizations, and there will be 19 council members, including three private members who will be elected on 30 April. — MNA



## Public Notification on Continuing COVID-19 Vaccine

Date: 21.4.2021

MYANMAR has received the first batch of 1.5 million COVID-19 vaccines as a gift from the Government of India. Of the 30 million COVID-19 vaccines purchased from Myanmar in the second batch, 2 million were received, bringing the total number of vaccines to date to 3.5 million. The remaining 28 million vaccines will be delivered in batches within the allotted time.

According to the priority programmes for the vaccines received, the vaccination started on 27 January 2021. As of 21.4.2021, the number of vaccines was 1.54 million for the first time, 0.34 million for the second dose. A total of 1.88 million vaccines have been vaccinated in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and all States/Regions as a priority.

The remaining 1.62 million vaccines have been systematically and evenly distributed for the second dose in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and the states/regions.

Therefore, in order to prevent the spread of the third wave of COVID-19 virus, people are kindly requested to receive the COVID-19 vaccine (especially the second dose) without fail (without fail), which will be continued in their area in April and May.

The COVID-19 vaccination will continue to be administered to the people as per the priority programme depending on the surplus of vaccines after vaccinating for the second dose.

We will inform you in a timely manner if there are any changes to the vaccination plan.

*Ministry of Health and Sports*



# The need to perform duties according to the law and to be contented

It is necessary to create an entitlement for teachers in line with their qualification so as to enhance the role of staff from education, health and State service personnel. A similar plan must be implemented for medical doctors. And appropriate entitlement must be created for service personnel.

*(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)*

## Many countries facing challenges related to poverty employ more child labour at workplaces: Vice-Senior General

### FROM PAGE-1

Being a developing country, Myanmar faces difficulties and criticism of the international community in mitigating the number of child labour as lesser job opportunities and lesser number of family members to earn come for their basic needs is main factors to come out child labour. However, Myanmar applying its capability as much as possible pledged to prioritize solving the issue of child labour effectively. Child labour hits the generalized system of preferences-GPS of big developed countries of the

world to some extent, while GPS is an effective aid for the employment opportunity and economic growth of the State. In an effort to reduce child labour, just removal of children from the workplaces is impossible to eradicate child labour. As such, only when it is necessary to create chances for all school-age children to attend the schools free of charge, encourage the strengthening of civil society organizations taking care of children and alleviation of poverty through earning increased income for families, can the underage children be

reduced from workplaces.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that today's meeting needs to approve the work committees of the action plan and adopt the undertakings of work committees and future plans. Region and state administration councils, including Nay Pyi Taw Council, must continuously carry out the action plan and prioritize the tasks to initiate eradication of child labour from their regions by taking education for children, job opportunities, family situation and poverty into consideration in Yangon, Bago

and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and Kayin states that will implement the first five-year short-term project. He urged all to seek constructive ways and means for the successful implementation of child labour eradication.

Vice-Chairman of the national committee Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing reported on progress in implementation of the action plan, Deputy Minister U Win Shein on undertakings of eradicating child labour and continuous tasks, plans to reconstitute

the national committee, eight work committees and secretariat and joint-secretary Director-General U Nyunt Win of Department of Factories & General Labour Laws Inspection detailed tasks of eight work committees.

Those present at the meeting participated in the discussions. The joint secretary reported eight points to be decided in the fourth meeting and sought approval for reconstitution of the meeting minute, work committee and secretary before ending the meeting. —MNA

## Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi holds meeting at Forestry & Environmental Science University

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi inaugurated the extended department building of office building (19) yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister U Min Min Oo, the Permanent Secretary and officials from the departments.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party met the Rector, the Pro-Rector, professors and faculty members from the University of Forestry and Environmental Science and the directors and research officers from the Forest Research Department in Yezin.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the role of the university and the department of forest research is vital



The MoNREC Union Minister meets the Rector, the Pro-Rector, professors and instructors from the University of Forestry and Environmental Science in Yezin yesterday.

as they are conducting forest conservation and plantation establishment as a national duty.

He continued the University of Forestry and Environmental Science is essential for human resource development. The Forest Research Department is responsible for researching locally adapt-

ed species, to prevent pests caused by climate change. It is necessary to research agricultural methods systematically and apply them for plantation establishment.

He added the need to set up research centres across the country, and arrangements need to be made to generate widespread and effective re-

search results. The university aims to stand as a standard university that can provide environmental conservation and forestry education and research and services.

Policies are being implemented to develop a national curriculum in line with the national education policy and cooperate in teaching and

research activities in collaboration with local and foreign organizations. They should create a suitable environment for an international university and enhance the capacity and teaching of teachers to send scholars to international universities to improve the quality of teachers continuously.

A total of 2,682 males and 340 females were graduated from the University of Forestry and Environmental Science. The university was founded in 1923 and has maintained good traditions to date. At the meeting, teaching programmes of the university were discussed, and the Union Minister, the Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the Director-General coordinated the meeting. — MNA



## Second-month performance of the State Administration Council

By Kanaung

### CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Regarding national unity and peace, the Senior General provided the following guiding principles based on the State Administration Council Five-Point Road Map:

- building a Union based on democracy and federalism,
- realizing national unity and peace through the democratic culture of dialogue,
- implementing strategies for national unity,
- developing and implementing peacebuilding projects at the same time as rehabilitation and development projects,
- researching and identifying root causes of divisions in society and addressing these root causes.

To mark the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to unveil portraits of seven retired commander-in-chiefs and commander-in-chiefs of defence services who served duties in successive eras took place at the office of the Defence Services Historical Research Institute at the



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unveils the seven statues of the past and present Commanders-in-Chief of Defence Services.



Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 March. During the investigation process, the priorities and objectives of the State Administration Council, and the security measures undertaken to restore the rule of law.

On the same day, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting online. At the meeting, the Union Min-

ister presented the crucial role of the private sector, Myanmar's commitment to the implementation of the 2021 work plan of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, and to continued regional economic cooperation and collaboration within the framework of existing agreements and treaties. He emphasized that the Myanmar government guaranteed as per existing laws to protect activities and agreements already approved by the previous government, and that the government would give the highest priority to resolving difficulties and bottlenecks in these sectors.

On 5 March 2021, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met via video conferencing with Ambassador Mr Thomas L Vajda of the United States of America to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They discussed matters related to the Tatmadaw's efforts before the state of emergency on 1 February 2021 to meet and negotiate with relevant officials and organizations on several issues, including the massive errors in voter lists, the crowd control and riot control procedures practised by security forces in accordance with the manuals of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the relevant laws on crowd control and mob violence, and the Five-Point Road Map and Nine Objectives of the State Administration Council.

On 8 March 2021, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Ambassador Mr Maruyama Ichiro of Japan to Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. They discussed the current developments in Myanmar, the inspections being conducted by the newly-reconstituted Union Election Commission of the ballot papers and documentary proofs from the 2020 elections, the future plans of the State Administration Council, and the appropriate measures taken to ensure the rule of law and guarantee public security.

On 9 March 2021, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met online with the Head of the European Union Military Staff

Vice-Admiral Hervé Bléjean. The meeting focused on the current political affairs of Myanmar, the current and future work plans of the State Administration Council and COVID-19 vaccination programmes.

On 10 March 2021, Chief of Staff (Army) Lieutenant-General Moe Myint Tun attended the 11th ASEAN Military Operations Meeting via video conferencing, along with other ASEAN military personnel. The meeting focused on military cooperation according to the year's ASEAN theme, "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper".

On 11 March 2021, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Chan Aye and responsible officials sent video statements to the 46th session of the Human Rights Council held at the United Nations Office in Geneva. In his statement, the Permanent Secretary reaffirmed that Myanmar would cooperate with the relevant UN mechanism according to existing laws, national priorities and needs.

On 12 March 2021, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Information U Chit Naing attended the 15th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information and related meetings (15th AMRI). The meeting was hosted by Thailand via videoconferencing under the theme of "ASEAN: A Digital Community with Accessibility for All".

On 15 March 2021, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam, via video conferencing. The meeting discussed the government's efforts to address the violent protests by exercising utmost restraint to maintain law and order.

On 16 March 2021, Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and military personnel joined the 18th ASEAN Military Intelligence Meeting (AMIM-18). The meeting exchanged views on the theme "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper" and discussed the establishment of the ASEAN Military Intelligence Community.

On 18 March 2021, Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the 18th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting (ACDFM-18) via videoconferencing. During the meeting, the Senior General called for concerted and coordinated efforts of the ASEAN countries, rather than individual efforts in finding solutions to non-conventional security threats, such as terrorism and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State Administration Council Chairman received the delegation led by Deputy Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation, who had come to Myanmar to attend the ceremony commemorating the 76th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day. At the meeting, bilateral cooperation was discussed and a cordial exchange of honorary medals took place.

### Findings of the Union Election Commission

On 1 March 2021, the Union Election Commission released the results of their examination of the documentation related to the 2020 elections in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region. On 3 March, the Union Election Commission announced that Pyithu Hluttaw ballots had been found missing or in excess numbers in Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region. On 4 March, the Union Election Commission stated that ballots used

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Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 March.

### International Relations

On 2 March 2021, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin attended the Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting via video conferencing. The engagement aimed to enhance relations with other nations. Participants at the Meeting were other ministers and the ASEAN Secretary-General. The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs gave an overview of political developments in Myanmar, including the 2020 General Elections and relat-

ister presented the crucial role of the private sector, Myanmar's commitment to the implementation of the 2021 work plan of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, and to continued regional economic cooperation and collaboration within the framework of existing agreements and treaties. He emphasized that the Myanmar government guaranteed as per existing laws to protect activities and agreements already approved by the previous government, and that the government would give the highest priority to resolving difficulties and bottlenecks in these sectors.



in the elections held in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, were also missing or used more than once. On 5 March 2021, the inspection of used ballots in the Pyithu Hluttaw election in Tamway Township found over 10,000 ballots missing and about 6,000 illegally used.

From 6 to 9 March 2021, the Union Election Commission also found missing ballots and excess ballots in Meiktila township, in Mahaangmyay township, in Patheingyi township, and in Amarapura township of the Mandalay Region.

On 10 March 2021, the Union Election Commission investigated the ballot papers used in the 2020 election in Chanmyathazi township, Mandalay Region. From 11 to 14 March 2021, the Union Election Commission released its findings on discrepancies between the voter lists used and the actual ballots in Aungmyaythazan and Pyigyitagon townships of Mandalay Region; and in Mingalardon, Lanmadaw, Latha and Mayangon townships of Yangon Region.

From 15 to 20 March 2021, the Union Election Commission released announcements on findings from the inspection of voter lists and ballots, together with detailed statistical data, in the townships of Yangon region, namely: Htantabin, Insein, Dawbon, Hlegu, South Okkalapa, Kyimyindine, Pazundaung, Hlaing, Kamayut, Dagon, Seikkyi/Khanaungto, Thakayta, Bahan, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Hmawby, Pabedan, Sangyoung, Kayan, Kawhmu, Dala, Yankin, North Okkalapa, Botahtaung, Hline-thaya (West) and Kungyangon townships.

On 21 March 2021, the Union Election Commission announced that it had inspected the voter lists and ballot papers of 44 townships in the Yangon Region (excluding Cocogyun Township) and found irregularities in the voter registration process. It identified the failures to comply with the provisions, rules and regulations of relevant Hluttaw Election Laws.

The Union Election Commission also released its findings from the inspection of voter lists and ballots in the townships of Toungoo, Kyaukkyi, Yedashe, Pyu, Ottwin, Htantabin, Shwetaung, Paungde and, Paukkaung township in Bago Region; Myitkyina township in Kachin State; Chauk and Yesagyo townships in Magway Region; and the townships of Pale, Kani, ChaungU, Ayadaw and Salingyi in Sagaing Region.

#### Commemorative messages

On 2 March 2021, State Ad-

ministration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a commemorative message for the Peasants Day Celebration. In his letter, the Senior General said the agricultural sector was not only for the production of food for the country but also the backbone of employment for millions of rural people. The Senior General's message covered the status of cash assistance for farmers from the State Emergency Fund, the basic reference price (floor price) of paddy, and the support to the agricultural sector from relevant ministries. He urged the farmers to use their collaborative efforts in support of national socio-economic development.

On 8 March 2021, the State Administration Council Chairman

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State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting (ACDFM-8) via video-conferencing.

sent a message to the International Women's Day ceremony held online in Nay Pyi Taw. In his letter, the Chairman highlighted the enhanced role of women in Myanmar, with women now taking up positions in national defence and security alongside men and emphasized Myanmar's efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The Chairman sent wishes for all Myanmar women to be able to enhance their capacity, and overcome today's challenges and difficulties, including the COVID-19 pandemic, in the same way as they had served the interests of the people and country in the past eras as a major force in Myanmar society.

On 19 March 2021, the State Administration Council Chairman highlighted the importance of unity and harmony among the ethnic National peoples for long-term stability and peace in his message sent to the 47th Mon State Day celebration. He also sent wishes for good health and prosperity to all National peoples living in Mon State, notably the Mon, Bamar, Kayin and Pa-O peoples as well as others.

#### Issues concerning Ethnic National Peoples

On 4 March 2021, the Com-

mittee on Ethnic Affairs, Public Management and Services held its coordination meeting. Committee Chairman State Administration Council member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo stated at the meeting that ethnic National peoples living in the border areas should be provided under the law with citizenship cards as soon as possible. The meeting focused on actions to improve the living conditions of the National peoples, especially those in remote areas.

On 11 March 2021, the United League of Arakan (ULA/Arakan Army-AA) was removed from the list of terrorist groups, to reflect its recent move away from violence. This would lay the ground for building durable peace under the Five-Point Roadmap and Nine Objectives of the State Administration Council.

On 23 March 2021, the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw held an event to explain and present the drafting of a Strategy for Ethnic National Peoples. The Strategy will extend ten years (2021–2030) and include affirmative actions for the ethnic Nationals, such as prioritizing the appointment of local indigenous people as teacher assistants and subject teachers, increasing salaries, expediting the citizenship

cards for true ethnic nationals and ensuring that all ethnic National peoples have the same rights.

#### Continued appointment of officials

In March, the State Administration Council appointed additional members of the Council, Chief Justices of State High Courts, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Attorney-General, Region and State Advocates-General and Yangon City Development Committee members.

#### Regional development activities by Region/State Administration Councils

On 9 March 2021, the Kachin State Administration Council held a coordination meeting with the State Goods Transport Association to facilitate state goods flow. On the same date, the Kayin State Administration Council handed over rice, oil and teak seeds to KNU/KNLA Peace Council and DKBA ethnic organization. On 13 March, the Rakhine State Administration Council chairman and members observed the fieldwork related to the issuance of citizenship cards by the Pan Khinn project.

Similarly, the chairpersons and members of other State/Region Administration Councils

(Kayah, Mon, Shan, Chin States and Yangon, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Magway, Mandalay, Bago and Tanintharyi Regions) are working to ensure stability and the rule of law and promote economic development in each state and region. Activities have focused on meeting the primary health-care and employment needs for local people following field visits and observations.

#### Actions for economic recovery

On 17 March 2021, the government extended the COVID-19 loan repayment period for local businesses by another six months from the previous due date, to help local businesses revive their business operations. This was in

relations to the one-year term (1% interest rate) loans for businesses affected by the pandemic issued from 9 April 2020 by the previous working committee to remedy economic repercussions caused by COVID-19, which would be due to repayment soon.

On 19 March 2021, The Ministry of Planning and Finance extended the pre-tax exemption of 2% income tax on exports until 30 April, as part of a recovery plan for local exporters.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is taking measures to establish Fish Processing Economic Zones in the border areas to further develop the fisheries sector and produce value-added exports rather than raw materials in order to expand employment opportunities and increase income.

On 14, 15 and 19 March 2021, 18 registered factories were ravaged by arson attacks in Hline-thaya and Shwepyitha townships in Yangon Region. On 24 March 2021, the government announced that about 15,000 workers who were insured at the Social Security Board would be provided with 40 per cent of the last wages contributed to the Board under the Social Security Act.

**TO BE CONTINUED.**



## Announcement of Union Election Commission

### 20 April 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Pyay Township of Bago Region and Kanma Township of Magway Region.

2. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

#### Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	209 polling stations in Pyay township of Bago Region	196,769	159,472	17,895	1,673	2,1710
2	97 polling stations in Kanma Township of Magway Region	60,485	50,307	1,807	256	5,348

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Pyay Township in Bago Region and Kanma Township in Magway Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators in accordance with the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.

4. According to the inspection, a total of 306 polling stations in these two townships took out 282,101 ballots and used 202,924 ballots. It left 83,681 ballots instead of 79,177 ballots. The difference was 10,448 ballots and it found 1,4952 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	Subject	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Pyay	209	211,521	152,531	58,990	64,068	9,872	14,950
2	Kanma	97	70,580	50,393	20,187	19,613	576	2
	Total	306	282,101	202,924	79,177	83,681	10,448	14,952

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

5. A total of 209 polling stations in 4 Wards and 55 Village-tracts of Pyay Township in Bago Region took out 211,521 ballots and used 152,531 ballots. It left 64,068 ballots instead of 58,990. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	202,550	151,446	51,104	43,110	9,872	1,878
2	Separately Found				8,322		8,322
3	Handed over by ward/ village -tract				4,750		4,750
4	Township Advanced ballots	1,085	1,085				
5	Township Remaining ballots	7,886		7,886	7,886		
	Total	211,521	152,531	58,990	64,068	9,872	14,950

6. It found 9,872 missing ballots and 14,950 extra ballots in Ward/Village-tracts of Pyay Township. The township election sub-commission did not register the senior numbers of ballots, names of wards/village-tracts and polling stations and signatures of poll heads on 1,085 advance ballots. It found 7,886 remaining ballots and another bag containing 8,322 ballots -- 8,320 fine ballots and 2 damaged ballots. Moreover, a total of 4,750 ballots were return to the township election sub-commission by the officials of No (19) polling station and unknown polling station from Ywar Bae Ward after the election.

7. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Nawin Ward	9	15,850	12,247	3,603	3,760		157
2	Kyaung/Aoe Ward	3	3,550	2,527	1,023	873	150	
3	Shweku Ward	2	2,250	1,324	926	526	400	
4	Pyithaya Ward	6	10,100	7,273	2,827	2,731	96	
5	Shwetaga Ward	6	10,950	6,798	4,152	2,302	1,850	
6	Nattalin village-tract	2	1,400	1,106	294	294		
7	Htanmagouk village-tract	5	4,700	3,655	1,045	1,049		4
8	Myauknawin Ywathit village-tract	2	2,400	1,782	618	620		2
9	Kyakhath village-tract	2	1,550	1,248	302	300	2	
10	Mwayyoe village-tract	2	1,500	1,198	302	292	10	
11	Thaegone village-tract	4	2,500	2,188	312	306	6	
12	Mautaw village-tract	1	750	629	121	119	2	
13	Konethalin village-tract	2	2,000	1,647	353	353		
14	Zalone village-tract	1	800	647	153	153		
15	Anaukletkoke village-tract	2	2,300	1,854	446	446		
16	Bogone village-tract	2	1,950	1,828	122	123		1
17	Wethteekan village-tract	9	6,400	5,094	1,306	1,254	52	
18	Panipin village-tract	2	1,100	928	172	167	5	
19	Hnawkan village-tract	2	1,850	1,358	492	519		27
20	Wetmyayaw village-tract	3	1,650	1,323	327	327		
21	Wayoneseik village-tract	3	2,600	1,849	751	750	1	
22	Laba village-tract	1	550	405	145	145		
23	Hlwazin village-tract	8	5,000	4,006	994	690	304	
24	Myoma village-tract	2	950	728	222	222		
25	Thakhwetsauk village-tract	1	700	573	127	125	2	
26	Konezin village-tract	1	750	655	95	95		

27	Ainwin village-tract	3	1,800	1,348	452	302	150	
28	Tegyigone village-tract	3	1,600	1,144	456	305	151	
29	Pauknwechone village-tract	2	1,650	1,292	358	358		
30	Pyinmaaine village-tract	3	1,300	1,095	205	205		
31	Kwingyi village-tract	1	1,300	1,007	293	293		
32	Kangyigone village-tract	2	1,050	718	332	332		
33	Kangyo village-tract	2	1,150	918	232	234		2
34	Talokepin village-tract	2	1,300	1,036	264	164	100	
35	Kyawta village-tract	3	1,450	1,148	302	302		
36	Thitchopin village-tract	2	1,800	1,493	307	299	8	
37	Alotawya village-tract	3	1,850	1,470	380	376	4	
38	Zioake village-tract	3	2,000	1,694	306	306		
39	Ywabe Ward	19	27,050	18,597	8,453	3,989	4,464	
40	Santaw Ward	6	8,100	5,389	2,711	2,360	351	
41	Khittaya Ward	8	12,250	9,278	2,972	4,139		1,167
42	Sinsu Ward	6	6,900	5,072	1,828	1,578	250	
43	Nawaday Ward	2	4,050	2,723	1,327	1,331		4
44	Ashaepine Ward	1	1,450	1,180	270	272		2
45	Anaukpin Ward	1	1,350	1,100	250	250		
46	Taungpine Ward	1	1,700	1,369	331	333		2
47	Myaukpine Ward	1	1,200	358	842	142	700	
48	Kyarain village-tract	2	1,050	917	133	143		10
49	Anaukywathit village-tract	1	500	408	92	92		
50	Ywama village-tract	2	1,950	1,650	300	300		
51	Hmawzar village-tract	5	3,800	3,586	214	714		500
52	Hmokeshae village-tract	2	1,650	1,174	476	476		
53	Muhtaw village-tract	3	1,350	1,070	280	279	1	
54	Paungtamaw village-tract	2	1,400	1,142	258	254	4	
55	Ashaeletkokepin village-tract	2	1,150	967	183	183		
56	Twinbywe village-tract	2	1,700	1,344	356	356		
57	Taungkhwayye village-tract	3	1,200	909	291	291		
58	Bywegone village-tract	3	2,350	1,721	629	375	254	
59	Ywamagyi village-tract	2	1,000	811	189	185	4	
60	Aokeswe village-tract	4	1,600	1,138	462	212	250	

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61	Bantpyin village-tract	2	1,400	1,036	364	314	50	
62	Myaungson village-tract	2	1,300	1,067	233	233		
63	Ashaepauktaw village-tract	2	1,850	1,583	267	267		
64	Taungtee village-tract	2	1,450	1,175	275	274	1	
65	Tegone village-tract	1	900	721	179	179		
66	Thuhtay village-tract	1	650	527	123	123		
67	Letpantaw village-tract	3	1,650	1,155	495	295	200	
68	Ngarywa village-tract	3	3,100	2,238	862	812	50	

69	Thitchitin village-tract	3	1,150	808	342	342		
Ward/village- tract ballots		209	202,550	151,446	51,104	43,110	9,872	1,878
Saparately Found						8,322		8,322
Handed over by ward/ village- tract						4,750		4,750
Township Advanced ballots			1,085	1,085				
Township Remaining ballots			7,886		7,886	7,886		
Township Total		209	211,521	152,531	58,990	64,068	9,872	14,950

**Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Kanma Township**

8. A total of 97 polling stations in 4 Wards and 52 Village-tracts of Kanma Township in Magway Region took out 70,580 ballots and used 50,393 ballots. It left 19,613 ballots instead of 20,187. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	64,344	50,224	14,120	13,546	576	2
2	Township Advanced ballots	169	169				
3	Township Remaining ballots	6,067		6,067	6,067		
Total		70,580	50,393	20,187	19,613	576	2

9. It found 576 missing ballots and 2 extra ballots at 97 polling stations in 4 Wards and 52 Village-tracts of Kanma Township. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	No (1) Ward	1	1,300	1,065	235	235		
2	No (2) Ward	1	1,250	959	291	291		
3	No (3) Ward	1	750	524	226	226		
4	No (4) Ward	1	1,400	1,040	360	360		
5	Pazinneint village-tract	2	1,550	1,299	251	251		
6	Minte village-tract	1	950	788	162	162		
7	Shwenantha village-tract	2	2,000	1,617	383	383		
8	Punyo village-tract	2	1,000	721	279	279		
9	Thanbanya village-tract	2	1,450	1,118	332	332		
10	Tawma village-tract	2	1,141	911	230	230		
11	Kyauksaung village-tract	1	875	722	153	153		
12	Ywathaya village-tract	1	750	582	168	168		
13	Kyeemee village-tract	1	750	592	158	158		
14	Kyaukpadaung village-tract	2	950	758	192	148	44	
15	Aingyigone village-tract	2	1,200	942	258	258		
16	Natmee village-tract	3	1,200	881	319	319		
17	Htantaw village-tract	2	1,025	832	193	193		
18	Chaukpin village-tract	3	1,300	1,028	272	272		
19	Alatle village-tract	3	800	651	149	149		
20	Ainbettaw village-tract	3	1,150	927	223	223		
21	Aokeshitcho village-tract	2	1,300	956	344	294	50	
22	Htanlaypin village-tract	1	1,150	922	228	228		
23	Minpyin village-tract	2	1,800	1,389	411	411		
24	Dhamma thaw village-tract	2	1,970	1,505	465	465		
25	Gonethoung village-tract	2	1,700	1,393	307	307		
26	Ainebe village-tract	2	1,300	1,051	249	249		
27	Kin village-tract	1	803	597	206	206		

28	Kyunkalay village-tract	2	1,500	1,109	391	391		
29	Zitaw village-tract	1	500	360	140	140		
30	Sabechone village-tract	2	1,050	793	257	257		
31	Kadupyin village-tract	1	850	730	120	120		
32	Ale village-tract	1	1,117	951	166	166		
33	Pyaaung village-tract	2	900	782	118	118		
34	Pyinhtaung village-tract	2	1,100	733	367	177	190	
35	Gyopin village-tract	2	2,404	1,870	534	524	10	
36	Monedar village-tract	2	750	567	183	183		
37	Thazi village-tract	2	1,300	1,084	216	216		
38	Thayetchaung village-tract	1	750	393	357	359		2
39	Si village-tract	2	1,200	984	216	216		
40	Phayonehla village-tract	1	516	457	59	59		
41	Alechaung bvillage-tract	1	950	728	222	222		
42	Kyaukme village-tract	2	1,500	1,246	254	254		
43	Htankaung village-tract	1	1,100	846	254	204	50	
44	Pwatsu village-tract	1	838	709	129	99	30	
45	Ngame village-tract	1	600	487	113	113		
46	Kanyintine village-tract	4	1,950	1,583	367	331	36	
47	Gyuntaung village-tract	1	1,050	828	222	222		
48	Myawadi village-tract	1	800	584	216	216		
49	Weyi village-tract	2	1,000	745	255	232	23	
50	Sissiyan village-tract	1	1,250	822	428	428		
51	Kywetalin village-tract	2	1,050	608	442	442		
52	Thetkemyaung village-tract	2	1,050	820	230	230		
53	Leintone village-tract	2	1,350	1,126	224	204	20	
54	Pekya village-tract	2	1,400	1,173	227	204	23	
55	Thitmezi village-tract	3	1,055	856	199	199		
56	Bantbwekyin village-tract	2	650	480	170	70	100	
Ward/village tract ballots		97	64,344	50,224	14,120	13,546	576	2
Township Advanced ballots			169	169				
Township Remaining ballots			6,067		6,067	6,067		
Township Total		97	70,580	50,393	20,187	19,613	576	2

Union Election Commission

**State Administration Council  
Press Release**

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

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

Information Team  
State Administration Council



# Handle trade volume to increase income for the State

NOWADAYS, Myanmar mainly exports rice, beans and pulses, maize and other agricultural products, export commodities from various sectors, and marine products in large volume to the international market through border and maritime trade routes for earning foreign exchange be inserted into the State fund as usual. Meanwhile, not only the government but the private sector also import various kinds of goods necessary for the use of the State and the people by spending foreign exchange.

As such, it is necessary often to adjust export and import goods in trade volume to be able to calculate the gross domestic product of the nation. By assessing the GDP of the country, Myanmar citizens and foreign investors can implement their plans to grasp investment opportunity for their businesses.

According to the temporary statistics within February and March 2021, border trade zones and camps handled export and import processes with US\$1,774 million worth of export products and US\$1,772 million worth of import goods. As a result, the government has managed more than US\$2 million of trade surplus for two months.

Myanmar is sharing the border with five neighbouring countries, namely China, Thailand, Laos, India and Bangladesh. Among them, China is the largest foreign market for Myanmar. During February and March, Myanmar traded US\$438 million worth of export products and US\$171 million worth of import commodities, totalling US\$609 million with China. In this regard, Muse border trade zone occupied 65 per cent of trade volume, Chinshwehaw 18 per cent, Kampaiti 10 per cent and Lwejel six per cent respectively.

To improve the economy not only for the State but also for the private sector, 18 border trade zones and camps, namely Muse, Lwejel, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw, Kengtung, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung, Meisei, Sittway, Maungtau, Tamu, Reed, Thantlang and Kengle are handling export and import processes with counterpart cities from neighbouring countries.

Today is time to strive for the growth of the State economy. All the entire people should strive for raising export volume while reducing import volume in order to increase trade surplus. It is because increased income from trade surplus will contribute a great deal to an acceleration of nation-building tasks.

# Clot questions over AstraZeneca and J&J vaccine

THE Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca vaccines have come under suspicion of causing very rare but serious blood clots in a handful of cases among the millions vaccinated in the drive to bring the pandemic under control.

Here is what we know about the two vaccines, which are based on the same technology.

**WHAT HAPPENED?**  
The European Medicines Agency (EMA) said on Tuesday that blood clots should be listed as a "very rare" side effect of the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine.

As of April 13, 2021, eight cases of blood clots were reported in the United States - all in patients under 60, mostly women - out of seven million people vaccinated.

Earlier this month, the EMA made the same recommendation for the vaccine made by Anglo-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.

For both vaccines, however, the EU medicines regulator stressed that overall benefits in preventing Covid-19 clearly outweighed the risks.

The clots occur in veins in the brain - called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) - as well as the abdomen and



The rare blood clots linked to the vaccines are unusual and appear alongside low blood platelets. PHOTO: AFP

arteries.

They are uncommon both for where they appear in the body and because they occur together with low levels of blood platelets, which help the blood to clot.

Paradoxically, this can mean the patient has both haemorrhages as well as blood clots.

There have been 287 cases of these atypical thromboses worldwide following AstraZeneca jabs, including 142 in the European

Economic Area (the EU, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein), the EMA told AFP on Tuesday.

As with the J&J jab, most of these cases were in women under 60 and occurred within two weeks of vaccination.

US regulators have suspended the J&J vaccine and are set to announce a decision on Friday.

**SUSPECTED CAUSES**

Both of these vaccines - as well as the Russian Sputnik V

jab - are based on a technique known as "viral vector".

The vaccines use a common-cold causing adenovirus, modified so it can't replicate, as a "vector" to shuttle genetic instructions into human cells, telling them to create a protein of the coronavirus.

This trains the immune system to be ready for the live coronavirus.

AstraZeneca opted for a

chimpanzee adenovirus, J&J for a human adenovirus.

"Whilst a causal link between certain Covid-19 vaccinations, platelet abnormalities and blood clots has not, so far, been confirmed, the index of suspicion is rising that these rare cases may be triggered by the adenovirus component of the AstraZeneca and J&J vaccines," said Eleanor Riley, an immunology professor at Edinburgh University.

**WHAT MECHANISM?**

Although nothing has been proven, Peter Marks of the US Food and Drug Administration has said the "probable cause" of the clots could be an unusual reaction to the vaccines.

The FDA has also said that while in normal circumstances an anticoagulant drug called heparin is used to treat these blood clots, in this case administering heparin may be dangerous.

That might be because the disorder resembles a rare reaction to heparin itself, in which the body forms antibodies in response to the thinner, and in turn triggers platelets to form dangerous clots.

A team of German and Austrian scientists made the con-

nection between this previously-known immune response to heparin and the AstraZeneca vaccine in March.

And the EMA said this was "one plausible explanation", calling for more research.

**BALANCING RISK**

The European agency has said no specific risk factors for this type of reaction have been confirmed for the AstraZeneca vaccine, but different countries have opted to restrict access to the jab by age.

The reasoning is that the older people get, the more they risk developing a serious form of Covid, and the more it is in their interest to be vaccinated, despite potential side effects.

For example, Britain has said it will not administer AstraZeneca to the under 30s, while France is not using it on under 55s.

In the US, health authorities said the suspension of the J&J vaccine was "out of an abundance of caution".

People who have had the shot within the past three weeks were asked to report to their doctors if they experience severe headaches, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath.

SOURCE: AFP

# Covid vaccine-makers largely protected on side effects

PHARMACEUTICAL companies making Covid vaccines are largely protected legally in the event of harmful side effects, like blood clots that have been linked to jabs from AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

However while some governments will pay compensation due to sufferers, others assume it is the responsibility of the companies even after drugs agencies back the vaccines.

Europe's drug regulator was set Tuesday to rule on the safety of the J&J single-shot vaccine after fears it could cause extremely rare clots, while the US will likely announce its verdict on the jab by Friday.

The European Medicines Agency has reviewed four cases - one fatal - of rare blood clots reported among people who got the shot.

The J&J vaccine concerns follow similar reports of blood clots in a very small number of

people who received the AstraZeneca jab.

Outlined below are some of the geographical similarities and differences regarding potential legal fallout:

**North America and the UK**

The United States and the UK have limited the legal responsibility of pharma groups, in a move seen as helping to speed up production of vaccines.

In the US, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act authorises the health secretary "to limit legal liability for losses relating to the administration of medical countermeasures such as diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines".

This is "to encourage the expeditious development and deployment of medical countermeasures during a public health emergency", the PREP Act adds.

The act also limits the individual liability of pharmaceutical executives, except "for

death or serious physical injury caused by 'willful misconduct' - which can be difficult to prove according to lawyers.

In Canada, the government is creating a national compensation scheme for any medical fallout from Covid-19 vaccines.

Britain's government has removed a potentially heavy financial burden for drugs companies by applying its existing compensation programme for illnesses such as tuberculosis and measles also to the coronavirus.

Under the British scheme, a Vaccine Damage Payment in the event of severe disability rise to £120,000 (\$165,000, 139,000 euros).

**European Union**

In the European Union, the situation differs in that legal responsibility lies with the companies.

"However, in certain, very specific circumstances, the companies may ask the member

states to indemnify," according to Stefan de Keersmaeker, a spokesman for the European Commission.

Any disagreement is resolved in court, he added.

According to Antonio An-

drade, a lawyer for Portuguese firm Abreu, a vaccine-maker cannot be held responsible for any possible "side effects" flagged up, for example in a leaflet.

The EMA has already

stated that the AstraZeneca vaccine could cause very rare blood clots in some recipients, causing some countries to stop giving it to people under a certain age.

SOURCE: AFP



The European Medicines Agency has reviewed four cases - one fatal - of rare blood clots reported among people who got the shot. PHOTO: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

## Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

The State Administration Council appoints the following persons as the Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. U Kyaw Tun Aye Deputy Director-General (Operation) Agricultural Mechanization Department Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	Director-General Agricultural Mechanization Department Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
2. Dr Htay Aung Pro - Rector Loikaw University Higher Education Department Ministry of Education	Rector Loikaw University Higher Education Department Ministry of Education
3. Dr Tun Aung Pro - Rector Meiktila University of Economics Higher Education Department Ministry of Education	Rector Meiktila University of Economics Higher Education Department Ministry of Education
4. Dr Myat Wunna Soe Deputy Director-General Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health and Sports	Director-General Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health and Sports

သတင်းစာတစ်ပြည်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြော်ငြာမှု  
The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်းခွဲသတင်းစာများ  
ဟုယူဝတ်ရရှိခြင်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့်  
အောက်အများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့  
ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်-

> သတင်းနှင့်စာအုပ်လုပ်ငန်း(ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ချေးပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၄၁၁၀၈၊ ၀၆-၄၃၀၀၃၆၂	> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(စစ်တွေ) ဖုန်း-၀၅၃-၂၀၂၄၀၃၁၊ ၀၄၃-၂၀၂၃၀၆၈
> ချေးပြည်တော်(အလင်း)၊ ချေးပြည်တော်(ရုံးချုပ်) ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၆၁၀၇၇၊ ၀၆-၄၂၀၇၀၆၆၇	> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(တောင်ကြီး) ဖုန်း-၀၈၁-၂၂၁၁၆၄
> မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၆၅၅၅၅၅၅၊ ၀၉-၄၄၀၀၄၂၁၄	> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(မကွေး) ဖုန်း-၀၆၃-၂၀၂၃၇၃၂
> မြောက်ပိုင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၈၂၉၂၈၁၀၊ ၀၉-၄၅၀၀၂၅၅၀	> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(တနင်္သာ) ဖုန်း-၀၆၄-၂၂၂၅၄၂
> The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၆၅၅၅၅၅၅၊ ၀၉-၄၄၀၀၄၂၁၄	> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(ကလေး) ဖုန်း-၀၇၃-၂၂၂၃၃၃၃
> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(မန္တလေး) ဖုန်း-၀၂-၄၀၃၂၅၅၅၊ ၀၂-၄၀၃၂၅၅၅	> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(ပြင်ဦးလွင်) ဖုန်း-၀၇၄-၂၂၂၅၅၂
> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(မုံရွာ) ဖုန်း-၀၇၁-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅၊ ၀၇၁-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅	> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(လားရှိုး) ဖုန်း-၀၈၂-၂၂၀၄၀၄၀
> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(မော်လမြိုင်) ဖုန်း-၀၅၇-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅၊ ၀၅၇-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅	> ကိုယ့်ပြည်တော်(ပုသိမ်) ဖုန်း-၀၅၆-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅


























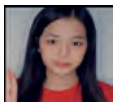



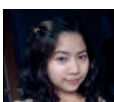









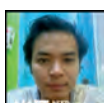
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GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR သတင်းစာတိုက်များ



## 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	チュウテツ(游 金金) <a href="https://www.facebook.com/chu.katherine.7">https://www.facebook.com/chu.katherine.7</a>	Chu Shwe Yi Htet 	Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region	505-a		11	Sandi Sein Thein <a href="https://www.facebook.com/sandi.s.thein">https://www.facebook.com/sandi.s.thein</a>	Sandi Sein Thein 	Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
2	Nay Lin <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010135632092">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010135632092</a>	Nay Lin 	Pyay Township, Bago Region	505-a		12	ZarZarSoe <a href="https://www.facebook.com/zarzarsoe">https://www.facebook.com/zarzarsoe</a>	Zar Zar Soe 	Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Zin Min Latt <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TaungooBrotherZin">https://www.facebook.com/TaungooBrotherZin</a>	Ko Zin 	Toungoo Township, Bago Region	505-a		13	Eden Min (Zin Min Htun) <a href="https://www.facebook.com/zinminhtun199512">https://www.facebook.com/zinminhtun199512</a>	Zin Min Htun 	Indaw Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
4	Toe Toe Win <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100029099776996">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100029099776996</a>	Toe Toe Win 	Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region	505-a		14	PJW <a href="https://www.facebook.com/projectwin.pjw">https://www.facebook.com/projectwin.pjw</a>	Win Ko Ko Aung 	Latha Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
5	Hsu Sandar Win <a href="https://www.facebook.com/su.s.win.969">https://www.facebook.com/su.s.win.969</a>	Hsu Sandar Win 	Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region	505-a		15	MaungLuuNge <a href="https://www.facebook.com/maung.lunge.1">https://www.facebook.com/maung.lunge.1</a>	Bo Bo Kyaing 	Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
6	Swe Naing Siss <a href="https://www.facebook.com/swe.naing.siss.9">https://www.facebook.com/swe.naing.siss.9</a>	Ko Ko Naing (a) Swe Naing Siss 	Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a		16	ShweKuu&Yoon San <a href="https://www.facebook.com/shwekuuandyoon.san">https://www.facebook.com/shwekuuandyoon.san</a>	Gwun Gwun 	Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
7	Chit Su Thel (Pont Pont) <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009454581298">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009454581298</a>	Chit Su Thel 	Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region	505-a		17	Nwe Aye <a href="https://www.facebook.com/nwe.aye.313">https://www.facebook.com/nwe.aye.313</a>	Ma Nwe Aye 	Temperary residing in Singapore	505-a	
8	Lamin Taryar <a href="https://www.facebook.com/maythetookhin">https://www.facebook.com/maythetookhin</a>	May Thet Oo Khin 	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region	505-a		18	Aung Zaw Myint <a href="https://www.facebook.com/100010887452469">https://www.facebook.com/100010887452469</a>	Aung Zaw Myint 	Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
9	Hsu Hsu Hlaing <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100016612030269">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100016612030269</a>	Hsu Hsu Hlaing 	Yangon Region	505-a		19	Thiri Nyunt <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100017342414155">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100017342414155</a>	Thiri Nyunt 	Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
10	Phothar ChaungU (Photo and Vedio) <a href="https://www.facebook.com/100025691083281">https://www.facebook.com/100025691083281</a>	Aung Thu Myat 	ChaungU Town, Sagaing Region	505-a		20	Soe Lin Thomas <a href="https://www.facebook.com/soelin.thomas">https://www.facebook.com/soelin.thomas</a>	Soe Lin 	Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	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 Kaung Myat Htet (Assistant Surgeon)	Yekin Station Hospital	Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
2	Dr Wai Phyto Zaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Monyo People's Hospital	Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Dr Thayaphi Myo Kyi (Assistant Surgeon)	Monyo People's Hospital	Dawbon Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Dr Kyaw Phyto Paing (Assistant Surgeon)	Monyo People's Hospital	Yekin Town, Bago Region	505-a	
5	Dr Kyaw Thura (Assistant Surgeon)	Hteindaw Station Hospital	Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
6	Dr Aye Min Ko (Assistant Surgeon)	Thabyu Station Hospital	Kyunhla Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
7	Dr Naing Min Phyto (Assistant Surgeon)	Thanatpin People's Hospital	Bago Town, Bago Region	505-a	
8	Dr Wai Phyto Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Kayan Station Hospital	Thanatpin Town, Bago Region	505-a	
9	Dr Ye Lin Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Pakokku General Hospital	Pakokku Town, Magway Region	505-a	
10	Dr Moh Moh Swe (Assistant Surgeon)	Pakokku General Hospital	Pakokku Town, Magway Region	505-a	
11	Dr Han Phyto (Assistant Surgeon)	Pakokku General Hospital	Pakokku Town, Magway Region	505-a	
12	Dr Myo Win Kyaing (Station Medical Superintendent)	Kazunma Station Hospital	Seikphyu Township, Magway Region	505-a	
13	Dr Thant Naung Hlaing (Assistant Surgeon)	Myataung village Station Hospital	Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
14	Dr Khin Pyae Sone Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Hpa-an General Hospital	Hpa-an Town, Kayin State	505-a	
15	Dr Aung Thu Hein (Assistant Surgeon)	Hpa-an General Hospital	Hpa-an Town, Kayin State	505-a	
16	Dr Yan Naing Swe (Medical Superintendent)	Hlegu Township People's Hospital	Hlegu Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
17	Dr Su Wah (Public Health Officer)	Katha Town People's Hospital	Katha Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
18	Dr Kyaw Zin Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Bogon Station Hospital	Katha Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
19	Dr Hla Min Soe (Specialist)	Myeik General Hospital	Myeik Town, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
20	Dr Phyto Myint Kyi (Assistant Surgeon)	Tagu Station Hospital	Taninthayi Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	

Among them, Dr Yan Naing Swe (Medical Superintendent) of Hlegu Township People's Hospital, Dr Su Wah (Public Health Officer) of Katha Public Health Department, Dr Kyaw Zin Tun (Assistant Surgeon) of Bogon Station Hospital, Dr Hla Min Soe (Specialist) of Myeik General Hospital and Dr Phyto Myint Kyi (Assistant Surgeon) of Tagu Station Hospital in Taninthayi Township participated in CDM activities without performing medical treatments at assigned hospitals but gave medical treatments at private hospitals/clinics according to the documentary photos.

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



## MoHS holds coordination meeting for COVID-19 prevention

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win presided over a coordination meeting for COVID-19 prevention yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the current outbreak of COVID-19 across the world, including the neighbouring countries of Myanmar, measures to prevent from occurring new COVID-19 wave, new confirmed cases of the country, lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, including travel restrictions.

The Union Minister also said the people should individually follow the preventive measures. The business sectors should follow the health rules without fail as the ministry eased some travel restrictions.

The current preventive measures will be revised if nec-



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win chairs the coordination meeting for COVID-19 prevention yesterday.

essary. The officials will make plans to accelerate the lab tests as there are enough medical supplies.

The lab tests are being conducted at the National Health Laboratory of the ministry and at

other private health labs. Therefore, it needs to conduct COVID-19 health checks on travellers from some regions to another.

He then highlighted the entry and exit of border gates as the infection rate is increasing

in the neighbouring countries. It should cooperate with the health-care workers and authorities of Thailand, India and Bangladesh. There would be strict rules at the border gates to prevent the spread of new variants of Coro-

navirus. Moreover, the returnees via border areas must follow the health rules set by the ministry.

He then emphasized the second wave of COVID-19 in August 2020, preparations, public awareness programmes for those who received COVID-19 vaccines, disease surveillance and information systems in freight transport that should be streamlined in the health sector without affecting the State economy.

He also discussed the preparations to transport the lab samples, contract system for health-care workers and cooperation work with the heads of regions/states public health.

The health officials of respective departments then clarified COVID-19-related matters, and the Union Minister concluded the meeting. — MNA

## Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects tourist destinations, hotels in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the tourist destinations and hotels in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area in order to meet the set COVID-19 rules and regulations yesterday.

On his tour, the Union Minister first visited the ancient pagodas in Nyaung Pin Gyi Su Village in Pobbathiri Township and paid homage to Sayadaw Ashin Cakinda, 84 of Nyaung Pin Gyi Su Monastery.

The Union Minister then said there are 34 ancient pagodas and 14 sitting Buddha images in the compound of Nyaung Pin Gyi Su Village Pagoda. The visitors can study the ancient religious buildings and other things, including the natural beauty and lifestyle of resident

people. Therefore, the regional officials should make preparations to attract the travellers to these places.

He also inspected the hotels which operated in line with COVID-19 health rules. The responsible person of the hotel explained their services.

The Union Minister stressed the need to be more cautious about COVID-19 as Nay Pyi Taw is a city where the government offices are concentrated.

Currently, the mutation of COVID-19 was discovered in some neighbouring countries. So it should take preventative measures for the guests to the hotels.

He also discussed the vaccination programmes for hotel staff, fair hotel fees and better services.



The MoHT Union Minister and party are making the inspection tour at Nga Laik Kan Thar Elephant Camp.

He then continued that the officials make efforts to implement Nay Pyi Taw as a central city to host the visitors. He instructed them to follow the COVID-19 health rules.

Next, the Union Minister

inspected the Nga Laik Kan Thar Resort and Nga Laik Kan Thar Elephant Camp near 217 miles post of Yangon-Mandalay expressway operated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Deputy General Manager of Myanma Timber Enterprise U Soe Naing and party explained the plans being carried out to open the elephant camp soon.

The elephant camp is located on 538 acres of land, and there are 19 elephants, 327 feet long wooden bridge and 4,817 feet long jungle road. Therefore, the local and foreign visitors can have a chance to study how to keep the elephants.

There are 29 tourist destinations in Nay Pyi Taw, including Upatasanti Pagoda, cloud sea in Wai Thali Village and a seven-storey waterfall in Mya Thida Village. There are 91 hotels, motels and guest houses in Nay Pyi Taw. The officials also make plans to discover new tourist places. —MNA

## Military medical corps provides healthcare in township hospitals



Tatmadaw medics are providing medical treatments at the township hospital.

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, otorhinolaryngology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in healthcare services difficulties in Thazi Township General Hospital, Hanza Station Hospital, Yinmabin Station Hospital, Nyaungyan Station Hospital, Pintale Station Hospital in Wundwin Township, Tagaung Station Hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Madaya People's Hospital, Sintgaing People's Hospital in

Kyaukse Township, Yintaw Station Hospital in Pyawbwe township, Myittha Township People's Hospital, Kume Station Hospital, Welaung Station Hospital in Taungtha Township, People's Hospital in Kyaukpadaung Township, Homalin Town General Hospital in Sagaing Region, Kyauktaga Township People's Hospital in Bago Region, Thayawady District People's Hospital, Donzayit Station Hospital in Shwegyin Township and Latpadan Township People's Hospital yesterday.

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



## Fishery exports plunge to \$448.6 mln in H1

EXPORT earnings from the fisheries sector over the first half (1 Oct-2 Apr) of the financial year 2020-2021 touched a low of US\$448.6 million, a decrease of \$56.7 million from the year-ago period, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

The figures stood at \$505.37 million during a year-ago period. Myanmar's fishery exports have slightly declined in H1, owing to the COVID-19 impacts and the current trade delay amid the political changes.

At present, the frozen fish export market in Mon State came to a halt. Therefore, some fish are processed into dried fish for the domestic market. Saltwater fishing businesses this year might suffer loss, a fishing entrepreneur said.

The current political climate negatively affects the fish market. Political stability plays a crucial role in economic growth, including the fishery sector.

Following the drop in exports, the prices of fish and prawn also drop in the domestic market.

Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) expected to earn more than \$800 million from fishery exports in the FY2019-2020, and it reached a target.

Myanmar exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 coun-



The MFF is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes that meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

tries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union.

Additionally, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) issued guidelines to ensure food safety during the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020.

The permitted companies are advised to carry out food safety plans, follow the guidelines of WHO and FAO, formulate the safety management system and suspend the exports if any suspicious foodborne virus or virus infection risk are found in the products. They can resume the exports once the products meet food safety criteria set by

the General Administration of Customs of the People Republic of China (GACC).

China is the second-largest buyer of Myanmar's fishery products, accounting for US\$254 million out of the overall fishery export value of \$850 million in the financial year 2019-2020.

The federation expects to reach a fishery export target of US\$1 billion in the current FY2020-2021.

The MFF is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes that meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

The foreign market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Anal-

ysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) certificates to ensure food safety.

Fishery products must be sourced only from hatcheries compliant with GAQP to meet international market standards. The MFF works with fish farmers, processors, and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAQP system.

Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more

than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.

Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth \$530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tonnes worth \$480 million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tonnes worth \$500 million in the 2015-2016FY, 430,000 tonnes worth \$600 million in the 2016-2017FY, 560,000 tonnes worth \$700 million in the 2017-2018FY, 580,000 tonnes worth over \$730 million in the 2018-2019FY and \$847.5 million, according to the Commerce Ministry.

An MFF official said the federation had asked the government to tackle problems faced in exporting farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts and ensuring smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

Myanmar's economy is more dependent on the agricultural sector to a large extent. Also, the fisheries sector contributes a lot to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Its fishery production, including shrimps and saltwater and freshwater fish, is far better than the regional ones. If the country can boost processing technology, it will contribute to its economy. It will also earn more income for the stakeholders in the supply chain, stated Yangon Region Fisheries Department. — KK/GNLM

## Myanmar's border trade reaches \$5.6 bln in first six months of FY

MYANMAR' trade with foreign countries through border posts reached US\$5.6 billion as of 2 April in the current financial year 2020-2021, which started in October, according to the figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period, the country's export via land borders amounted to \$3.7 billion while its import shared \$1.9 billion.

This FY's border trade down by over \$264 million, compared to the same period of the last FY2020-2021 when it amounted to \$5.9 billion, the Ministry's figures said.

Muse topped the list of border checkpoints with the most trade value of \$2.5 billion, followed by Myawady with \$729 million. The country conducts border trade with neighbouring

China through Muse, Lwejel, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei borders, with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maung-taw and with India through Tamu and Reed checkpoints, respectively.

From 1 October to 2 April of this FY, the country's foreign trade has totalled over \$7.8 billion while its sea trade valued at \$4.1 billion, according to the Ministry's report. Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods, and others. In contrast, capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported to the country. —ACM/GNLM

## Local, foreign investment operating as usual in Bago

THE local and foreign investment mostly flow into industry, manufacturing, industrial zones and food production sectors in Bago Region. Currently, 135 foreign investments totalling US \$2.3 billion and 40 investments made by Myanmar citizens totalling K977 billion were permitted in these sectors.

Eighty per cent of local and foreign investments were made near the vicinity of Bago Township. Currently, about 55,000 factory workers return to their work at Nyaung Inn Industrial Zone as there is peace and tranquillity in Bago Region.

At about 50 miles from Yangon, Bago Township, the commercial city of Myanmar, is a major transport hub. It is also located on the East/West Economic Corridor. It is the country's second-largest rice-produc-



Currently, about 55,000 factory workers return to their work at Nyaung Inn Industrial Zone as there is peace and tranquillity in Bago Region.

ing area. It has the potential to receive more investment in the agriculture and livestock breeding sectors as there are plenty of

fishing ponds and fields. Therefore, it can create job opportunities for the citizens. — Tin Soe (Bago)/GNLM



## EU unveils AI rules to temper Big Brother fears



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has said rules are needed to ward off abuses in the artificial intelligence sector. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE EU unveils a plan Wednesday to regulate the sprawling field of artificial intelligence, aimed at making Europe a leader in the new tech revolution while reassuring the public against

“Big Brother”-like abuses.

“Whether it’s precision farming in agriculture, more accurate medical diagnosis or safe autonomous driving – artificial intelligence will open up new

worlds for us. But this world also needs rules,” European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in her state-of-the-union speech in September.

“We want a set of rules that puts people at the centre.”

The Commission, the EU’s executive arm, has been preparing the proposal for over a year and a debate involving the European Parliament and 27 member states is to go on for months more before a definitive text is in force.

The rules are part of the EU’s effort to set the terms on AI and catch up with the US and China in a sector that spans from voice recognition to insurance and law enforcement.

The bloc is trying to learn the lessons after largely missing

out on the internet revolution and failing to produce any major competitors to match the giants of Silicon Valley or their Chinese counterparts.

But there have been competing concerns over the plans from both big tech and civil liberties groups arguing that the EU is either overreaching or not going far enough.

### ‘High-risk’

The draft regulation, seen by AFP, will create a ban on a very limited number of uses that threaten the EU’s fundamental rights.

This would make “generalised surveillance” of the population off-limits as well as any tech “used to manipulate the behaviour, opinions or decisions” of citizens.—AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

NGOs file case in Sweden against Assad’s chemical attacks

FOUR NGOs announced Monday they have filed a criminal complaint in Sweden against members of the Syrian regime, including President Bashar al-Assad, over chemical weapons attacks in 2013 and 2017.

In the complaint filed with Swedish police, the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM), Civil Rights Defenders, Syrian Archive (SA) and the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) accuse the Damascus regime of chemical attacks using sarin gas, in Khan Shaykhun in 2017 and Ghouta in 2013. Sarin gas is illegal under the international Chemicals Weapons Convention.—AFP ■

## Ailing Germany scrambles to pass national virus law

THE German parliament will vote on Wednesday on a controversial law amendment that would give Angela Merkel’s government power to impose tougher measures including school closures and disputed night-time curfews to curb the coronavirus pandemic.

With the country buckling under a third wave of the pandemic, the new law is intended to end a political tug-of-war between the federal government and Germany’s 16 states over coronavirus measures.

Dubbed the “emergency brake”, the law prescribes tough measures including sweeping shutdowns and overnight cur-

fewes in regions with incidence rates of more than 100 new infections per 100,000 people over the last seven days.

It would also force schools to revert to virtual teaching in states where the incidence rate exceeds 165 – a threshold tightened from 200 in an earlier draft of the law.

Only one state had an incidence rate below 100 on Tuesday, while six topped 165 – including the two most populous of Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia.

### Fierce opposition

But the proposed law has sparked fierce opposition, particularly over plans for curfews in a country still scarred by memo-



A proposed law in Germany calling for tougher measures to bring down coronavirus infections has sparked fierce opposition. **PHOTO: AFP**

ries of Nazi and communist dictatorships that spied on citizens and stole their freedoms. During a heated debate in parliament last week, Christian Lindner,

head of the pro-business FDP, called it “unconstitutional” that “a vaccinated couple...can’t step outside the door alone after 9 pm for an evening walk”.—AFP ■

Ukraine leader Zelensky urges Putin to meet in war-torn east

PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday invited Russian leader Vladimir Putin to meet in war-torn eastern Ukraine, stressing that millions of lives were at stake from fresh fighting in the separatist conflict.

The blunt offer for talks came following a flare-up in clashes between Ukraine’s army and pro-Russian separatists controlling two regions in the country’s east, raising concerns of a major escalation in the simmering war.

In an address to the nation, Zelensky said that Ukrainian and Russian negotiators had recently discussed plans for officials to travel to the frontlines of the trench conflict to assess the situation.

“I am ready to go even further and invite you to meet in any part of the Ukrainian Donbass where war is ongoing,” Zelensky said.

The Ukrainian president, elected in 2019 on promises to bring an end the conflict, accused Russia of participating in peace negotiations while massing troops on Ukraine’s border.—AFP ■

## Arab League, UN, EU and AU demand foreign forces leave Libya

THE Arab League, United Nations, European Union and the African Union on Tuesday demanded an immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Libya.

In a statement after a video-conference by its leaders, the so-called “Libya Quartet” demanded “full compliance with the arms embargo and the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces and mercenaries from the entirety of Libya’s territory”.

The much-violated arms embargo has been in place since 2011, when an uprising toppled longtime Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi during the regional upheaval known as the Arab



Turkish-trained members of Libya’s special forces demonstrate their skills during a graduation ceremony in the coastal city al-Khums, about 120kms east of the capital Tripoli, on April 8, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Spring.

The UN estimates that some 20,000 foreign fighters, mainly

troops from Turkey and mercenaries from Russia, Syria, Chad and Sudan, are currently de-

ployed in the country.

In recent weeks, the possible departure of Syrian mercenaries has been raised and, this weekend, N’Djamena mentioned the arrival in Chad from Libya of several hundred Chadian mercenaries who may have contributed to the fighting that led to the death of President Idriss Deby.

During its meeting, the Libya Quartet “condemned the continued violations of the UN arms embargo and emphasized that all external military intervention in Libya is unacceptable.”

It also called for “the sustained implementation of measures to fully identify and dismantle these groups.”—AFP ■



# Nepal's ex-royals test positive after India religious festival

NEPAL'S former king and queen have tested positive for Covid-19 on their return from an Indian religious festival attended by millions of pilgrims.

Former king Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, 73, and his queen Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah, 70, returned to Kathmandu on Sunday after a week-long visit to India to celebrate Kumbh Mela.

Shah's press secretary Phani Raj Pathak confirmed the couple had tested positive.

"They are in self-isolation at Nirmal Niwas," he said in a statement Tuesday evening,



Health experts have warned Kumbh Mela could turn into a "super-spreader" event as devotees who have mostly ignored advice to maintain distancing return home. PHOTO: AFP

referring to their residence. Kumbh Mela attracts enormous

crowds of Hindu devotees to take a ritual dip in the Ganges

River.

Pressure has grown to halt the festival, which has drawn as many as 25 million people since January, as India struggles to curb its raging coronavirus outbreak.

Health experts have warned it could turn into a "super-spreader" event as pilgrims who have mostly ignored official advice to maintain distancing return to their towns and villages all across India and abroad. A Hindu seer died from coronavirus after the festival and hundreds of attendees have tested positive.—AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ex-policeman Derek Chauvin found guilty of George Floyd's murder

DEREK Chauvin, a white former Minneapolis police officer, was convicted Tuesday of murdering African-American George Floyd after a racially charged trial seen as a pivotal test of police accountability in the United States.

The jury deliberated less than 11 hours before finding 45-year-old Chauvin guilty of all three charges against him: second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter.

A crowd gathered outside the heavily guarded downtown Minneapolis courtroom erupted in cheers, and some wept tears of relief, when the verdicts were announced after a three-week trial that had an entire nation on edge. Chauvin, who had been free on bail, was put in handcuffs after Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill read out the unanimous verdicts reached by the racially diverse, seven-woman, five-man jury.—AFP ■

### Hong Kong woman, 90, loses US\$32 million in phone scam

A 90-year-old Hong Kong woman has been conned out of US\$32million by fraudsters posing as Chinese officials, police said, in the city's biggest recorded phone scam.

Hong Kong's elderly are plagued by phone scammers who seek out vulnerable and wealthy victims willing to transfer money or make bogus investments.

Police on Tuesday said scammers targeted an elderly woman living in a mansion on The Peak, Hong Kong's ritziest neighbourhood.

Last summer criminals contacted the unnamed woman pretending to be Chinese public security officials. They claimed her identity had been used in a serious criminal case in mainland China.—AFP ■

# Covid sends global wine consumption to lowest level since 2002



A woman wearing protective gear while shopping for wine in Santiago, Chile, in 2020, a year when wine consumption fell to its lowest level in 18 years. PHOTO: AFP

Wine drinking worldwide fell last year to its lowest level since 2002 as bars and restaurants shut their doors and tourism travel dried up amid the coronavirus pandemic, a trade body reported Tuesday.

Overall consumption fell three percent to some 234 million hectolitres in 2020, or roughly 6.2 billion gallons, the Paris-based International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) said.

The decline also reflected the impact of a 25 per cent American tariff on several European wines imposed by former president Donald Trump in late 2019 over a trans-Atlantic dispute on

aircraft subsidies.

Those tariffs were suspended by US President Joe Biden in a deal with EU officials last month.

In terms of market value, the OIV's estimate of the total exports from wine producing countries, a key industry metric, fell 6.7 per cent last year to 29.6 billion euros (\$35.6 billion).

But drinking held up better than the OIV had expected, after warning in October of a plunge that could reach 10 per cent.

"That forecast was a bit too negative," the association's director Pau Roca said in an online press conference.—AFP ■

# South Korea court dismisses 'comfort women' case against Japan

A South Korean court on Wednesday dismissed a case brought by a handful of World War II sex slaves and their families against the Japanese government, saying Tokyo enjoyed "sovereign immunity" over the issue, reports said.

The ruling comes after the same court in January ordered Tokyo to compensate a dozen women forced to serve Japanese troops -- euphemistically labelled "comfort women" -- marking the first civilian legal victory against Tokyo in South Korea.

The different verdict could pave the way for an improvement in frosty ties between the neighbours, analysts said.

The comfort women question and other issues stemming from Japan's 20th-century colonial rule over Korea has bedevilled their relations, despite a 1965 treaty which declared claims between them and their nationals had been settled.

Tokyo and Seoul are both major US allies, democracies and market economies, but their rift -- which has worsened significantly in recent years -- presents US President Joe Biden with a foreign policy headache as he seeks to build a common front on China and nuclear-armed North Korea.

The Seoul Central District Court dismissed Wednesday's case after "reaching the deci-



The issue of wartime sex slavery has been at the core of frosty ties between Seoul and Tokyo in recent years. PHOTO: AFP

sion that sovereign immunity must be applied to the Japanese government", Yonhap news agency reported.

"Diplomatic conflict will

be inevitable in the process of sentencing and enforcing if the exception of sovereign immunity is recognized," the court said according to Yonhap.—AFP ■



## ONE Championship: Lineker to face Worthen for Bantamweight title today

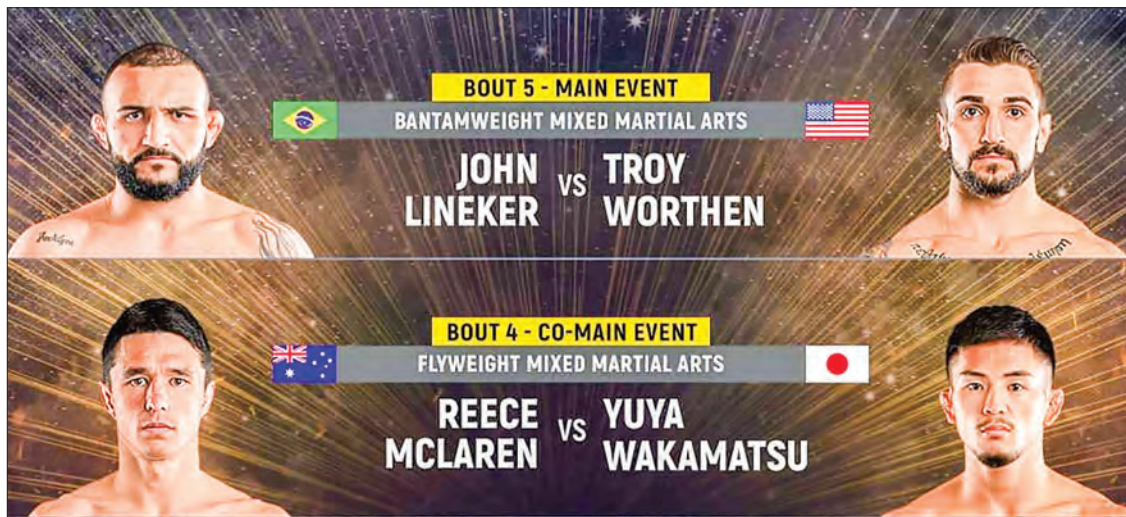


PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

JOHN LINEKER of Brazil will fight against Troy Worthen of the United States in the main card or Men's Bantamweight Mixed Martial Arts World Championship under the ONE Championship title: ONE on TNT III. It will be held today at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore.

The ONE event will feature five bouts of world-class fighters, and fights will start at 8:30 am of Singapore standard time, according to the statement with the

ONE Championship.

In the co-main event or Men's Flyweight Mixed Martial Arts, Reece McLaren of New Zealand will fight against Yuya Wakamatsu of Japan.

In the Men's Lightweight Mixed Martial Arts fight, Marat Gafurov of Australia will face Ok Rae Yoon of South Korea.

In the Men's Strawweight Mixed Martial Arts fight, Ryuto Sawada of Japan will compete against Miao Li Tao of China.

In the Men's Catchweight Muay Thai bout, Niekey Holzen of the Netherlands will take on John Wayne Parr of Australia. The ONE Championship Fights will be broadcast live free on ONE Super Application and ONE

Championship YouTube Channel, according to the ONE Championship. The first two fights will also be

streamed live on the ONE Championship Facebook page, officials stated.—GNLM ■

## David Alaba to join Real Madrid next season – reports

AUSTRIA defender David Alaba will join Real Madrid at the end of the season on a free transfer when his Bayern Munich contract expires, according to reports on Tuesday.

Sky claim the 28-year-old, who has won the Champions League twice with Bayern, will sign a five-year deal with Real after spending 13 years in Munich.

Alaba played in Tuesday's 2-0 home win against Leverkusen which leaves Bayern 10 points clear at the top of the Bundesliga. Bayern can be crowned Bundesliga champions for the ninth consecutive season at Mainz on Saturday.

Having made 428 appearances for Bayern, Alaba is on the verge of his 10th Bundesliga title with the club world champions.—AFP ■

## Premier League clubs withdraw from European Super League plans

Plans for a European Super League (ESL) collapsed on Tuesday as Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal and Tottenham joined Manchester City in withdrawing from controversial proposals that provoked a furious backlash.

Chelsea are reportedly set to follow leaving just six sides: Real Madrid, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus still involved in the project.

The ESL was designed by the European giants to guarantee revenue from more regular matches against one another without the risk of failing to qualify for 15 founder members.

A 3.5 billion euro (\$4.2 billion) pot, financed by US

investment bank JPMorgan, had been raised to be distributed among the founding members to offset the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, reaction to the plans has been scathing, with politicians and football authorities threatening to take legal action against the so-called "dirty dozen", who were told they faced potential bans from domestic and continental competitions.

"Manchester United will not be participating in the European Super League," the 20-time English champions said in a statement.

"We have listened carefully to the reaction from our fans, the UK government and other key stakeholders. — AFP ■



Plans for a European Super League (ESL) collapsed on Tuesday as Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal and Tottenham joined Manchester City in withdrawing from controversial proposals that provoked a furious backlash. PHOTO: AFP

## Man. Utd executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward to leave club



Ed Woodward is to step down as Manchester United's executive vice-chairman at the end of this year, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

ED WOODWARD is to step down as Manchester United's executive vice-chairman at the end of this year, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday.

The 49-year-old former investment banker is believed to have been one of the prime movers behind controversial proposals for a European Super League.

JP Morgan, the bank he worked for when he advised the Glazers over their purchase of Manchester United in 2005, are financing the project.

"I am extremely proud to have served United and it has been an honour to work for the world's greatest football club for the past 16 years," he said in a statement. "The club is well positioned for the future and it will be difficult to walk away at the end of the year."

Woodward has been executive vice-chairman at Old Trafford since 2012. He took over the responsibilities of departing chief executive David Gill the following year and proved an unpopular figure with fans. Under his tenure the club spent more than a billion pounds (\$1.4 billion) but have not won the Premier League or Champions League since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013. "I will treasure the memories from my time at Old Trafford, during a period when we won the Europa League, the FA Cup and the League Cup," said Woodward.

"We have invested more than £1 billion in the squad during my time here and I am particularly delighted with the progress the players have made under the astute leadership of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and his coaching team in the last two years."—AFP ■