

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 11, 4th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Friday, 30 April 2021

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19

3rd Waning of Tagu 1383 ME
29 April 2021

IT is announced that the statements to the public, orders, notifications and directives (excluding eased restrictions) of the Union-level organizations and Union ministries effective until 30 April 2021 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 31 May 2021 as it is required to continue containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

US\$300 million worth fish auction market project to be implemented in Myeik

A fish auction market project in Myeik with an investment of some US\$300 million will be implemented as earlier as possible, said an official from the Myeik Public Corporation.

The market will be built on Kyweku-Kyaukphya river bank in Myeik town, Myeik District of Taninthayi Region. The new fish auction market project will include constructing a jetty to load and unload the fish, along with the structure of a residential area. The project has been delayed before, and it will now be undertaken as promptly as possible.

The project can bring revenue to the country and create job opportunities for the locals. Phase 1 of the project is to build a jetty to charge and discharge the fish cargoes and make cold storages. In contrast, Phase 2 of the project will cover the construction of the factories to manufacture finished products from raw materials.

Phase 3 of the project comprises the construction of the residential areas. And, Phase 4 involves the building of expansion facilities to support the factories.

“Concerning the project, a proposal has been submitted previously. But, the project has yet to complete, and a new proposal



Upon completing the project, the fish market could be taken back from Thailand, where the Myanmar fish market has externally existed for more than 20 years.

has been submitted again. The project will be implemented on a 700-acre plot of land. The Union minister and officials will come to inspect the project area,” the Myeik Public Corporation official elaborated.

Although the fish auction market project was proposed to carry out on 2,000 acres of land,

now it will be built on 700 acres of land if the permit is granted.

Upon completing the project, the fish market could be taken back from Thailand, where the Myanmar fish market has externally existed for more than 20 years. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM



The 700-acre project site location.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

4th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME
30 April 2021

Statement on Ceasefire and Enduring Peace

1. The Tatmadaw formed the State Administration Council and adopted the five-point road map and nine objectives in order to strive for the development of all sectors such as political, economic and social affairs of the State with might and main.
2. Moreover, as the accomplishment of restoring the enduring peace is a must for the State, the Central Committee on National Unity and Peacemaking, the Work Committee on National Unity and Peacemaking and the National Unity and Peacemaking Coordination Committee were constituted in order to soonest hold the dialogues on the peace process with ethnic armed organizations, some of which have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and some of which are still holding talks to sign NCA.
3. The Tatmadaw will further cease all military operations from 1 to 31 May 2021 across the nation, except for the period when security and administrative machinery of the government in addition to State defence and administrative measures are encroached on, in order to hold further talks with NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations for strengthening the peace process in accord with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), continue further discussions with non-NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations until they sign the NCA, and continuously discuss necessary measures until the durable peace is restored successfully. During the period when the Tatmadaw further ceases military operations, concerted efforts should be made for restoring the enduring peace through negotiations.

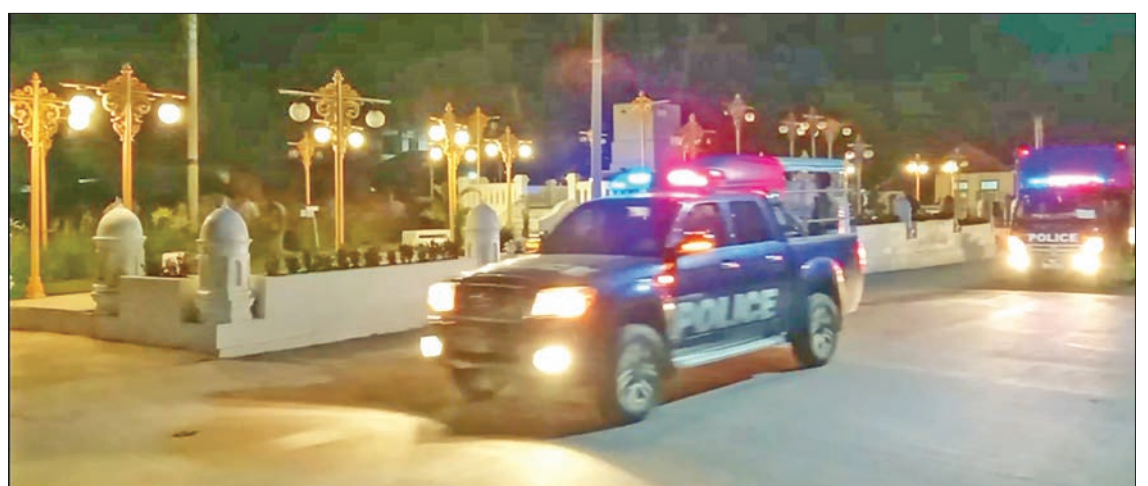
Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Security measures conducted to ensure community peace

Tatmadaw, Police Force and Fire Brigade jointly took security measures to ensure the State's stability, security of people, the rule of law and community peace starting 14 February night.

Tatmadaw, police and fire

brigade members also jointly conduct security measures for the peaceful night and community peace in respective regions and states and keep serving security measures the whole day. — MNA



Tatmadaw, police and fire brigade members take security measures at night in Kengtung.

For the State to have good results

SOME personnel continue their absence due to the frightening of social punishment if they failed to participate in the CDM and face their lack of duty. Just appropriate action will be taken against those staff who did not lead the CDM under the rules and disciplines of service personnel, and they will not be dismissed from jobs. Telephone numbers have been released for dialling them to inform the authorities about threatening against staff to join CDM. Those who threaten the staff will be taken severe action. The Senior General warmly welcomes health and education personnel from CDM to return to their workplaces as quickly as possible for the State to have good results.

(Excerpt from the speech to the Management Committee meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 23 April 2021)

Central Bank of Myanmar Press Release

27 April 2021

1. As some riots and terror acts happen in some areas of the country, people are worried about the safety of cash in hand.
2. If the people wish to entrust their cash to the banks, they will be allowed to open new bank accounts at the banks as of 3 May 2021 to authorize their money. If they wish to take out the cash from the new bank accounts, they will be allowed to take out cash from the entrusted amount without limit.
3. Those who opened the accounts at the banks before 3 May 2021 will be allowed to take out cash in line with the original restrictions adopted by the Central Bank of Myanmar. Arrangements are underway to ease such restrictions.

Central Bank of Myanmar Press Release

29 April 2021

EFFORTS were made to regularly apply the monetary systems and applications that bank and mobile monetary service providers operate through the Internet during the period of temporarily interrupting the mobile Internet. Starting 28 April, Ayeyawady Bank, Kanbawza Bank, Cooperative Bank, Innwa Bank and Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank give services of account to account transfer, Wallet to Wallet, Bank to Wallet, Wallet to Bank and CCT function of CBM Net through the mobile banking, Internet banking, mobile top-up, other cards top-up, bill payments, Visa/Master credit card payment, MPU cards, all ATMs and bank pay. Services of the banks that can raise further services and mobile monetary service providers will be released further.

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo meets with Chairman and members of Kayin State Investment Committee

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Aung Naing Oo met with the Chairman and members of Kayin State Administration Council and Kayin State Investment Committee members at the office of Kayin State Investment Committee's meeting room in the morning of 29 April 2021.

At the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the strategic location of Kayin State and growing interests of investors due to the neighbouring with Thailand. Therefore, the investment promotion and facilitation measures provided by the Kayin State Committee in accordance with Myanmar Investment Law and Regulations are crucial for attracting investors. The Union Minister also encouraged the Committee to monitor and provide assistance to the existing invest-

ments which were permitted by MIC and endorsed by State Investment Committee.

The Union Minister explained that Myanmar Investment Commission is formulating the investment policies in line with the five-point roadmap and nine objectives of the State Administration Council and advised the Committee to develop the priority investment areas particularly for agricultural sector, renewable energy sector and MSMEs by designing potential quick win projects.

The Union Minister also urged the Committee to facilitate the process of obtaining endorsement permit timely in accordance with investment laws and rules, and to encourage the manufacturing and service sectors by creating investor friendly environment.

Then, the Chairman of Kayin State Administration Council and the Chairman of Kayin State Investment Com-



The MIFER Union Minister holds talks with the Kayin State Administration Council Chairperson and members, and Investment Committee members yesterday.

mittee discussed the investment promotion activities and the Union Minister responded to the comments and questions raised by the committee members.

After that, the Union Minister proceeded to Hpa-An

Industrial Zone and met with investors and merchants from Kayin State at the meeting room of Industrial Zone, and explained the government efforts of investment promotion and facilitation and providing assistance to investors to re-

cover from the reverse effect of COVID-19 pandemic.

During the meeting, the Union Minister, coordinating with relevant government agencies, facilitated some trade and investment issues raised by the investors. —MNA.

Union Minister U Ko Ko inspects national library

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko inspected the operation of the National Library yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the inspection around the digital library room, a showcase of the ancient palm-leaf manuscripts, the data centre and e-library, the Union Minister called for continuous efforts to speed up library services in the post-COVID-19- period, increase library activities and connect with international libraries. He also called for collecting and preserving palm-leaf manuscripts and the ancient literary heritage and opening a diploma course on library management.

The Union Minister also met with the staff of the Department of Historical Research and National Library. During the meeting, he said the library is a university of life to seek

knowledge. The saying goes, "True University is a Collection of Books". The library staff are to provide assistance services to the self-learners with the knowledge they gained from the research.

He stressed the need to do continuous self-learning and attend the relevant training in order to develop human resource courses for the library staff and abide by the Civil Services Law, rules, regulations and strictly follow the instructions by being free from party politics.

The National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) was established on 3 June 2010 and opened on 3 May 2013. It aims to be the centre of the Myanmar National Literary Heritage Centre in order to act as the central archive centre for collecting and maintaining Myanmar articles published locally and abroad,



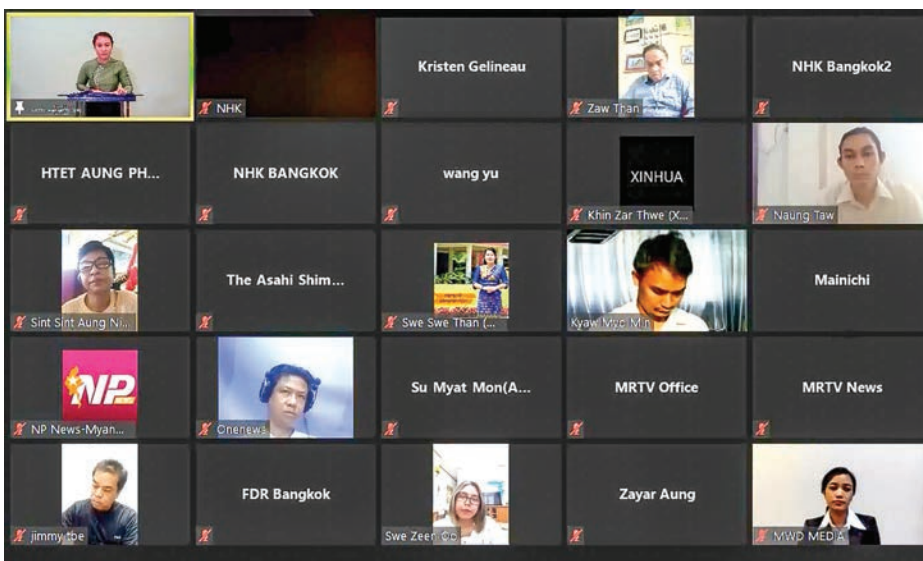
The MoRAC Union Minister is inspecting the National Library on 29 April 2021.

collecting locally-published publications and non-book materials, compiling and publishing National Bibliography, creating Interlibrary Loans, connecting with international libraries for the development activities and providing children's library services. — MNA

Information Team of State Administration Council holds weekly press conference through videoconferencing

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council held the weekly press conference through videoconferencing yesterday afternoon to reply to queries raised by the media.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun of the Information Team of the State Administration Council explained plans of holding the weekly press conferences of the Information Team in accord with the guidance of the State Administration Council Chairman and the meeting decision of the Council on 26 April for ensuring the correct and swift flow of information, enabling the people to know false news in time and increasing news coverage of media, conditions to reply to the media through videoconferencing online, clarification to be



The State Administration Council's Information Team holds the online weekly press conference yesterday to answer questions raised by the media.

given by Major Kaung Htet San, Captain Ye Phone Kyaw and Captain Daw Aye Thazin Myint from the extended Information Team

in rotation, and needs of media as a genuine fourth pillar to cooperate with the government as the Tatmadaw which recognized the media as the fourth pillar is striving for dissemination of accurate information, swift flow of information and true news for the people. He then introduced officials from the Information Team to the media individually.

Captain Daw Aye Thazin Myint from the Information Team then explained the attendance of Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ASEAN

Leaders' Meeting and his clarifications on Tatmadaw's takeover of State duty in accord with the Constitution as of 1 February, changes of peaceful protests to riots, the structure of the State Administration Council, future plans and visions to ASEAN leaders in person at the same time and same place and same words with full evidence, press release for civil service personnel taken action for participation in CDM activities, attacks of KNLA Brigade-5 against Tatmadaw camps on the duty of border security by breaking agreements of the NCA, the firing of 107 launchers by the insurgents (under scru-

tiny) to local military units in Magway and Meiktila in yesterday's early morning, spread of rumours by some media on the event of Mindat which happened on 24 April and commitments of incitements.

Captain Daw Aye Thazin Myint of the Information Team replied to queries raised by the media.

The press conference of the Information Team on videoconferencing was attended by reporters from local news agencies, daily newspapers, journals, local TV broadcasting units and local-based foreign news agencies.—MNA.



Announcement of Union Election Commission

28 April 2021

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

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	266 polling stations Madaya township of Mandalay Region	203738	169,226	2,1237	2,262	26,372
2	144 polling stations Mogok township of Mandalay Region	147121	111,174	21,765	1,685	16,580
3	318 polling stations Wundwin township of Mandalay Region	195548	160,782	16,192	1,802	23,214

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Madaya, Mogok and Wundwin townships of Mandalay Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators in accordance with Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
- According to the inspection, a total of 728 polling stations in these three townships took out 619,376 ballots and used 416,231 ballots. It left 184,658 ballots instead of 203,145 ballots. The difference was 23,769 ballots and it found 5,282 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships 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	Madaya	266	227,171	162,232	64,939	61,993	3,568	622
2	Mogok	144	163,853	90,690	73,163	64,497	9,312	646
3	Wundwin	318	228,352	163,309	65,043	58,168	10,889	4,014
	Total	728	619,376	416,231	203,145	184,658	23,769	5,282

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Madaya Township

- According to the inspection, 266 polling stations in 5 Wards and 83 Village-tracts of Madaya Township in Mandalay Region took out 227,171 ballots and used 162,232 ballots. It left 61,993 ballots instead of 64,939. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village-tract ballots	212,550	161,771	50,779	47,983	3,418	622
2	Township Advanced ballots	521	461	60	60		
3	Township Remaining ballots	14,100		14,100	13,950	150	
	Total	227,171	162,232	64,939	61,993	3,568	622

- There were 3,418 missing ballots and 622 extra ballots at 266 polling stations in 5 Wards and 83 Village-tracts of Madaya Township. The township election sub commission have 14,100 remaining ballots but it found only 13,950 remaining ballots and so 150 ballots were found missing.
- There were 701 eligible voters at No (7) polling station in Pan Ya Village-tract of Madaya Township and 513 voters cast vote without NRC cards.
- The inspection team examined only the ballots as the used ballot receipts of No (8) polling station of Yay Nant Tha village-tract and No (1) polling station of Thayet Kan (North) village-tract were not found. Therefore, the exact numbers of advance ballots and remaining ballots could not be known.
- Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	No (2) Ward	11,350	7,564	3,786	3,881		95
2	Yenanttha Village-Tract	10,900	7,784	3,116	2,625	491	
3	Thapyaytha Village-Tract	2,700	2,010	690	490	200	
4	Myitkan Village-Tract	2,400	1,856	544	546		2
5	Gwaypin Village-Tract	600	421	179	72	107	
6	Sakarpin Village-Tract	4,600	3,194	1,406	1,356	50	
7	Salay Village-Tract	8,500	5,276	3,224	3,124	100	
8	Zipyugone Village-Tract	2,550	2,022	528	478	50	
9	Ahtettaungkine Village-Tract	3,200	2,495	705	705		
10	Kyaunggone Village-Tract	800	655	145	145		
11	Seiktha Village-Tract	2,900	2,205	695	695		
12	Thaphankaing Village-Tract	3,100	2,412	688	688		
13	Kwetaw Village-Tract	1,750	1,256	494	494		
14	Ywesu Village-Tract	1,450	1,148	302	302		
15	Letkaunggyi Village-Tract	6,150	4,600	1,550	1,150	400	
16	Lamine Village-Tract	8,250	6,653	1,597	1,599		2
17	Kyarpin Village-Tract	750	616	134	134		
18	Yekyi Village-Tract	1,850	1,512	338	338		
19	Gyar Village-Tract	750	472	278	78	200	
20	Sitinekan Village-Tract	1,000	848	152	152		
21	Htanpingone Village-Tract	1,350	1,092	258	258		
22	Taungkan Village-Tract	5,450	4,262	1,188	1,188		
23	Thamintwin Village-Tract	1,900	1,554	346	246	100	
24	Wetkhe Village-Tract	1,250	968	282	282		
25	Wayintoke Village-Tract	750	614	136	136		

26	Kanbe Village-Tract	1,200	943	257	257		
27	Kyone Village-Tract	1,750	1,362	388	438		50
28	Theingone Village-Tract	500	427	73	73		
29	Kantabet Village-Tract	2,050	1,699	351	401		50
30	Linmwaychaung Village-Tract	1,150	945	205	205		
31	Thayetkan (North) Village-Tract	1,400	1,094	306			306
32	Thalonpyu Village-Tract	800	595	205	105	100	
33	Thayetkan (South) Village-Tract	900	746	154	154		
34	Taungpyone Village-Tract	3,000	2,328	672	672		
35	Lontaung Village-Tract	3,600	3,020	580	630		50
36	Hteetawmoe Village-Tract	1,400	1,161	239	239		
37	Kapaing Village-Tract	1,450	1,218	232	232		
38	Yadanabumi Village-Tract	1,000	831	169	169		
39	Wathonedaya Village-Tract	1,400	1,155	245	245		
40	No (1) Ward	1,100	812	288	238	50	
41	No (3) Ward	1,300	986	314	314		
42	No (4) Ward	2,150	1,696	454	540		86
43	No (5) Ward	5,250	3,845	1,405	1,405		
44	Pinleinn Village-Tract	1,800	1,335	465	475		10
45	Kaukyoepon Village-Tract	1,900	1,414	486	479	7	
46	Nyaungoake Village-Tract	3,050	2,453	597	596	1	
47	Mwayponkan Village-Tract	3,650	2,642	1,008	808	200	
48	Kyauksayeitgone (Ma) Village-Tract	6,700	5,326	1,374	1,210	164	
49	Mwayhintha Village-Tract	1,700	1,328	372	372		
50	Sakyin Village-Tract	6,150	4,999	1,151	1,153		2
51	Mwayshwekhe Village-Tract	2,350	1,908	442	500		58
52	Myayson Village-Tract	1,700	1,282	418	418		
53	Tawpu Village-Tract	1,500	1,251	249	251		2
54	Panya Village-Tract	4,750	3,709	1,041	1,031	10	
55	Thayettaw Village-Tract	1,300	1,092	208	208		
56	Thaekaw Village-Tract	1,150	961	189	189		

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57	Thuyezet Village-Tract	900	807	93	93		
58	Halin Village-Tract	600	396	204	104	100	
59	Udein Village-Tract	4,000	2,911	1,089	918	171	
60	Kyauksayeitgone (Ta) Village-Tract	6,250	4,691	1,559	1,559		
61	Wonsu Village-Tract	3,450	2,562	888	888		
62	Powa Village-Tract	2,100	1,612	488	540		52
63	Waihingama Village-Tract	1,100	919	181	131	50	
64	Thaekyun Village-Tract	2,200	1,651	549	680		131
65	Tegone Village-Tract	500	447	53	53		
66	Ngetoe Village-Tract	3,800	2,986	814	764	50	
67	Hinthagone Village-Tract	1,150	890	260	260		
68	Shinhla Village-Tract	1,600	1,272	328	278	50	
69	Pyinka Village-Tract	1,050	747	303	303		
70	Auktaungkaing Village-Tract	2,100	1,426	674	576	98	
71	Aingdaing Village-Tract	1,600	1,228	372	372		
72	Shweboegy Village-Tract	1,250	983	267	257	10	
73	Shwechaung Village-Tract	2,400	1,905	495	525		30
74	Thonesepay Village-Tract	2,100	1,451	649	551	98	

75	Sinkyun Village-Tract	900	755	145	145		
76	Nyaunggone Village-Tract	3,650	2,751	899	849	50	
77	Kywechangone Village-Tract	350	328	22	22		
78	Sukar Village-Tract	1,600	1,222	378	380		2
79	Shwebaung Village-Tract	1,850	1,337	513	513		
80	Nantawkyun Village-Tract	2,400	1,950	450	355	95	
81	Konetangyi Village-Tract	2,400	1,587	813	713	100	
82	Chaungpauk Village-Tract	350	319	31	31		
83	Paukwe Village-Tract	1,500	1,251	249	249		
84	Hlaingkyun Village-Tract	850	668	182	182		
85	Baemei Village-Tract	600	529	71	71		
86	Myitkauk Village-Tract	500	417	83	83		
87	Shantaw Village-Tract	850	687	163	163		
88	Sethteik Village-Tract	1,250	1,034	216	206	10	
Ward/village -tract ballots		212,550	161,771	50,779	47,983	3,418	622
Township Advanced ballots		521	461	60	60		
Township Remaining ballots		14,100		14,100	13,950	150	
Township Total		227,171	162,232	64,939	61,993	3,568	622

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Mogok Township

10. According to the inspection, 144 polling stations in 6 Wards and 28 Village-tracts of Mogok Township in Mandalay Region took out 163,853 ballots and used 90,690 ballots. It left 64,497 ballots instead of 73,163. 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	155,650	89,860	65,790	57,197	9,239	646
2	Township Advanced ballots	903	830	73		73	
3	Township Remaining ballots	7,300		7,300	7,300		
Total		163,853	90,690	73,163	64,497	9,312	646

11. There were 9,312 missing ballots and 646 extra ballots at 144 polling stations in 6 Wards and 28 Village-tracts of Mogok Township. There were no remaining township advance ballots at township sub commission and so 73 ballots were found missing.

12. Of these 144 polling stations, the inspection team did not find the ballots receipts for Pyithu Hluttaw used at No (1) polling station of Nyaung Pin Tha village-tract, No (1) polling station of Nyaung Htauk village-tract, No (1) polling station of Pain Pyit village-tract and No (13) polling station of Myoma Ward but the valid and invalid votes. The ballot receipt book, valid votes, invalid vote, Form (1) book and Form (16-1) documents used at No (8) polling station of Ka The village-tract were missing.

13. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Myoma Ward	22,150	11,639	10,511	9,907	604	
2	Shawliwaing Ward	33,350	17,610	15,740	13,541	2,199	
3	LeU Ward	12,850	7,396	5,454	5,292	162	
4	Peinpyit Village-Tract	3,350	2,050	1,300	866	434	
5	Kyaukwa Village-Tract	1,450	885	565	315	250	
6	Lishawkyaupon Village-Tract	1,400	762	638	638		
7	Kyethnapha Village-Tract	550	347	203	203		
8	Howeik Village-Tract	400	233	167	166	1	
9	Wingabar Village-Tract	600	268	332	332		
10	Nyaungpintha Village-Tract	350	207	143		143	
11	Nyaunghtauk Village-Tract	700	372	328	362		34
12	Mintada Ward	5,050	3,229	1,821	1,621	200	
13	Yepu Ward	5,450	3,463	1,987	1,486	501	
14	Thadwatsho Village-Tract	3,150	2,165	985	715	270	
15	Lwengin Village-Tract	200	124	76	76		
16	Kyauktalone Village-Tract	600	368	232	242		10
17	Kyauktalone Village-Tract	15,300	9,495	5,805	4,452	1,353	

18	Pinthapyay Village-Tract	250	164	86	86		
19	Pyaungpyin Village-Tract	750	474	276	276		
20	Kyauksin Village-Tract	1,850	1,220	630	380	250	
21	Bawlonegyi Village-Tract	2,550	1,728	822	972		150
22	Kapaing Village-Tract	2,450	1,756	694	794		100
23	Yeaye Village-Tract	2,850	2,088	762	1,062		300
24	Laungsin Village-Tract	700	416	284	234	50	
25	Kin Village-Tract	2,200	1,415	785	535	250	
26	Shwenyaungpin Village-Tract	3,250	1,943	1,307	1,257	50	
27	Ohndan Village-Tract	900	631	269	269		
28	Kyatpyin Village-Tract	22,700	13,267	9,433	7,359	2,074	
29	Taungdon Village-Tract	350	127	223	173	50	
30	Chaunggyi Village-Tract	1,550	904	646	546	100	
31	LishawleU Village-Tract	2,300	1,068	1,232	1,082	150	
32	Bamon Village-Tract	1,350	832	518	520		2
33	Pyuyaung Village-Tract	700	490	210	260		50
34	Ywathaya Village-Tract	2,050	724	1,326	1,178	148	
Ward/village -tract ballots		155,650	89,860	65,790	57,197	9,239	646
Township Advanced ballots		903	830	73		73	
Township Remaining ballots		7,300		7,300	7,300		
Township Total		163,853	90,690	73,163	64,497	9,312	646

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Wundwin Township

14. According to the inspection, 318 polling stations in 7 Wards and 68 Village-tracts of Wundwin Township in Mandalay Region took out 228,352 ballots and used 163,309 ballots. It left 58,168 ballots instead of 65,043. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	222,747	162,704	60,043	50,243	10,889	1,089
2	Township Advanced ballots	605	605				
3	Township Remaining ballots	5,000		5,000	7,925		2,925
Total		228,352	163,309	65,043	58,168	10,889	4,014

15. According to the inspection, there were 10,889 missing ballots and 1,089 extra ballots at 318 polling stations in 7 Wards and 68 Village-tracts of Wundwin Township. They used 605 township advance ballots and saved 5,000 ballots as township remaining ballots. Of remaining 7,925 ballots, 2,925 ballots were returned by ward/village-tract polling stations.

16. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Thaetaw (1) Ward	5	3,800	2,720	1,080	908	172	
2	Thaetaw (2) Ward	3	2,149	1,543	606	511	95	
3	Thaetaw (3) Ward	6	4,550	3,133	1,417	1,173	244	
4	Ywatan Village-Tract	9	7,342	5,751	1,591	1,345	246	

5	Byingyi Village-Tract	3	2,150	1,526	624	575	49	
6	Daingkaunggone Village-Tract	4	3,450	2,722	728	630	98	
7	Kine Village-Tract	8	5,006	3,512	1,494	1,221	273	
8	Sinchitine Village-Tract	3	2,404	1,745	659	460	199	
9	Yathincha Village-Tract	3	1,248	1,489	-241	568		809
10	Shwetaung Village-Tract	4	3,100	2,220	880	768	112	
11	Thakhwatmyint Village-Tract	3	2,550	1,943	607	503	104	
12	Nyaungpin Village-Tract	2	999	636	363	304	59	

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13	Htanpingone Village-Tract	3	2,398	1,751	647	498	149	
14	Aingangyi Village-Tract	3	2,100	1,465	635	485	150	
15	Aingangone Village-Tract	2	1,600	1,080	520	370	150	
16	Tanakhataw Village-Tract	6	3,806	2,896	910	655	255	
17	Thinganswel Village-Tract	5	4,060	3,087	973	721	252	
18	Pharapyu Village-Tract	8	5,999	4,686	1,313	1,114	199	
19	Goneywa Village-Tract	4	2,991	2,332	659	610	49	
20	Suepan Village-Tract	7	6,050	4,342	1,708	960	748	
21	Yoesone Village-Tract	6	4,652	3,428	1,224	1,066	158	
22	Koneywa Village-Tract	2	1,600	1,262	338	288	50	
23	Nyaungaokephe Village-Tract	9	6,756	4,937	1,819	1,568	251	
24	Yetwin Village-Tract	4	2,306	1,703	603	447	156	
25	Kywekan Village-Tract	1	1,400	936	464	464		
26	Ywethee Village-Tract	4	2,496	1,841	655	505	150	
27	Tamakan Village-Tract	5	3,904	2,854	1,050	795	255	
28	Tabwatgone Village-Tract	4	3,104	2,248	856	654	202	
29	Natkan Village-Tract	3	2,152	1,577	575	525	50	
30	Myaytinekan Village-Tract	2	1,400	1,036	364	214	150	
31	Nyaungpintha Village-Tract	2	1,300	961	339	241	98	
32	Khingyi Village-Tract	4	3,504	2,554	950	459	491	
33	Khinban Village-Tract	1	498	375	123	123		
34	Yesone Village-Tract	4	2,448	1,784	664	616	48	
35	Pharasu Village-Tract	11	6,000	5,111	889	591	298	
36	Wundwin (1) Ward	9	6,649	4,871	1,778	1,629	149	
37	Wundwin (2) Ward	8	6,904	5,042	1,862	1,762	100	
38	Wundwin (3) Ward	5	4,600	3,087	1,513	1,461	52	
39	Pankyaing Village-Tract	2	1,054	770	284	234	50	
40	Thaphan Village-Tract	5	3,352	2,386	966	815	151	
41	Gyanlon Village-Tract	2	1,400	1,042	358	306	52	
42	Shwephalakan Village-Tract	4	2,452	1,858	594	346	248	
43	Ohmatwe Village-Tract	5	2,850	2,025	825	662	163	
44	Aungchantha Village-Tract	4	2,452	1,743	709	507	202	
45	Kyaunggone Village-Tract	5	2,750	2,057	693	474	219	
46	Taungse Village-Tract	3	2,150	1,539	611	510	101	

47	Ainyin Village-Tract	2	1,400	1,050	350	300	50	
48	Mahlypin Village-Tract	1	650	526	124	78	46	
49	Phalankyin Village-Tract	3	2,000	1,238	762	511	251	
50	Shauktaw Village-Tract	4	2,600	1,931	669	919	250	
51	Dharhla Village-Tract	5	2,454	1,705	749	601	148	
52	Zawin Village-Tract	4	2,200	1,779	421	321	100	
53	Naypugone Village-Tract	10	6,052	4,291	1,761	1,259	502	
54	Phalankan Village-Tract	1	896	676	220	220		
55	Lukhin Village-Tract	5	3,254	2,250	1,004	733	271	
56	Kalarywa Village-Tract	1	350	273	77	77		
57	Phogone Village-Tract	4	2,200	1,434	766	747	19	
58	Thonedautaine Village-Tract	4	2,652	1,820	832	782	50	
59	Tesu Village-Tract	7	4,702	2,816	1,886	1,523	363	
60	Pintale Village-Tract	9	6,200	4,100	2,100	1,825	275	
61	Aungtha Village-Tract	3	1,600	1,111	489	439	50	
62	Myaukse Village-Tract	2	1,650	1,068	582	484	98	
63	Kokkokhahla Village-Tract	6	4,052	2,665	1,387	1,286	101	
64	Khatetgone Village-Tract	1	850	554	296	296		
65	Nyaungto Village-Tract	3	2,100	1,477	623	523	100	
66	Badin Village-Tract	1	800	542	258	258		
67	Kokkosu Village-Tract	3	1,850	1,247	603	503	100	
68	Pekhinkyaw Village-Tract	6	4,602	3,371	1,231	1,041	190	
69	Hteehlaing Village-Tract	7	4,800	3,785	1,015	959	56	
70	Leinpin Village-Tract	8	5,546	4,445	1,101	852	249	
71	Konekyaw Village-Tract	2	1,349	967	382	331	51	
72	Taungbo Village-Tract	2	1,652	1,269	383	283	100	
73	Khantaw Village-Tract	1	850	663	187	217	30	
74	Penantha Village-Tract	3	1,949	1,465	484	415	69	
75	Ywawei Village-Tract	5	3,602	2,580	1,022	819	203	
	Ward/village -tract ballots	318	222,747	162,704	60,043	50,243	10,889	1,089
	Township Advanced ballots		605	605				
	Township Remaining ballots		5,000		5,000	7925		2,925
	Township Total	318	228,352	163,309	65,043	58,168	10,889	4,014

Union Election Commission

Files opened against education department personnel who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

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

Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Dr Aung Mon Thet	Lecturer, Mandalay University, Mahaungmye Township	Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
2	U Than Htaik Aung	Lecturer Yangon Eastern University, Thanlyin Township	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region		
3	U Myint Htwe	Lecturer, Taunggyi University, Taunggyi Town	Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South)		
4	U Kyaw Min Htaik	Lecturer, Hinthada University, Hinthada Town	Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region		
5	Dr U Pu	Lecturer Meiktila University, Meiktila Town	Meiktila Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	

6	U Tin Aung Moe	Lecturer, Yangon University, Kamayut Township	Hline Township, Yangon Region		
7	U Than Lwin Oo	Lecturer, Yangon University, Kamayut Township	Thaketa Township, Yangon Region		
8	U Zaw Zaw Aung	Assistant Lecturer Toungoo University	Minhla Town, Bago Region		
9	Dr Zaw Zaw Htet	Head of Administration and Finance Department, Technological University, Hinthada Town	Khittaya Myothit, Pyay Town, Bago Region		
10	Dr Thet Thet Aung	Faculty Head, Meiktila University, Meiktila Town	Meiktila Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those education department personnel charged, public are informed to report their whereabouts to nearest police stations and action will be taken against those who are admitting them, under the law. —MNA

Let's join hands to overcome Covid-19 challenges

Covid-19 pandemic still imposes threats to global people. Various countries have been struggling to overcome the challenges of the pandemic since December 2019.

The first wave of the pandemic stunned Myanmar people, but we all could overcome the challenges in 2020. Soon after the first wave, severe impacts of the second wave terribly threatened the entire people of Myanmar in 2020 and 2021.

Before having a sigh, the third wave of pandemic sent fake and true information to us as the first and fast attacks. How can we respond to it?

The first and second waves of the pandemic ruined the majority of local and locally-based foreign businesses in the country, similar to that of other nations. At this juncture, we all should recognize the strenuous efforts of the government, the Tatmadaw and the united strengths of various kinds of associations that worked in concert to fight against the pandemic. Thanks to all, we can stand tall till today.

We have to rebuild ourselves to have capabilities for marching forward while overcoming the pandemics one after another, including the current Covid-19 and its variant types.

At present, a total of 131,945 patients infected by Covid-19 have so far recovered from their sufferings. So, they have been discharged from the hospitals, but more than 7,500 patients are still receiving medical treatment, according to the data of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Up to 26 April 2021, health institutes, including that of the Tatmadaw and the Ministry of Health and Sports, have conducted laboratory tests for virus infection for 2,568,811 cases, 142,740 of which showed positive signs as the confirmed cases.

As such, we all should not slow down the tempo and stamina in encountering the pandemic despite hearing the news on the outbreak of the pandemic's third wave. We must pour out vigorous efforts in doing many things such as giving doses of Covid-19 vaccine to the people on time, mobilizing the entire people to have more comprehensive health knowledge to prevent and contain the virus under the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Attention! Don't give up on the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. We all make concerted efforts to overcome the pandemic challenges.

India battles raging new wave of pandemic as Europe counts 50 million cases

India's coronavirus death toll soared through 200,000 on Wednesday with a wave of new cases swamping hospitals and sending desperate families off to scour the capital for oxygen and medicine as Europe's registered cases topped 50 million.

THE vast south Asian nation of 1.3 billion is fighting a major surge of 360,000 new infections -- a global daily record -- and reported more than 3,000 deaths on Wednesday. In contrast the United States, the UK and some European nations are taking tentative steps back towards normal life. However, Europe had cause to pause with the total number of cases since the pandemic began hitting 50,021,615, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1715 GMT. The virus has now killed more than 3.1 million people worldwide with Europe the worst-hit region.

Offering a glimmer hope, the co-founder of BioNTech -- which developed a Covid-19 vaccine with Pfizer -- said he is confident the shot works against the variant that is plaguing India. In New Delhi, car parks have been converted to crematoriums and the body count has sparked a shortage of wood for funeral pyres.

Relatives of the sick are crowding outside hospitals and

pharmacies in search of treatment and medicines. Priyanka Mandal, 30, has been searching for oxygen for her mother since she became sick a week ago. "Medicines are also not available... I've visited five, six big medical stores," she told AFP. "No matter how much time it takes, I have to wait here... I only have my mum."

'Auspicious' full moon
Despite the raging pandemic, on Tuesday 25,000 people took part in the final bathing day at the Kumbh Mela religious festival in the northern Indian town of Haridwar, drawn to the banks of the Ganges by an "auspicious" full moon, festival official Harbeer Singh told AFP. The gathering has attracted millions of pilgrims, mostly without masks, fomenting criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist government for allowing it to go ahead.

The variant of the virus feared to be contributing to the catastrophic wave in India has now been found in more than a dozen countries, the World Health

Organization said. But the WHO has stopped short of saying it is more transmissible, more deadly or able to dodge vaccine protections. Many nations have rushed to help, sending desperately needed oxygen and aid. As part of the global effort, Singapore said Wednesday it had sent two plane-loads of oxygen supplies, and Germany will deliver 120 ventilators and plans to set up oxygen production. Russia said it was sending emergency help to the country -- including oxygen support, ventilators and medicine -- while Switzerland was sending \$1 million (827,000 euros) in aid for hospitals. Britain also announced Wednesday it was sending three oxygen 'factories' the size of containers to India following a first consignment of aid this week India also looks set to receive some of the millions of AstraZeneca vaccine doses the United States has said it will export. And Ugur Sahin, the co-founder of BioNTech, said the vaccine his company jointly developed with Pfizer appears to



People wait in a queue to receive a dose of Covid-19 vaccine at NESCO Jumbo Covid-19 Vaccination Centre, Goregaon, in Mumbai. PHOTO: AFP

protect against the Indian variant. "We are still testing the Indian variant, but the Indian variant has mutations that we have already tested for and which our vaccine works against, so I am confident," said Sahin. **'Great to be here'**
As India battled horrific conditions, the Dutch feted the end of curfew and the opening of cafe terraces. "It's great to be here with my girlfriend and my friends. I think it feels great after six months being inside," Marvin Erhart told AFP

COVID-19 cases rise for ninth consecutive week, variants continue spreading

COVID-19 infections have increased for the ninth consecutive week globally while variants continue their spread, the UN health agency has confirmed.



A vendor pushes a cart past a mural depicting the Covid-19 coronavirus in Bangkalan, east Java on April 6, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

NEARLY 5.7 million new cases were reported in the last seven-day period, above previous highs, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in its latest coronavirus update published late Tuesday. The number of deaths from the virus also increased -- now for the sixth consecutive week -- with more than 87,000 confirmed victims. **Southeast Asia spike**
All parts of the world reported falling numbers of infections, apart from Southeast Asia and Western Pacific regions. And although Southeast Asia reported the highest increases in infections and deaths for the third week in a row, it was India that accounted for the vast majority of cases, with 2.17 million new cases - a 52 per cent increase. This is the equivalent of nearly four in 10 global cases reported in the past week, followed by the United States (with 406,001 new cases, representing a 15 per cent decrease), Brazil (404,623 new cases, a 12 per cent decrease), Turkey (378,771 cases, a nine per cent decrease) and France (211,674 new cases, a nine per cent decrease). **Mutations**
On the three known coronavirus variants of concern, WHO said that the so-called UK strain has been detected and verified in three more countries since last week, bringing the total to 139; that's effectively most of the world, except Greenland and several central and southern African nations. The South African origin variant is in 87 countries and the mutations first found in Brazil and Japan, has been reported in 54. Monitoring is ongoing into seven other so-called "variants of interest", the UN health agency said. Globally, there have been more than 148 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 3.1 million deaths, according to WHO. As of 27 April 2021, a total of 961,231,417 vaccine doses have been administered. Source: AFP

Public information

Yangon Region Administration Council is working with relevant departments to help the businesses in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their small and medium-scaled businesses and investments which are facing some delays and working to do new businesses.
Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175
Yangon Region Administration Council

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MoC Union Minister meets staff officers in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr Pwint San meets the MoC staff officers in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 April 2021.

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San met the staff officers of ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted work progress of the ministry during five years, its visions and missions to improve the trade sector, its critical role for the country's development, the plans to develop the human resources and staff qualification and proper allowances for the department personnel.

He also said it should conduct employment promotion according to the department's procedures, rules, and regula-

tions. He then instructed them to carry out the duties following the COVID-19 health rules set by the COVID-19 committee and Ministry of Health and Sports.

Next, the Deputy Minister discussed responsibilities of ministry like the central committee for the speedy flows of trade and goods, cooperation work with the relevant ministries and organizations and collective strength in overcoming the challenges.

The Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Deputy Directors-General and staff officers joined the meeting. — MNA

Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

From 26-4-2021 to 29-4-2021, local/foreign donors contributed 2.135 million Kyats to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA 013733 and foreign currency account EDC 600012 opened at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 29-4-2021 is as follows:

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List

	Kyat
Account opening balance on 26-4-2021	30,784,250,115.39
Received amount of money from (+) (26-4-2021 to 29-4-2021)	2,153,000.00
Closed balance on 29-4-2021	30,786,403,115.39

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List

	USD
Account opening balance on 26-4-2021	178,140,149.53
Received amount of money from (+) (26-4-2021 to 29-4-2021)	-
Closed balance on 29-4-2021	178,140,149.53



Appreciation to Those Who Have Prevented the Possible Loss of Hundreds of Lives

WE are a public service company that has been providing metropolitan bus transportation services in the City of Yangon, and our facilities are being utilized by hundreds of thousands of city's citizens every day.

Since the assumption of powers by the current Administration on the 1st of February 2021, attempts have been made by various entities to claim themselves as a parallel government. Demonstrations, protests, and movements of different nature are to be seen.

It is, however, unacceptable that a certain individual, who is one of the self-styled ministers of the underground resistance movement, last week advocated (မြို့သိမ်းတိုက်ခွဲ) attacking civilian townships by means of terrorist attacks.

An explosive device was discovered 28th of April 2021 in one of the buses, which is being used to provide transportation services to the general public. Fortunately, it was dismantled before being detonated, preventing the possible loss of lives that would otherwise be seen, as intended by those who planted it.

Even though no organization has, so far, claimed responsibility for this heinous act, it occurred within a few hours after further terrorist actions are instructed by the aforesaid self-styled minister on his social media. He laid down four steps of rebellion and the 3rd suggested attacking the suburban population, and the 4th suggested the use of advanced devices.

It is hereby stated that we categorically and vehemently denounce and condemn any action that endangers the lives and well-being of the citizens of Yangon, the commercial and diplomatic capital of Myanmar. We would also like to make an affirmation to the commuters, the diplomatic community, NGO and the citizens as a whole that we would put our utmost efforts to give priority to the safety of our customers.

We extend our profound gratitude to the courageous members of our company staff who have exhibited first-class professionalism in locating the said device after detecting a suspicious activity in four security cameras, the servicemen of the Armed Forces and Police Force who have skillfully executed the defusing procedure. Our thanks also go to the emergency health workers who stood ready with constant vigilance in case their services are needed.

Application deadline for postgraduate medical courses in 2021 academic year extended

IT was announced that the eligible persons could apply for the postgraduate training courses for the 2021 academic year, which will be opened at medical and relevant universities under the Department of Human Resources for Health of the Ministry of Health and Sports as per their prioritized universities and majors not later than 30 April 2021.

It is here announced that the application deadline is extended until 15 May 2021 for the convenience of applicants.

Ministry of Health and Sports

10 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 April, total figure rises to 142,800

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,800** after **10 new cases** were reported on 29 April 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **131,958** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

YGEA urges members to run cash only for gold transaction

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) has called for the members to make the gold transaction with only immediate cash payment.

That move will regulate unsustainable rally in the gold market and urge the members to run a cash only for gold transaction in the same regions and states in order to avoid the verbal transactions over calls, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

“For instance, a purchase via Mawlamyine, Mandalay, and Patheingyi over a phone call is unacceptable. Only the transaction with immediate payment in Yangon Region is allowed to avoid unsustainable and unsafe rally,” U Myo Myint elaborated.

Last 24 April, YGEA held the meeting, highlighting the stability of the gold market, running cash only for the gold



The price of domestic yellow metal reached K1,453,000 per tical on 26 April, tracking the positive international trends.

transaction and make an analysis on market rumours.

The price of domestic yellow metal reached K1,453,000 per tical on 26 April, tracking the positive international trends.

The gold price was ranged

between K1,316,000 per tical (28 January) in the minimum and K1,336,000 per tical (6 January) in the maximum. It reached an all-time high of K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical

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

According to gold traders, the local gold reached the low-

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

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs last year to reach K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February. It crossed K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019. — NN/GNLM

Mango price further drops on low demand



Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers the Seintalone type.

LOW demand amid the coronavirus resurgences in Shweli (Ruili) brings down the mango prices this year as against the year-ago period.

This year, the mango price showed downticks, coupled with a high transport rate. A mango box is worth around 120 Yuan per packaging box, whereas it fetched about 160 Yuan last year.

“As China is stepping up the coronavirus containment measure, there are only a small number of buyers in border market,” said a trader from Shweli.

At present, about 70 per cent of mango (Seintalone variety) are entering the early maturity stage, which might harm the market. Flooding the market could damage the mango market during the early season. Transport with 16-tonne trucks is suggested to ease the traffic congestion at the border and reduce the freight rate. The mango growers are urged to supply quality mango to maintain the market reputation and observe market conditions. The mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural

Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification. The Agriculture Department has been instituting criteria for long-term organic farming, Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association stated.

Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe and Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers the Seintalone type.

Typically, Myanmar's mangoes are primarily shipped to China and sent to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Japan. Ayeyawady Region possesses the most extensive mango plantation acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second-largest producer with 43,000 acres, and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. According to the association, there are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region. — KK/GNLM

Rice export through Muse border comes to abrupt halt

MYANMAR'S rice export to China through the Muse land border has stalled amidst the coronavirus concerns, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

The abrupt halt in border trade came after one Myanmar citizen tested positive for COVID-19 was found in Kyalgaung precious stone market on 29 March. That prompted China to restrict border access at the Mang Wein checkpoint, a major border crossing between Muse and Kyalgaung areas.

After the closure of the Mang Wein checkpoint, exports of Myanmar's kitchen crops such as onion and chili, various pulses and beans, rice and broken rice, and the fishery products were totally suspended. Consequently, rice and broken rice inflow to Muse border was not seen either, said U Min Thein.

During the first wave of

coronavirus pandemic, the driver substitution system helped lessen the impact on border trade. Even the truck cannot enter the border posts, which makes 100 per cent market collapse in Muse border.

Therefore the traders are urgently calling for the reopening of the Man Wein post at the soonest.

Myanmar Rice Federation stated that Myanmar had shipped US\$275 million worth of more than 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign countries in Q1 (1 October and 15 January) of the current financial year 2020-2021. The border trade handled over 308,000 tonnes of rice, while maritime trade covered over 418,000 tonnes in Q1. Myanmar generated over \$800 million from rice exports in the previous FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, with an estimated volume of over 2.5 million tonnes. — NN/GNLM

Italian grape variety yields successfully in Ngaphe Tsp

ITALIAN grape variety is successfully produced with the use of groundwater in PinOo village of Ngaphe Township, Magway Region.

The villagers are relying on agriculture, horticulture and livestock businesses.

A young grapevine is worth K500. The growers also have to

do land treatment and systematic irrigation. Over 3,000 grapevines are cultivated per acre, with a capital of K10 million.

The grapevines planting started in February 2020, and the grape yield began in January. The wholesale price of the grapes is K2,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg), whereas

they fetch K3,000 per viss in the retail market.

I daily harvest about 60-80 visses and can earn about K200,000. As this is also a lucrative business, I like to encourage those enthusiastic growers to do on a commercial scale, said a grower U Zin Min Htike. — Ma Yu (Ngaphe)/GNLM



The grapevines planting started in February 2020, and the grape yield began in January.

More than 2,500 in Momeik receive second dose of COVID-19 vaccine



A total of 2,519 people received the double dose of COVID-19 vaccine at Momeik township hospital, Shan State (North), on 26 April.

The hospital targeted the second dose of COVID-19 vac-

The hospital targeted the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to 3,320 people – the older people, departmental staff and the residents in Momeik township.

cine to 3,320 people — the older people, department staff and the residents in Momeik township.

Under the COVID-19 vaccination programme, the older adults over 65, the government staff, the residents and the transportation labours from Momeik township were given the second dose of COVID-19.

Before giving vaccination, the health team checked the vaccine recipients' body tem-

perature and blood pressure.

Only those who are in normal health condition are injected with the COVID vaccination.

After giving the injection, those vaccinated persons were also observed for 30 minutes.

Myanmar has received 3,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Myanmar injected the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in March.—Momeik Thar (Sithu Htay)/GNLM

Growers in Sagaing frustrated over lower prices of melons

A decline in the prices of watermelon and muskmelon produced in the Sagaing region has frustrated the growers, said U Wai Myint, the Melon Growers, Producers vice-chairman Exporters Association in Sagaing Region.

“Normally, a truckload of melons are sold out in two or three days. Now, a truck of melons cannot be sold out in a week or ten days. A daily sale of melon is not more than 100 or 200 fruits. But, around 1,000 melons are being supplied daily. The supply and demand are not equal, and therefore, the melon carrying trucks had to queue at Muse Seventh Mile and Fifth Mile.

The previously sold products in 1 or 2 days are sold out only after ten days. Consequently, the fresh melons are no longer fresh,” said U Wai Myint.

Last year, watermelon and muskmelon growers from the Sagaing region lost about 90 per cent. Therefore, the watermelon and muskmelon cultivation dropped drastically this year compared to that of last year.

“This is a terrible year for the local farmers. The farmers have not even got back their capital. The farmers will not

lose the profit if they could sell the melon at a rate of 4 Yuan per kilo,” he added.

The Sagaing region grows annually around 20,000 acres of watermelon and 40,000 acres of muskmelon.

The watermelons and muskmelons are produced mainly in Chaung-U township, Sagaing region. — Lulay/GNLM



The watermelons and muskmelons are produced mainly in Chaung-U township, Sagaing region.

Trading of domestic gold market cool

THE trading of the domestic gold market has been cool, said chairperson U Myo Myint of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

He also explained that the gold trading market is cool because it is difficult to withdraw money because of the banks' closure, transmit the funds from one bank to another, and go from one place to another because of the barricades laid on the roads. On top of all, there lacks the safety of the gold shops.

Consequently, the daily business of 50 visses (a viss equals 1.6kg) of gold was earlier done in the market. Now, about five or ten visses are only being traded daily.

“The gold market is being excellent with some buying a piece of gold instead of depositing the cash in the bank. The market also could not sell many gold visses when many people could not buy even a tiny piece of gold.

A portion of gold means ten ticals or 20 ticals (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms). Now, about five or ten viss are only being traded daily, he clarified.

Besides the transportation problems, the raw materials have become scarce because of fewer supplies from gold mining and the old gold scraps are refined into pure gold bars, according to YRGEA.

“The raw materials do not enter from outside. The old gold scraps sold to the gold shops are refined into pure gold bars. There is no outside raw material. There are many checkpoints on the road, and the traders dare not come. The cash is not easy to transfer from the bank recently,” said U Myo Myint.

At present, the pure gold price is about K 1,442,500 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) on 17 April in the domestic market, while global gold price touches a high of above US\$ 1,780 per ounce.

Further, the dollar to kyat exchange rate was at K 1,570 per dollar on 27 April.

Therefore, the global gold versus dollar exchange rate remains skyrocketing. The domestic gold price will be still as high as the worldwide gold price and dollar exchange rate, according to the YGEA. — NN/GNLM



The daily business of 50 visses (a viss equals 1.6kg) of gold was earlier done in the market. Now, about five or ten visses are only being traded daily.

Sagaing region grows more than 50,000 acres of summer paddy this year

MORE than 50,000 acres of summer paddy were cultivated in the Sagaing region this year, said U Aung Kyi Win, the deputy head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

“We have expected to cultivate over 60,000 acres of summer paddy in the Sagaing region this year. Now, over 50,000 acres of paddy have been cultivated, while the remaining acres have been targeted to grow at the end of this month.

“We have cultivated more than 300,000 acres of summer paddy when we have accessed the irrigation water from the Thaphanseik dam.

“For lack of access to irrigation water from Thaphanseik dam this year and last year, the corps -- summer sesame, green gram, sunflowers which require less water are grown instead of summer paddy. The

summer paddy was grown in those townships which have access to irrigation water,” said U Aung Kyi Win.

The Sagaing region was targeted to grow over 60,000 acres of summer paddy. It started growing in the first week of February 2021. So far, over 50,000 acres of paddy have been grown, while the remaining acres will be cultivated not later than April.





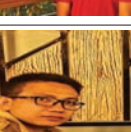
Last year, the Sagaing region grew more than 300,000 acres of summer paddy using the water from Thaphanseik dam.

This year, the summer paddy could not be cultivated for a lack of irrigation water. Therefore, it will grow more monsoon paddy.


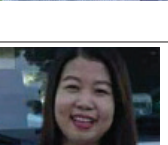
More than 60,000 acres of summer paddy will be grown in Sagaing, Myaung, Budalin, Yinmabin and Pale townships this year. — Lulay/GNLM


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 Moe Moe Hsan (Professor)	Yangon General Hospital	Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
2	Dr Yi Yi Aung (Professor)	Yangon Eye Hospital	Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Dr Kyaw Lin Thu (Assistant Surgeon)	Mawlamyine General Hospital	South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Dr Pyae Hmu Khin (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
5	Dr Han Lin Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Shwegu Hospital	Shwegu Town, Kachin State	505-a	
6	Dr Swe Swe Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
7	Dr Sai Tin Tun Win (Assistant Surgeon)	Pungpahkyen Station Hospital	Pungpahkyen Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
8	Dr Khin Myo Nwe (Specialist)	Shwebo Hospital	Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
9	Dr Kyaw Thura (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
10	Dr Myat Myo Kyaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	

Among them, Dr Khin Myo Nwe (Specialist) of Shwebo Hospital and Dr Kyaw Thura (Assistant Surgeon) and Dr. Myat Myo Kyaw of Kengtung General Hospital participated in CDM activities without performing medical treatments at assigned hospitals but gave medical treatments at private hospitals/clinics according to the documentary photos.

Sr	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Dr Kaung Myat (Medical Superintendent)	Nyaungshwe Hospital	Nyaungshwe Town, Shan State (-South)	505-a	
2	Dr Aye Thida Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Shwegu Hospital	Myintkyina Town, Kachin State	505-a	

3	Dr Kyaw Zin Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Bogone Station Hospital	Shwegu Town, Kachin State	505-a	
4	Dr Zin Bo Oo (Assistant Surgeon)	Kyongadat Station Hospital	Thanbyuzayat Town, Mon State	505-a	
5	Dr Khant Ko Ko Zaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Myawady Hospital	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
6	Dr Wai Yan Oo (Assistant Surgeon)	Katha Hospital	Katha Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
7	Dr Aye Sanda Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Katha Hospital	Katha Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
8	Dr Aye Chan Maung Maung (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
9	Dr Moe Lwin (Specialist)	Shwebo Hospital	Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
10	Dr Myint Htwe (Specialist)	Shwebo Hospital	Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	

Among them, Dr Aye Chan Maung Maung (Assistant Surgeon) of Kengtung General Hospital, Dr Moe Lwin (Specialist) and Dr Myint Htwe (Specialist) of Shwebo Hospital participated in CDM activities without performing medical treatments at assigned hospitals but gave medical treatments at private hospitals/clinics according to the documentary photos.

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those medical doctors charged, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those medical doctors, and work licences of the private hospitals/clinics which allowed them to give medical treatments will be closed.

Deterrent action will be taken against owners of these hospitals/clinics under the law. Action will be taken against any health staff under the law for taking charges of providing healthcare services to the people and giving assistance to private hospitals/clinics with participation in CDM activities without discharging assigned duty.











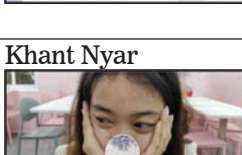







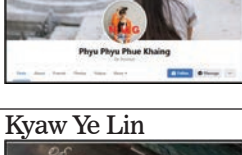
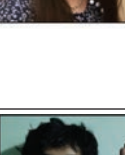







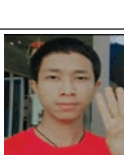



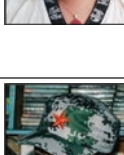

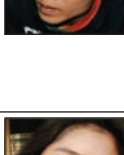
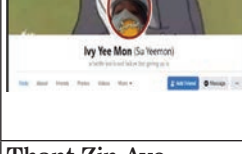
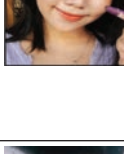

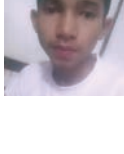


Severe action will be taken against owners of private hospitals/clinics which admit those medical doctors and health staff for supporting the CDM participants.

—MNA

Student union members from universities/colleges/schools opened files under 505-a for their intentional incitements to undermine State peace and stability through social networks

- The following members of the student unions and other related persons, who committed incitements to public service personnel for joining CDM activities with attempts to undermine the State administrative machinery, published topics and fake news supporting unlawful CRPH association, carried out instigation for causing unrests with deterioration of peace and stability in the country and public panic, intentionally posted and distributed acts of social punishment through social network pages were filed under Section 505-a of the Penal Code.
- Action will be taken against those who admit those crime breakers, and more information about those who committed similar cases will be released.

Members of Student Union were filed under Section 505-a

Sr	Account Name	Profile	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Ko Zay Yar Min https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100056369073505	Zay Yar Min 	Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
2	Khant Htoo Aung https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010165603704	Khant Htoo Aung 	Zayathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
3	Sithu Aung https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009524918322	Si Thu Aung 	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Chaw Su San (Barigit) https://www.facebook.com/chawhsu.san	Chaw Su San 	Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
5	Saw Thiha https://www.facebook.com/saw.thiha.73	Saw Thiha 	Pyay Township, Bago Region	505-a	
6	Khant Nyar https://www.facebook.com/khant.nyar.1656	Khant Nyar 	Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
7	Thaw Lwin Aung https://www.facebook.com/pharmonic.mardaygar	Thaw Lwin Aung 	Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
8	U Sein Phyto Han https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100004049720766	Sein Phyto Han 	Taikkya Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
9	Phyu Phyu Phue Khaing https://www.facebook.com/phyue.phue.96199344	Phyu Phyu Phue Khaing 	Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
10	Alex's Buddy (Ko Kyaw) https://www.facebook.com/alex.kristen.908	Kyaw Ye Lin 	Paung Township, Mon State	505-a	
11	Kaung Htet San https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10001	Kaung Htet San 	Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region	505-a	
12	Nay Myo Naing https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010707829224	Nay Myo Naing 	Kamayut Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
13	Zaw Zaw Lin https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100022872361643	Zaw Zaw Lin 	Mohnyin Township, Kachin State	505-a	
14	Zay Ya Htoo Mg https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100024960007361	Kaung Zay Ya 	Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
15	Shin Min Han https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009558492226	Han Myo Tun 	Hpa-an Township, Kayin State	505-a	
16	Zarni Myat Lynn https://www.facebook.com/people/Zarni-Myat-Lynn/100015934299237/	Zarni Myat Linn 	Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
17	Lvy Yee Mon https://www.facebook.com/su.y.mon.1447	Su Yee Mon 	Yangon Region	505-a	
18	Thant Zin Aye https://www.facebook.com/thantzin.aye.5209	Thant Zin Aye 	Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
19	Thakhin Kodaw Phyo https://www.facebook.com/phyomin.khant.921	Phyo Min Khant(a) Phyo Ko Ko 	Paukkaung Township, Bago Region	505-a	
20	Wai Phyo https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009951275244	Wai Phyo 	Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	

Stressing diplomacy, Biden says not seeking conflict with China, Russia

US President Joe Biden said Wednesday he was not seeking conflict with China or Russia as he put a renewed focus on diplomacy in his first address to Congress.

In a speech focused on selling major investments at home, Biden told lawmakers who months earlier had dodged a deadly insurrection that they needed to show democracy can work.

"We're in a competition with China and other countries to win the 21st century," Biden said, warning: "Autocrats think democracies can't compete."

Biden said he told President Xi Jinping in a two-hour first phone

conversation after taking office: "We welcome the competition -- and that we are not looking for conflict."

"But I made absolutely clear that we will defend America's interests across the board," he said.

"America will stand up to unfair trade practices that undercut American workers and industries, like subsidies for state-owned enterprises and the theft of American technologies and intellectual property," he said.

"I also told President Xi that we will maintain a strong military presence in the Indo-Pacific just as we do with NATO in Europe — not to start a conflict but to prevent one,"



Joe Biden stressed diplomacy in his first address to Congress as US president, saying he is not seeking conflict with China or Russia but emphasizing American democratic values. **PHOTO: AFP**

Biden said to applause from an unusually small audience due to Covid restrictions.

In an aside that was not in prepared remarks, Biden noted his extensive dealings with Xi when both were vice presidents

-- and warned that China's most powerful leader in years had firm plans for the future.

"He's deadly earnest on becoming the most significant, consequential nation in the world," Biden said. —AFP ■

Moldovan leader dissolves parliament, sets July elections

MOLDOVA'S recently-elected and pro-European President Maia Sandu on Wednesday dissolved parliament and scheduled fresh elections for July, bringing to a head a dispute

with lawmakers loyal to her predecessor.

Sandu, 48, defeated the country's Russia-friendly incumbent Igor Dodon in a surprise victory in November, but has been locked in

a power struggle with parliament, which is largely comprised of lawmakers loyal to Dodon. Wedged between Ukraine and NATO member Romania, Moldova has long been divided over closer ties with the European Union or maintaining traditional ties with Moscow. Sandu told reporters at a briefing Wednesday evening that she had just signed an order to dissolve parliament and that elections were scheduled for July 11. "We must as soon as possible get rid of this corrupt parliament, whose deputies defend shady schemes and steal from citizens," she said.

"We must elect a new parliament, form a compe-

tent government, return the country to normalcy," Sandu added. Her order was made possible by a decision earlier Wednesday from the constitutional court to lift a state of emergency introduced by lawmakers this month in relation to the coronavirus pandemic. The court had earlier ruled in favour of disbanding parliament, but the ruling could not be enacted by Sandu while the state of emergency was in place.

The centre-right politician who previously worked for the World Bank said the current government must allocate the necessary funds to ensure the holding of the elections. —AFP ■



Sandu told reporters at a briefing Wednesday evening that she had just signed an order to dissolve parliament and that elections were scheduled for July 11. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iran audio leak sought to sow 'discord' amid nuclear talks: Rouhani

AN audiotape of Iran's top diplomat bemoaning the military's influence was leaked to sow "discord" during talks on reviving an international nuclear deal, President Hassan Rouhani said Wednesday, after the recording stirred domestic controversy.

Media outside Iran published the audio of Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, triggering a heated debate inside the country ahead of presidential

elections.

Talks in Vienna aim to get the United States to return to the agreement it abandoned under former president Donald Trump and lift sanctions, and to bring Iran back to full compliance with nuclear obligations it retreated from in response.

Rouhani said the audio was leaked just as the Vienna talks were "at the height of their success, so that it creates discord inside" the



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani attends a cabinet meeting in a handout picture provided by the presidency on April 28, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Islamic republic.

"We can only lift sanctions through unity," the president said.

Zarif has been under fire since the audiotape emerged on Sunday, with comments he made about Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the Revolutionary Guards' foreign operations arm who was killed in a US air strike last year, hitting a nerve.

"In the Islamic republic the military field rules," Zarif said in the recording, quoted by the New York Times. "I have sacrificed diplomacy for the military field rather than the field servicing

diplomacy."

Without directly referring to the leak, the Guards' commander Major General Hossein Salami on Wednesday praised Soleimani for having possessed the "art of bringing diplomacy to the service of the field".

In comments reported by Guards' website Sepah News, Salami said he considered diplomacy without military power to be only "sounds and words".

The Guards and their foreign operations arm the Quds force were "building this power", he said. —AFP ■

NY trial over US Capitol riot tests freedom of expression limits

FREE speech may be sacred in the United States but calling for the killing of US lawmakers on social media is unlawful, a New York jury ruled Wednesday after a weeklong trial that revisited the January 6 riot at the Capitol.

The federal trial, the first related to the storming of Congress by supporters of ex-president Donald Trump, was viewed as a test case for the limits of freedom of expression protected by the First Amend-

ment of the US constitution.

After just three hours of jury deliberations, Brendan Hunt, a 37-year-old court employee who uses the alias "X-Ray Ultra," was found guilty of threatening to murder elected officials including Democratic congressional leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, and progressive congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

He was convicted of an "intent to impede, in-

timidate and interfere" with the performing of their official duties, specifically Congress's vote on January 6 that confirmed President Joe Biden had won November's election over Trump.

Hunt was also charged with "intent to retaliate" over the electoral college vote count, which affirmed that Trump would have to leave the White House after just one term. —AFP ■

Aung La loses Light Heavyweight title with ONE's unanimous decision



Aung La N Sang tries to choke on Reinier De Ridder in the fifth round of their ONE Light Heavyweight title clash at Singapore Indoor Stadium on 29 April 2021. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

THE Burmese Python, Aung La N Sang, lost his ONE Championship Light Heavyweight belt after facing against his rival Reinier De Ridder of the Netherlands in the main event of ONE Championship TNT IV at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore yesterday.

The bout was a real thriller with no win or loss result until the last minute fight. Thus, three judges of the ONE Championship made their unanimous decisions to declare Reinier De Ridder as a winner.

Aung La N Sang came in the ring full of his confidence plus stamina. At the same time, his opponent De Ridder showed up with his fabulous grappling and Jujitsu skills throughout the fight.

Aung La N Sang got a chance to knock out

the Dutchman just before the round one fight, but his punches and kicks over a long distance were not enough to finish the bout.

De Ridder relied on Jujitsu and grappling power over Aung La in the remaining rounds. However, Aung La took care of every step to show up; he can block every grab and choke of the Dutch fighter.

In round five, De Ridder tried to choke on Aung La but failed to finish the submission as Aung La again dominated the Dutchman in the final minutes of the sweaty fight.

The fight just finished with an unclear result, but judges made unanimous decisions to nominate Reinier De Ridder as the ONE Championship Light Heavyweight Champion.

—GNLM ■

Monterrey, Portland score late to salvage ties in CONCACAF Champions League

TWO Major League Soccer teams earned stunning first leg ties in the CONCACAF Championship League quarter-final series on Wednesday as the US clubs try to break a Mexican stranglehold in the tournament.

Both contests were decided by late goals, with the Liga MX giants CF Monterrey tying their game against Columbus Crew 2-2 in second half stoppage time and the Portland Timbers levelling their clash with Club America 1-1 by scoring in the 97th minute. Jose Alvarado scored in the 93rd minute on a leaping header that came off a long cross by Colombian Dorlan Pabon. In the other quarter-final first leg contest on Wednesday, Timbers' Felipe Mora scored on a penalty kick to earn a 1-1 tie at Providence Park in Portland Oregon.

The Crew were down early



Columbus Crew's Pedro Santos got on the scoresheet against CF Monterrey during a 2-2 draw in the quarter-finals of the CONCACAF Champions League. **PHOTO: AFP**

but clawed their way back into it and controlled much of the play at Historic Crew Stadium. They outshot Monterrey 15-10 overall and took four corners to just two for their opponents.

It wasn't enough to escape

with the victory, but it gave Columbus a glimmer of hope that they might be able to finally break through against a Mexican club that has asserted its dominance in CONCACAF Champions League. —AFP ■

Ancient Egypt martial art enthusiasts eye Olympic status

EGYPT'S tradition of tahtib (stick fighting), popular at festivities and dating back at least 5,000 years, has become a modern martial art that enthusiasts hope will eventually make it to the Olympics.

French-Egyptian Adel Paul Boulad, who for some 15 years has been the driving force behind modern tahtib, calls the push a "unifying project" and a "cultural revolution".

The modern practice "is an updated sports version of a multi-millennial art", said the 69-year-old martial arts teacher.

"It is a sporting practice that is codified, structured... and which spans the entire history of Egypt," he told AFP.

In traditional tahtib, popu-

lar in Egypt's rural south, two men perform a dance while wielding bamboo-like rods, in a face-off somewhat resembling a fencing duel.

Folk musicians with loud drums accompany the performance, which is popular at weddings and festivities, and pump up the crowd encircling the men, who don traditional galabeya robes. The UN cultural agency UNESCO in 2016 listed the martial art as "intangible cultural heritage of humanity".

'Get moving'

France-based Boulad, who was also behind tahtib's UNESCO candidacy, formalized its intricate moves and broke it down to 12 forms -- the equivalent of katas in Japanese martial arts. —AFP ■

South Korea's Park sets early pace in bid for Singapore treble

SOUTH Korea's Park In-bee overcame steamy conditions to lead the HSBC Women's World Championship first round with an eight-under-par 64 as she seeks her third title in Singapore on Thursday.

Despite confessing she does not enjoy the heat, the reigning Olympic champion showed she was still one for the big occasion as she signed for a bogey-free card, marked by eight birdies.

The tournament, cancelled last year because of the pandemic, is the first event on any international golf tour in Asia since the Asian Tour's Malaysian Open in March last year.

"I don't like the heat but that doesn't mean I'm going to play badly. It was quite a distraction obviously with the hot weather as I was really

trying to concentrate on playing golf," said Park.

Park's husband and coach Nam Gi-hyeob is on her bag as she bids to complete her treble in Singapore, having won twice at the Sentosa Golf Club in 2017 and 2015.

"I'm going to give him 10/10 for what he's doing for me especially under such tough conditions this week. I'm really thankful he's here. I don't need anything. I just need him next to me, carrying the bag, that's all," she added.

Park, who got her LPGA season off to a flying start with a wire-to-wire victory at the Kia Classic last month in California, carded her first birdie on the par-four third before adding three more birdies on holes five, seven and eight. —AFP ■



Park In-bee was the first-round leader at the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore. **PHOTO: AFP**