

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 17, 10<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tagu 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Thursday, 6 May 2021

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
 State Administration Council  
 Order No 119/2021  
 9<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tagu 1383 ME  
 5 May 2021

## Transfer and Reformation of Union Ministry

The State Administration Council transferred and reformed the General Administration Department to the Ministry of Home Affairs from the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, according to Section 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe  
 Lieutenant-General  
 Secretary  
 State Administration Council

# Solar system benefiting rural people residing in off-grid areas

**M**YANMAR emphasizes the improvement of the renewable energy sector by generating 60.3 per cent of electricity from hydropower, 35.6 per cent from natural gas and 4.1 per cent from solar, coal and diesel up to the end of 2020.

According to the data, a target was set to increase 12 per cent electricity generation from renewable energy in 2025.

In so doing, the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation takes responsibilities for rural electrification in the villages, the off-grid areas.

Rural electrification has been implemented since the 2012-2013 financial year. Up to 2015-2016 financial year, a total of 4,807 villages could be electrified across the nation using renewable energy such as solar, small-scale hydropower and biomass with 30 megawatts of installed capacity.

Setting an aim to electrify the whole country in 2030, a US\$90 million loan was borrowed from the World Bank through the international development association-IDA loan for

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According to the data, a target was set to increase 12 per cent electricity generation from renewable energy in 2025. **PHOTO: MEI EAIN (RURAL)**

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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

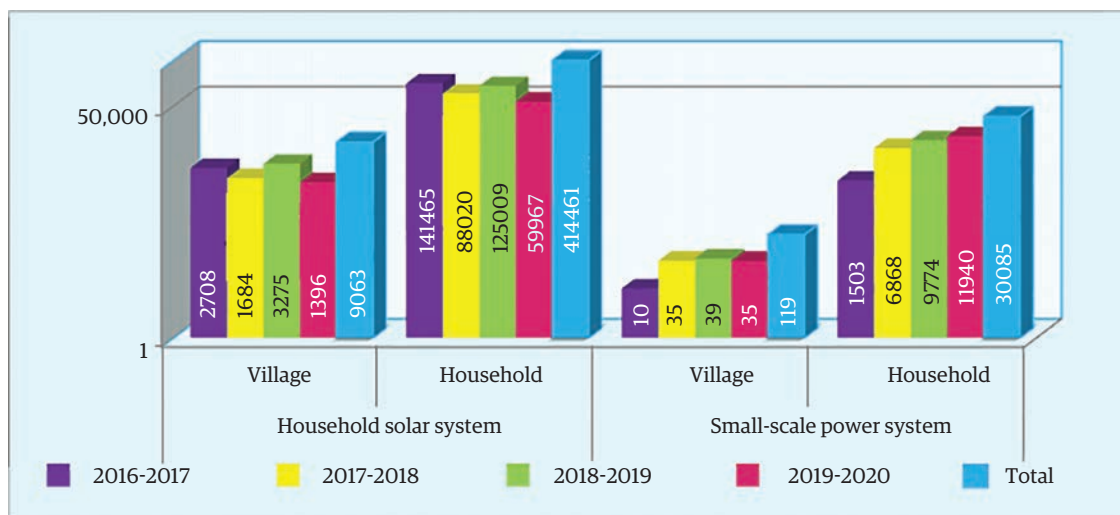
1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure 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.

## Solar system benefiting rural people residing ...

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implementation of the NEP-national electrification plan (off-grid) in addition to the State budget and contributions of the people.

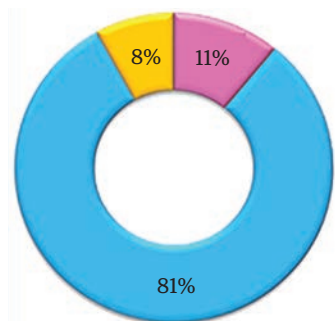
The small-scale power project based on less than 1-megawatt renewable energy was implemented in the 2016-2017 budget year. During the period from 2016-2017FY to 2019-2020FY, 414,461 households from 9,063 villages were electrified through the house-



tion reached 43.956 megawatts.

The projects were implemented with the World Bank loan, the State budget, public contribution, the euro 30 million loan from Italy, euro 9 million assistance from KfW and euro 4.87 million for technical assistance from GIZ and the New Zealand government.

Currently, the off-grid electrification project benefited some 2.22 million people. In 2020-2021FY, the household solar system will be implemented to benefit 48,974 houses from 757 villages, while 17 small-scale solar power projects will be undertaken with 4,704 sets of public solar systems. —Mei Eaint (Rural)/GNLM



- Energy availability grade-1 {household solar system (30 watts/45 watts)}
- Energy availability grade-2 and -3 {household and public-used solar system (60 watts-475 watts)}
- Energy availability grade-3 and grade-4 {small-scale power system}

hold solar system, 59,807 sets of the public solar system installed at the schools, dispensaries, religious schools and lamp-posts, solar, hydropower and paddy husk-fired power facilities at 99 project sites and some 30,085 households from 119 villages. In the projects, the installed capacity of electrifica-



## 16 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 May, total figure rises to 142,874

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,874** after **16 new cases** were reported on 5 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **131,999** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,210 after one died.—MNA

## Plans are underway to fulfil the needs for the betterment of sports grounds

THE government needs to fulfil the requirements of the people for their health and fitness. Moreover, public awareness for the health sector must be undertaken persistently.

The Senior General noted that relevant ministries must strive for improvement of the sports sector. Plans are underway to fulfil the needs for the betterment of sports grounds which plays a crucial role in holding the sports competitions.

*(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)*

## Public Information

WHILE the State Administration Council is performing tasks according to provisions of the State of Emergency, it is found that some unlawful organizations and news agencies are broadcasting, through illegal satellite dishes, programmes of TV channels and contents in order to harm State security, the rule of law and community peace and tranquillity, and abet those who commit high treason and betrayal to the State.

Those who install the illegal satellite dishes to watch the TV may unwillingly break the existing laws and rules enacted with the aim of ensuring the good deeds of the people.

As such, the information is released in advance with goodwill that those who install the satellite dishes to watch such kinds of TV programmes will face action under the law with one-year imprisonment or K500,000 as a fine.

Ministry of Information

# First Meeting of Procurement Committee on Medicines and Medical Equipment for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment held

THE 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Procurement Committee on Medicines and Medical Equipment for COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Treatment was held at Office No 1, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations yesterday morning. The meeting was attended by U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of Procurement Committee, the Committee Members and representatives from concerned ministries.

In his opening remarks, the Union Minister expressed that due to the situation of Covid-19 last year, the committee activities were mainly focused on prevention, control and treatment measures and now the situation is improving compared to the previous year. He urged the Committee needs to refine its strategies and priorities to meet the current requirements. He recalled the Committee work done on implementation of CERP through fiscal and financial stimulus programmes to recover the national economy from the reversed impact of the Covid-19.

He also shared some major points of the Myanmar Eco-



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo chairs the first meeting of Procurement Committee on COVID Medicines and Medical Equipment yesterday.

nomical Recovery Plan (MERP), which is under consultation with relevant ministries aiming to speed up economic recovery actions of the country's economy.

Then, the Union Minister highlighted to undertake prompt actions by developing preparatory work programmes for prevention and control measures of the pandemic since the serious impact of Covid-19's third wave suffered in neighbouring coun-

tries and, to provide the necessary supports to Ministry of Health and Sports for medicine and medical equipment with proactive and timely manners.

He also underscored the roles of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations to support the cooperation with bilateral and multilateral development partners to manage loans, grants

and technical assistance effectively.

Following this, the committee members explained and discussed the status of logistics works for the distribution of medicine and equipment to the whole country, the progress on the procurement of medicine and medical equipment in line with CERP action plans, and updating on loans, grants and technical assistance received

from development partners and the future plan for additional purchasing of medicine and medical equipment not only for current active cases but also for preparatory works for the third wave of Covid-19.

The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Minister and senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.—MNA

# PhD, final-year, master courses (written test) reopened

THE Ministry of Education re-opens the universities, degree colleges, colleges and institutes for PhD courses, master's studies (written test) and the final year on 5 May. The ministry reopened 134 universities, degree colleges and colleges under the Department of Higher Education—49 arts and science universities, degree colleges and colleges, 60 technological studies and computer studies and 25 education degree colleges for PhD courses, master's studies (written test), master's degree courses, second-year and

third-year honours, final-year courses and second-year educational diploma courses, postgraduate degree courses and masters' final-year classes being conducted under human resources development programmes, another 70 Government Technological Colleges, AGTI and the Government Technical High Schools under the Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training for the final year of three-year diploma courses of AGTI and second-year courses of the two-year study of GTHS following the COVID-19 health

rules yesterday. The students are satisfied with the reopening of universities to grab their opportunities for learning and jobs. The teachers also made preparations for teaching on 3 May. — MNA

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rules yesterday. The students are satisfied with the reopening of universities to grab their opportunities for learning and jobs. The teachers also made preparations for teaching on 3 May. — MNA

# Financial management supervision refresher course for higher education sector held



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe remarks on the financial management supervision refresher course yesterday.

THE Ministry of Education, Higher Education Sector (Arts and Science Universities, Education Degree Colleges) Financial Management Supervision Refresher Course of was held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe said the purpose of the training is to improve the quality of financial management activities in the respective departments. The staff responsible for the financial management activities must carry out according to the financial regulations. It is necessary to effectively and efficiently use the permitted funds, he added.

Deputy Minister Dr Zaw

Myint gave a speech on improving the quality of financial management operations.

It is reported that the training is divided into three subjects: Planning and Budgeting, Financial Management, and Financial Rules and Regulations. The training will be conducted on 5 and 6 May.

The ceremony was attended by the Union Minister for Education, the Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, trainees in charge of finance from the universities and education degree colleges, promoted financial management heads and relevant officials. — MNA

# Security measures conducted to ensure community peace

TATMADAW, Police Force and Fire Brigade jointly conducted 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 Toungoo Town, Bago Region.

# MoSWRR Union Minister meets Wa, Palaung self-administered zone administration bodies' chairpersons



The MoSWRR Union Minister holds talks with the Chairpersons of the Wa and Palaung Self-administered Division/Zone yesterday.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine received Chairman of Wa Self-administered Division Administration Body U Nyi Nup and Chairman of Palaung Self-Administered Zone Administration Body U Tar Thein Zaw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

discussed land use permit to establish the offices of the social welfare department and natural disaster management department in these two self-administered areas, estimated budgets for hilly regions, priorities to appoint residents as new staff, food aids for the refugees in Pa-

laung Self-Administered Zone, resettlement programmes after closing IDP camps and preparations to reopen the preschools.

Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khine, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General and other officials were also present at the meeting. — MNA

## The Announcement International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Yangon, Myanmar The Opening of the University for Academic Year 2021-2022

THE International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University will be opened on 1 June for the academic year 2021-2022. Therefore, all the students who are admitted to attend the University and those students who have passed the respective classes are required to report to the University Registrar's Office, not earlier than 20 May and not later than 30 May 2021.

The foreign students are requested to bring with them a proper medical certificate recently taken from any recognized medical authorities certifying physical and mental fitness. Moreover, it is required that the students must present COVID-19 test RT-PCR certificate with the negative result on arrival at the Yangon Airport and, after that, the 10-day facility or hotel quarantine will be imposed.

The local students are required to bring with them a proper medical certificate recently taken from their respective Region/ State/Township medical authorities certifying that they have undergone the COVID-19 test RT-PCR certificate with the negative result, or COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates, and report to the University Registrar's Office, not earlier than 20 May and not later than 30 May 2021.

Those students, who arrive here later than one week after the opening date of the University, will not be accepted for this academic year 2021-2022.

The International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University

## Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 180,000 outpatients

MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states are giving medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 185,579 outpatients and 4,014 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 8,659 major operations and 4,420 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 11,278 babies to

date. Of those, 4,474 cases are done in the caesarean section and 6,804 cases in ordinary delivery.

Moreover, Mon State Fire Brigade members collectively donated blood for monks, military members, police, and locals, who took treatments at the military hospital in Mawlamyine Town, Mon State, to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade yesterday morning.

South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko



The Coastal Region Command Commander is presenting foodstuffs to nun at the military hospital.

Maung and Mon State Fire Brigade officials offered words of encouragement to those who

donated blood and provided blood donors with nutritious foodstuffs and medicines (ton-

ic).

Similarly, Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Saw Than Hlaing and party encouraged the officers and other ranks, who had treatments at the military station hospital in Dawei Town, Taninthayi Region and gave foodstuffs to them.

In addition to providing medical care to patients in need of hospitalization, Tatmadaw is making arrangements for the well-being of hospitalized patients and caregivers. — MNA

## About 100,000 fingerlings released into Lake Reed in Chin State



The departmental staff released 100,000 fingerlings including 80,000 fingerlings of golden mirgal and 20,000 fingerlings of swamp barb.

A ceremony to release fingerlings into the Lake Reed was held at the lake's beach on 5 May.

The Lake Reed, also known as the heart-shaped Reed lake, is located near Reedkhorda town in northeastern Chin State. The fingerlings were poured into the lake to enrich sustainable fish resource and ensure sufficiency of the local consumption.

At the ceremony, U Zaw

Lwin Oo, the head of the Fisheries Department in Chin State, explained the intention to release the fingerlings into the lake.

Together with the head of department, U Naing Win, the head of Falam District Fisheries Department, U Chit Hla Aung, the chair of Chin State Fisheries Federation, U Shwe Maung, the secretary of the Federation, U Ram Nae Zuu,

the township administrator of Reedkhorda town and the departmental staff released 100,000 fingerlings including 80,000 fingerlings of golden mirgal and 20,000 fingerlings of swamp barb.

The Reed Lake is situated between Chin and Indian mountain ranges. It is located in the north of Reedkhorda, a small town that lies near Myanmar's northwestern border with India.

The natural lake is 2,966 feet high above the sea level. The famous heart-shaped lake is 832 acres wide and has a 2.5 mile circumference with over 50 feet in depth. This lake is a popular destination for both the domestic and foreign travellers.

Chin State Fisheries Department releases the fingerlings into the Reed Lake annually. — Reedkhorda IPRD/GNLM

## Yankin children's hospital provides regular medical treatments

THE Yankin Children's Hospital is providing 24-hour medical treatments to patients in the relevant medical departments, including the outpatient department.

The hospital has been operating with 480 medical staff, including specialists before and since the last week of April.

Medical care and regular immunization services are

provided regularly with 175 medical staff, including 27 doctors. At the beginning of March, around 20 to 30 patients were admitted to the hospital per day. After April, more than 50 patients were admitted to the hospital per day.

It is reported that the outpatient department is open till 4 pm and inpatients will be accepted for treatments starting from 5 May. — IPRD/GNLM



The hospital has been operating with 480 medical staff, including specialists before and since the last week of April.

## Announcement of Union Election Commission

### 4 May 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 Tiddim and Tonzang townships of Chin State.
- 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	140 polling stations in Tiddim township of Chin State	56,764	58,567	3,259	620	7,102
2	83 polling stations in Tonzang township of Chin State	17,827	17,416	1,226	90	1,608

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Tiddim and Tonzang townships of Chin State 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 223 polling stations in these two townships took out 97,912 ballots and used 56,981 ballots. It left 37,910 ballots instead of 40,931 ballots. The difference was 3,264 ballots and it found 243 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	Tiddim	140	71,271	41,417	29,854	27,258	2,752	156
2	Tonzang	83	26,641	15,564	11,077	10,652	512	87
	Total	223	97,912	56,981	40,931	37,910	3,264	243

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

- According to the inspection, 140 polling stations in 8 Wards and 55 Village-tracts of Tiddim Township in Chin State took out 71,271 ballots and used 41,417 ballots. It left 27,258 ballots instead of 29,854. 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	66,400	41,310	25,090	22,498	2,748	156
2	Township Advanced ballots	171	107	64	60	4	
3	Township Remaining ballots	4,700		4,700	4,700		
	Total	71,271	41,417	29,854	27,258	2,752	156

- The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. There were 2,748 missing ballots and 156 extra ballots. They withdrew 171 township advance ballots and used 107. It found 60 remaining ballots and so 4 ballots were missing. The numbers of remaining ballots at township election sub-commission and the finding of inspection team were conformity with 4,700.

- When the withdrawals, used and remaining ballots were inspected, it found only used ballots of No (1) polling station in Kyein Pee Kwut Village-tract, No (1) polling station of Dan Pee Village-tract and No (1) polling station of Khein Zan Village-tract and the used and remaining ballot books and voter list Form (1) were found missing.
- It found only the name of voters on 107 ballot receipts of township advance ballots without any signatures, polling station numbers and ward/village-tract names.
- Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Sakaw Road Ward	4	4,000	2,266	1,734	832	902	
2	Myoma Ward	3	2,800	1,700	1,100	1,100		
3	Lwebwar Ward	3	2,550	1,670	880	780	100	
4	Laylone Ward	2	1,200	910	290	290		
5	Kattel Village-tract	4	2,750	1,684	1,066	1,066		
6	Kagin Village-tract	1	50	18	32	32		
7	Kyeinpi kwat Village-tract	3	1,350	405	945	295	650	
8	Kwaylan Village-tract	2	300	138	162	162		
9	Kheinzang Village-tract	5	1,350	816	534	484	50	
10	Khawsat Village-tract	3	800	401	399	399		
11	Ganngine Village-tract	2	650	375	275	275		
12	Ganline Village-tract	1	300	242	58	58		
13	Ngalzang Village-tract	4	650	293	357	306	51	
14	Sezang Village-tract	1	600	450	150	150		
15	Saingzang Village-tract	3	2,300	1,591	709	809		100
16	Swaungzang Village-tract	2	1,150	665	485	435	50	
17	Swaungsan Village-tract	3	950	607	343	343		
18	SwaungPi Village-tract	2	1,250	735	515	515		
19	Swaungpe Village-tract	1	450	368	82	80	2	
20	Zeinpi Village-tract	1	250	169	81	81		
21	Tetlwe Village-tract	2	950	593	357	357		
22	Tonezang Village-tract	2	1,600	926	674	674		
23	Twalmu Village-tract	2	300	147	153	153		
24	Twehtang Village-tract	3	2,200	1,402	798	798		
25	Tweetaw Village-tract	1	350	228	122	122		
26	Tweedi Village-tract	3	1,300	812	488	488		

27	Tweepi Village-tract	2	400	209	191	141	50	
28	Htazang Village-tract	2	700	410	290	280	10	
29	Htarmwat Village-tract	2	650	452	198	198		
30	Htokeline Village-tract	1	550	269	281	281		
31	Htanzang Village-tract	1	350	237	113	113		
32	Deinpi Village-tract	1	800	545	255	155	100	
33	Dangpi Village-tract	3	1,050	579	471	221	250	
34	Dawlwin Village-tract	8	3,300	1,956	1,344	1,184	160	
35	Patzang Village-tract	1	600	430	170	170		
36	Pingpi Village-tract	2	650	388	262	262		
37	Pangsats Village-tract	3	1,250	950	300	304		4
38	Funwan Village-tract	5	1,800	925	875	724	151	
39	Phineyar Village-tract	1	700	428	272	272		
40	Vagwan Village-tract	2	1,300	776	524	474	50	
41	Bante Village-tract	2	1,250	951	299	299		
42	Bwinman Village-tract	4	550	256	294	294		
43	Bwonli Village-tract	1	200	117	83	83		
44	Bomzang Village-tract	1	200	133	67	67		
45	Bwin Village-tract	1	750	487	263	263		
46	Bokephi Village-tract	3	1,200	782	418	468		50
47	Mwallone Village-tract	3	1,000	596	404	403	1	
48	Mwalbin Village-tract	3	1,400	661	739	741		2
49	Mwezaw Village-tract	1	450	339	111	111		
50	Lanzang Village-tract	2	1,300	875	425	425		
51	Leinkhaing Village-tract	2	500	241	259	259		
52	Lineloe Village-tract	2	1,500	1275	225	220	5	
53	Linnetwee Village-tract	4	3,000	2,167	833	833		
54	Linelwee Village-tract	2	1,050	590	460	410	50	
55	Linebone Village-tract	3	550	320	230	230		

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56	Waungmwar Village-tract	1	100	54	46	46		
57	Haylay Village-tract	1	800	561	239	239		
58	Haukpi Village-tract	1	450	276	174	174		
59	Anlant Village-tract	2	1,050	850	200	188	12	
60	No (1) Ward ,Khaingkan	1	750	527	223	223		
61	No (2) Ward ,Khaingkan	1	400	269	131	41	90	

62	No (3) Ward ,Khaingkan	1	550	311	239	235	4	
63	No (4) Ward ,Khaingkan	1	900	507	393	383	10	
	Ward/village -tract ballots	140	66,400	41,310	25,090	22,498	2,748	156
	Township Advanced ballots		171	107	64	60	4	
	Township Remaining ballots		4,700		4,700	4,700		
	Township Total	140	71,271	41,417	29,854	27,258	2,752	156

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

10. According to the inspection, 83 polling stations in 4 Wards and 31 Village-tracts of Tonzang Township in Chin State took out 26,641 ballots and used 15,564 ballots. It left 10,652 ballots instead of 11,077. 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	25,500	15,551	9,949	9,531	505	87
2	Township Advanced ballots	41	13	28	21	7	
3	Township Remaining ballots	1,100		1,100	1,100		
	Total	26,641	15,564	11,077	10,652	512	87

11. The extra/shortage ballots were found at 83 polling stations in 4 Wards and 31 Village-tracts of Tonzang Township. There were 550 missing ballots and it found the use of 87 extra ballots in each ward/village-tract. They withdrew 41 township advance ballots and used 13 ballots. It found only 21 remaining ballots instead of 28 ballots and so 7 ballots were missing. The numbers of remaining ballots at township election sub-commission and the finding of inspection team were conformity with 1,100.

12. The bag containing the used, remaining ballot books and Form (1) for Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and State Hluttaw of No (3) polling station in Su Pee village of Syaung Pet Village-tract was found missing.

13. Therefore, the inspection team contacted to the poll head of No (3) polling station. The poll head returned the bag kept at the basic primary school of Su Pee village to the township election sub-commission on 12-4-2021 and the inspection team examined the bag on 15-4-2021 in front of the relevant officials.

14. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Khawwone/Laysan Ward	2	2,550	1,799	751	751		
2	Khawline/Goesan Ward	1	800	553	247	247		
3	Gemwa Village-tract	2	350	177	173	173		
4	Seinpye Village-tract	2	900	536	364	364		
5	Sipet Village-tract	3	400	197	203	203		
6	Sazan Village-tract	2	700	429	271	271		
7	Senan Village-tract	2	300	112	188	143	45	
8	Sebauk Village-tract	7	1,450	838	612	612		
9	Swaungpet Village-tract	9	2,450	1,336	1,114	1,116		2
10	Tonetwaung Village-tract	2	600	305	295	247	48	
11	Phinetu Village-tract	1	600	448	152	152		
12	Barbe Village-tract	3	500	284	216	216		
13	Mwapi Village-tract	1	600	416	184	184		
14	Linhnakwat Village-tract	2	250	108	142	142		
15	Lamhtan Village-tract	1	700	497	203	169	34	
16	Hankin Village-tract	2	600	293	307	307		
17	Anlung Village-tract	1	200	134	66	66		

18	No (1) Ward KyeeKhar	1	850	514	336	336		
19	No (2) Ward KyeeKhar	1	750	510	240	240		
20	Kantsauk Village-tract	3	800	497	303	303		
21	Khawben Village-tract	2	400	216	184	134	50	
22	Ganpone Village-tract	1	150	71	79	79		
23	Saipimual Village-tract	2	350	175	175	175		
24	Swaungzang Village-tract	3	500	271	229	179	50	
25	Zangpi Village-tract	4	800	488	312	312		
26	Tongkyin Village-tract	2	400	224	176	206		30
27	Tweetwan Village-tract	3	800	318	482	332	150	
28	Tweeman Village-tract	2	950	736	214	214		
29	Tweemwee Village-tract	3	900	592	308	308		
30	Darkhai Village-tract	3	1,200	849	351	223	128	
31	Panmwel Village-tract	1	250	132	118	118		
32	Bapi Village-tract	1	250	143	107	107		
33	Lonetat Village-tract	1	350	199	151	151		
34	Haikyin Village-tract	6	1,700	1,094	606	661		55
35	Haipi Village-tract	1	150	60	90	90		
	Ward/village -tract ballots	83	25,500	15,551	9,949	9,531	505	87
	Township Advanced ballots		41	13	28	21	7	
	Township Remaining ballots		1,100		1,100	1,100		
	Township Total	83	26,641	15,564	11,077	10,652	512	87

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

## Aviation services need to conscientiously abide by health guidelines for Covid-19

AVIATION service cuts the time of transportation for passengers and cargos and charges the largest amount of fee from users. But, most of the passengers wishing to travel anywhere, including the affordable persons, prefer to use the aviation service because of the aforesaid advantages.

As such, the aviation service is the most popular among other transportation services such as road transport by vehicle, rail transportation by train and waterway transport by vessel.

The government suspended the aviation services of both the State-owned Myanmar National Airlines and the private-run airlines during the highest level outbreak of Covid-19 in Myanmar in early 2020. When the risks of the pandemic gradually plummeted down in the nation, the government eased restrictions for transport services, including the aviation service except for relief flights.

In May 2021, domestic airlines are being operated to give transport services to the passengers. In this regard, Myanmar National Airlines and Air KBZ resumed aviation services, while GMA and Mann Yadanarpon Airlines fly the route between Yangon and Sittway. Air Thanlwin Airlines commenced its service of some flights on 1 May. MNA and Air KBZ give aviation services to passengers from Yangon to some major cities of regions and states centring in Yangon. The Ministry of Health and Sports stated that the passengers from domestic flights do not need to receive the Covid-19 test but abide by other health guidelines. However, they will be allowed to take the flight if they are free from all symptoms of Covid-19 infection.

Myanmar National Airlines and Myanmar Airways International provide Covid-19 test to passengers for relief flights to Bangkok, Singapore and those from the domestic flights at the cargo warehouse of the Yangon International Airport and National Health Laboratory starting from 10 February.

Although the government eases the restrictions for the Covid-19 pandemic, the passengers need to conscientiously follow the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports how to prevent the infection of the pandemic.

As part of efforts to mitigate the casualties in the outbreak of Covid-19, all the people, including passengers of various transport services, need to follow the prescribed health guidelines without fail.

## Sixtieth anniversary of first (manned) space flight and overoptimistic past predictions regarding human space travel

By Dr Myint Zan

### SUCCESS of Ingenuity helicopter on Mars and reason to be proud of it

On 19 April 2021, the *Ingenuity* helicopter became the first object made on Earth by 'earthlings' to fly on the surface of the planet Mars at the height of about ten feet and 'flying time' about 39 seconds. 'The Red planet' is currently (and according to an online information source) over 179 million miles from the Earth. Perhaps thousands of persons contributed to this success, but it would be appropriate to mention (as many news items do mention) with pride that a Myanmar-American, Dr Mimi Aung was the project manager of the *Ingenuity* 'extraterrestrial helicopter activity' so to speak. **Start of the Space Age and a few of the Soviet Union's firsts**

Just over sixty years earlier, on 12 April 1961, the late Yuri Gagarin (9 March 1934-27 March 1968) (of the then Soviet Union) became the first person to reach Space inside the spacecraft *Vostok 1* doing a full, single orbit of the Earth in about 108 minutes from Space and returning safely to the Earth.

The 'Space Age' can be said to have started just over three and a half years earlier when *Sputnik 1* (an unmanned but human-made satellite) became the first 'vehicle' to reach Space on 4 October 1957.

The (then) Soviet Union was also the first to put a living creature (a canine) into Space when the dog Laika was sent into Space on 3 November 1957 on *Sputnik 2*, a mere four weeks after the successful launch of the 'rider-less *Sputnik 1*. When the spacecraft *Sputnik 2*, which carried Laika into Space, reached back to the Earth, Laika has already expired. One wonders (but one doubts it) whether the use of a 'pioneering animal' into Space in 1957 was required to go through an 'animal ethics board' by the Soviets.

The Soviet Union also put the first woman in Space when Valentina Tereshkova (born 6 March 1937) became the first woman in Space on 16 June 1963, orbiting the Earth 48 times in the spacecraft *Vostok 6*. **The Race to the Moon and only (so far) 12 American**

### males setting foot on the Moon

But in the all-important 'Space race' to reach the Moon, it was the then rival of the Soviet Union who obtained first 'prize' in that between 20/21 July 1969 to 16/17 December 1972, the United States was the only country to land men (they were all Americans and they were all males) on the Moon. On 20/21 July 1969, astronauts the late Neil Armstrong (5 August 1930-25 August 2012) and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin (born 20 January 1930) became the first and second humans respectively to step foot on the Moon from the lunar module of the spacecraft *Apollo 11*. In the next three years and five months, ten more American astronauts, all of them males, walked on the surface of the Moon. A few of them even (briefly) played golf and drove the 'Lunar Rover' on the Moon.

The main purpose of this article, though, is to narrate and comment on what the writer recalls from his firm memory predictions in the past from a few sources regarding (manned) or, to be politically correct 'piloted', 'crewed' or 'personed' space travel.

**Nearly Correct Predictions (of 1959) regarding moon landing and 'gloriously wrong' predictions regarding human settlements on the Moon**

*Time* magazine (established 1923) published a special edition with a cover story regarding the first moon flight in July 1969. From this writer's firm memory there was an article by the late science-fiction (and at times science writer) Arthur C. Clarke (16 December 1917-19 March 2008) and *Time* magazine wrote to the effect that Arthur C. Clarke had, in June 1959, predicted that by June 1969 humans would land on the Moon (thus missing the actual achievement only by a month).

This writer also clearly recalls that in the same issue of *Time* magazine, there was a 'graphic' or a sketch of human settlements on the Moon by the year 1975! (In 1969, the year 1975 was not that far into the future, but even then, *Time's* editors could perhaps—and in retrospect-tempered their optimism.)

Just five years before 1969, in

a novel published in the year 1964 titled *2001 A Space Odyssey* (in 1968 it became a movie), Arthur C. Clarke envisaged (shall we say—at least in retrospect-whimsically) that by the year 2001, there would be human children born on the Moon who had never been to Earth! One could defend or 'indulge' Arthur C. Clarke in that his essentially correct prediction of 1959 regarding Moon landing ten years later was made quasi-scientifically. In contrast, Clarke's 1964 statement of children born on the Moon was made in a science fiction novel.

A more realistic albeit not prediction but arguably a projection regarding humans re-travelling to the Moon was made in late December 1972 (not in a science fiction novel) but by a spoke person of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). After the last Apollo mission (Apollo 17) to the Moon returned to the Earth on 19 December 1972 the NASA spoke person stated that the earliest 'return to the Moon' could only be made at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, i.e. about 30 years into the then future (from 1972). It is now more than 48 years from that (in retrospect) somewhat (though not wildly, see below) optimistic prediction.

Over 30 years after NASA's statement that a return to the Moon 'at the earliest at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century was made, in retrospect, an unfulfilled plan was announced by then United States president George W. Bush (born 6 July 1946) in the year 2005 to send humans back to the Moon by 2017.

Contemporaneously in early 2021, there are talks about (tentative?) plans to send the first woman to the Moon. In this regard, the writer also quite clearly recalls that in a news item probably published around July 1968 and reproduced in the English language now-defunct newspaper *The Guardian* (of Rangoon, Burma) an astrologer (not an astronomer) predicted that the first person to 'set foot upon the Moon' would be a pregnant American woman! (In contrast to other news items-see below-I cannot search this news item, but I can vouch that I recall reading it all those decades ago).

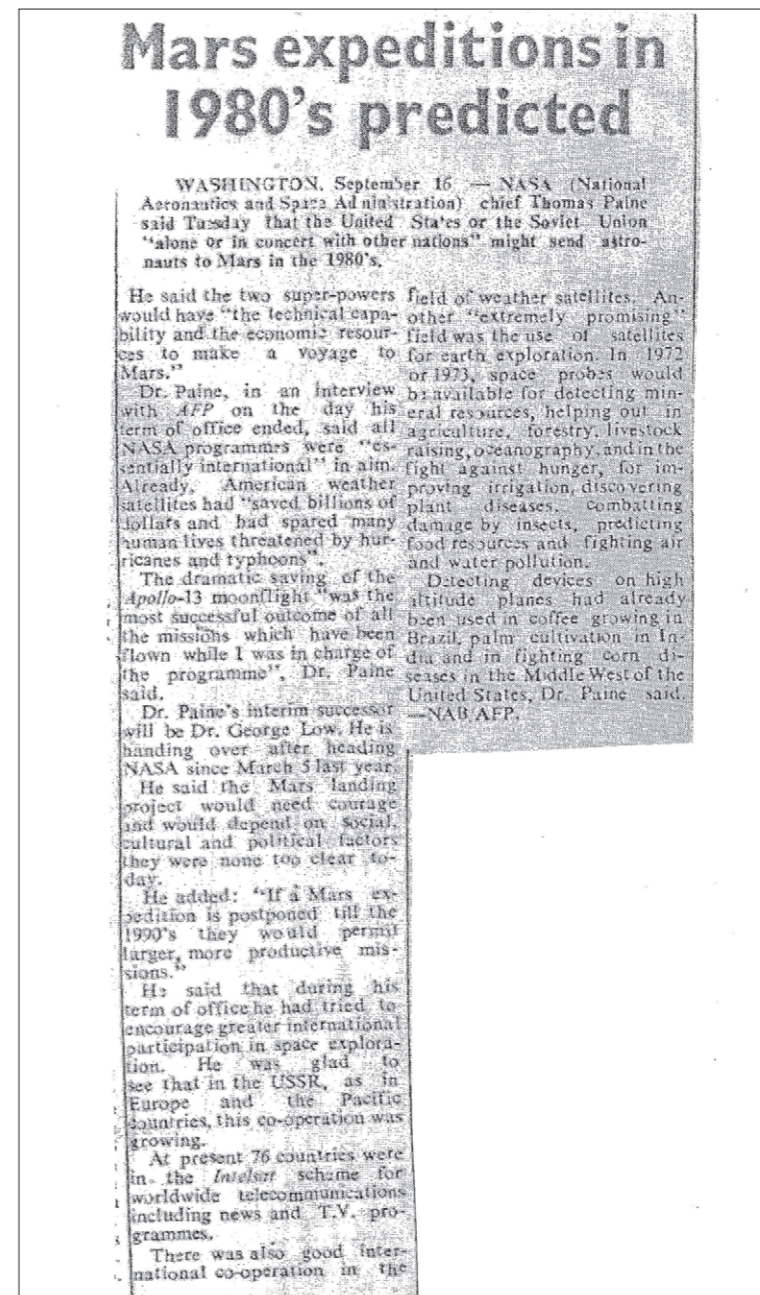
Enough of the predictions regarding (re)travel or reaching the Moon again, and let's have a look at the prediction of humans (not merely human-made space crafts see below) travelling to the planet Mars.

**Predictions of humans 'travelling to Mars' 'by the 1980s' in the 1970s**

In the flush of the success of the two initial moon landings of July 1969 and November 1969, the *National Geographic* magazine published in Volume 136, No. 6 (December 1969) a cover story 'First Explorers on the Moon' (This special commemorative edition is available for purchase for US 325 dollars from amazon.com). In that issue, it was stated that an envisaged future travel to Mars in 'October 1983' (less than 14 years into the future from December 1969) could take place when the planetary alignments of Mars and the Earth are in advantageous positions for humans (not merely robots or space crafts) to travel to Mars.

As a compensatory mechanism for that 'non-event,' while I was in the United States, in December 1983, I bought and read the book (not science fiction) *Mission to Mars: Plans and Concepts for the First Manned Landing* (first published September 1983) by James Oberg (born 7 November 1944) (a 2017 reissue of the book is available from amazon.com starting from about 24 US dollars). James Oberg, who had worked with NASA for 22 years, envisaged (I would for now eschew the word 'predicted'), in 1983, a manned landing on Mars could take place 'by the turn of the [21<sup>st</sup>] century. Paraphrasing but not approving the catch-phrase that the phony-actor-turned-US President Ronald Reagan (6 February 1911-5 June 2004) used in his debate with the then Democrat presidential nominee, the late Walter Mondale (5 January 1928-19 April 2021) in October 1984 (.. 'there you go again): 'Here [we] go again [with our optimistic predictions]'.

A news item dated 16 September 1970, reproduced in *The Guardian* (Rangoon) newspaper of 17 September 1970, had the title 'Mars expeditions in the 1980s predicted' [sic, i.e. exactly as it is written]. The first sentence of the news item reads:



A news item of *The Guardian* (of Rangoon, Burma) on 17 September 1970.

Washington, 16 September [1970] NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Chief Thomas Paine said Tuesday that the United States or the Soviet Union "alone or in concert with other nations" might send astronauts to Mars in the 1980s.

A web search indicated that former NASA administrator Thomas Paine (9 November 1921-4 May 1992) had passed away (without seeing his expectations regarding human travels to Mars).

(In May 2011 at the National Library of Australia in Canberra, I was able to download microfilm of that news item which as reproduced is quite unclear, but I will attach it here)

Also, in January 1970, Arthur C. Clarke wrote a short story, 'Transit of Earth', which was first published in 1971 and republished in the May 1984 issue

of *Omni* magazine in the United States. The short story was set in the year 1984, where a crewed mission to Mars takes (or took) place and where an astronaut was 'stranded on the surface of Mars and left to die there on the Red Planet. In a preface to the republication in May 1984, Clarke wrote:

If you read this story in May 1984, go outside at midnight and look up at that brilliant red beacon in the southern sky. Think of what might have been if not for Vietnam and Watergate. (*Omni* magazine, May 1984, page 73)

What Clarke meant by that statement was that the political events in the United States, such as the Vietnam war and Watergate affair, which ended in 1975 and 1974 respectively, hindered -perhaps- humans from landing on Mars as he (in a short story)

and other scientists (in predictive and hoped-for statements) had made in the 1970s. But what about James Oberg's statement of 1983 that a manned mission to Mars might be possible at the 'turn of the century, which is now more than 20 years in the past? Were (are) there political (in addition to very formidable technological) causes, reasons indeed difficulties for the non-fulfilment of those expectations?

This writer clearly recalls reading Arthur C. Clarke's short story at a Los Angeles kiosk around May 1984. The felicitous facilitated by the world wide web, so to speak, are such that within a minute of google search, this writer was able to re-read, in early April 2021, Arthur C Clarke's 1984 preface to 'Transit of Earth' and later re-read the short story online.

This writer has stated his non-optimism regarding humans travelling to the planet Mars which in the Solar System has the least dissimilarity (or most similarity) with Earth. In an article published in 1995 in the *New Straits Times* (Malaysia) I wrote that even 20 years after the 1983 manned expedition to Mars (and around the time of James Oberg's envisaged manned landings on Mars in the year 2003 a crewed mission to Mars would not take place. Disappointingly this writer's guess has been proven right.

**Not putting in abeyance achievements regarding space travels, vehicles and a helicopter on Mars**

On 17 November 1998, at the Asia Pacific Economic Council (APEC) summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia then the United States Vice President Al Gore (born 31 March 1948), in a speech at the APEC dinner, praised the 'brave people of Malaysia right here, right now' who were then making demands in street demonstrations for *Reformasi* (Reformation). Paraphrasing Al Gore (in a very different context), the writer expresses his admiration and gives his tributes to the achievements as a result of human perseverance (pun in a good sense intended), ingenuity (pun in a good sense intended, see above and below), dedication and efforts being 'demonstrated'

'right now' on the planet Mars though not 'right here' on Earth. I refer to the very successful, creditable and praiseworthy of course sans 'without'- human drivers) that landed on Mars on 18 February 2021. And just over 2 months later, human-made helicopter *Ingenuity* flew (for the first time) on the planet Mars on 19 April 2021.

One does not know (off-hand) whether human artefacts (vehicles, machines etc.) are more numerous on the surface of the Moon or on the surface of Mars. The presence of these vehicles and machines on the Moon and on Mars itself is significant, noteworthy achievements

The fact that the writer has emphasised in this article the unfulfilled human (rather than robotic) exploration of the Moon and Mars as predicted or 'predicated' going back to the past five decades is not an indication, indeed should not be taken as a reflection of the writer's pessimism as such. Admittedly, in a certain sense, as far as future predictions concerning human space travels are concerned, it is largely a past-oriented article re-narrating past predictions mainly for the purpose of reflecting on them.

On the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first human space flight and the *Ingenuity* helicopter currently on Mars, the writer gives his tributes to the tens of thousands of women and men cosmonauts, astronauts, scientists from many disciplines from cosmology and cybernetics to electronics to Earth and planetary sciences to human social psychology as well as the physicists, physicians, engineers, biologists and chemists (the list is non-exhaustive) and many others in all relevant fields who have made contributions to facilitate space travel of the past six decades.

*Dr Myint Zan, a retired Professor of Law has an interest in general science matters, including space travel. He has established a Myint Zan prize in the Philosophy of Science in perpetuity for undergraduate philosophy students at one of his alma maters, The Australian National University.*

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# Lawsuit filed against former ministers, officials under Anti-Corruption Law

LAWSUITS were filed in the Monywa myoma police station yesterday against former Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing; former Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport U Than Nyunt Win; former Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Oo; former Minister for Sagaing Region Chin Ethnic Affairs U Lal Htaung Htan; former Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Kam Zar Mon; Staff Officer of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department U Wai Lin Hlaing and General Administration Department Staff Officer U Myat Thant Sin, under the Anti-Corruption Law.

According to the findings of the Anti-Corruption Commission, the former Sagaing Region Chief Minister during his tenure, leaked information on tender floor prices in the 2020-2021 FY, which violated the rules and regulations of the capital-intensive tender and sixty-six projects

with a tender value of 20,000 million kyats won the tenders according to the original floor price.

In calling for tenders to be carried out with the Region Fund for the 2020-2021 FY, former Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Oo and Staff Officer from the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department U Wai Lin Hlaing and Staff Officer from the General Administration Department U Myat Thant Sin concealed the report of the investigation team so that no action can be taken under the Anti-Corruption Law against the receiving money for the tender information.

He also received money to allow a person to use a total of 5.78 acres of land owned by the Department of Fisheries in the Sagaing Region, causing a loss of the state-owned land worth of a minimum of 289 million kyats to a maximum of 867 million kyats.

He asked a business owner in Monywa to donate a HIJET vehicle worth 11 million kyats to be used at the Myitta Yeik Women's Home, established by him and allowed to build the house for the Women's home manager on the 2.85 acres without having any permission from the Central Committee for Management of Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands.

He failed to comply with the rules and regulations of the Myanmar Mining Law and Rules and allowed to operate without collecting pre-payment taxes for 243 small blocks and 47 blocks among the gold blocks permitted between the 2018-2019 financial year and 2019-2020 financial year. A case has been filed against Former Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law after the investigation revealed that the State lost more than 2,900 million kyats in revenue.

In calling for tenders of the

Sagaing Region Rural Road Development Department with 2020-2021 fiscal year regional fund, Chairman of the Tender Acceptance and Scrutiny Committee U Than Nyunt Win (former Minister of Industry and Transport) and Former Planning and Finance Minister U Soe Oo who was the tender floor price calculated behalf of the former Chief Minister were found guilty for leaking the tender information, causing loss to the State. A case has been filed against them under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law.

Former Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Kam Zar Mon; former Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Oo; and former Minister for Sagaing Region Chin Ethnic Affairs U Lal Htaung Htan were found guilty for failing to provide systematic supervision on Dr Myint Naing, who failed to comply with the rules and regulations of the Myanmar Mining Law,

which caused more than 2,900 million kyat-loss to the State. A case has been filed against them under Sections 55 and 63 of the Anti-Corruption Law. Staff Officer U Wai Lin Hlaing, PSO of the Livestock and Irrigation Minister (former) of the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management, told a company owner about the tender floor price and received a bribe of 900 lakh kyats four times under Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law.

A case has been filed against U Wai Lin Hlaing under Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law for receiving a bribe of 90 million kyats after telling a company owner about the tender floor price. A case has been filed against Staff Officer U Myat Thant Sin under Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law to get a bribe of 3 per cent of the business if the company he told the floor price won the tender. — MNA

## Terrorist groups commit violent acts with grenades, handmade bombs, mines

THE terrorist groups throw and plant handmade bombs at state-owned buildings, some houses and on public roads.

Meanwhile, the explosion occurred at Myoma Market in Thaton Township of Mon State at 5:55 pm on 4 May, in No (2) B.E.H.S compound at Their Gone Ward at about 7:50 pm, in front of B.E.H.S (Tamway) on Kyaikkasan road in Natmauk Ward of Tamway in Yangon Region at 5:40 am on 5 May, at No (16) Ward Administration Office of Hline Township at 5:50 am, at the house of U Sai Linn Zaw located in Khine Shwe street of No (11) Ward in Hlinethaya (west) Township at 5:55 am, on YBS (30) at Phone Gyi Kyaung Gway bus-stop at the corner of Kyansitthar and Rajadhirit streets in No (7) Ward of Dagon Myothit (east) Township at 7:30 am, at No (32) B.E.H.S in Taguntine Ward of Pyigyitagun Township of Mandalay Region at 7:30 am, at the house of township administrator in Okpo No (1) Ward of Paungde Township at 10:10 am,

at B.E.H.S (Padigone) of Chanmyathayar Ward of Padigone of Thegon Township at 10:15 am, in the compound of No (2) B.E.H.S in Pakokku Township in Magway Region and at gem trading office in Daywun East Ward of Mahaaungmyay Township in Mandalay Region.

The security forces conducted security measures at these places after the explosions.

Similarly, on 4 and 5 May, police force members received information that handmade bombs were planted near Myoma police station of Mudon Township, USDP office front in No (18) Ward of Toungoo Township of Bago Region, near Institute of Agriculture in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, former township education office in Thanlyin Township of Yangon Region, near Namati township police station in Mogaung Township of Kachin State and so they kept the bombs.

Moreover, a handmade bomb exploded on the vehicle



Handmade bombs explode in Thaton.



A grenade attack on Mudon Myoma police station.

of security forces which conducted a patrol in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, and two security members were injured and the vehicle damaged.

About ten terrorists (under scrutiny) fired at the house of Myo Twin village adminis-

trator in Paungde Township of Bago Region and ran away. No one was injured or killed.

The security forces conduct investigations to take action against those who commit such destructive cases under the law. —MNA

## Three men killed in handmade bomb explosion in Magway

THREE men, including one suspect, who was charged under the Penal Code Section 505-A, died during the blast of a handmade bomb in Gangaw Township of Magway Region on 4 May.

Wai Yan Aung, 30, who lives in Myoma Ward of Gangaw Township, went to the house of U Myint Than by motorcycle together with U Myint Than and U Min Soe from Taung Pyin Village. Then, he opened the toolbox to take the pork. Meanwhile, the handmade bomb used in the riot exploded, and the three men died on the spot.

Wai Yan Aung, a fugitive, was prosecuted under Section 505-A of the Penal Code at the regional police station. However, he was still at large before the incident. The police will investigate that case. — MNA

## Terrorists set fire to primary school in Ingapu, Ayeyawady region



Ravages are seen after terrorists set the primary school on fire in Ingapu.

TERRORISTS set fire to the primary school in Tawshay village in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 4 May.

The incident happened at around 2 am, and the villagers extinguished the fire.

Due to the arson attack, the

one-storey school building was destroyed, and an investigation is underway to take action under the law. — MNA

## Security forces seize weapons used in riots in Yangon, Bago regions

SECURITY forces found and seized weapons to be used in riots in Yangon and Bago regions on 4 April.

Upon information received, security forces inspected No (14) Basic Education Primary School compound in Zay ward in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region, confiscated 5 iron shields, 4 plastic shields,

27 bulletproof vests and one fibre helmet.

Similarly, according to the report, the security forces confiscated 14 anti-state articles, 6 plastic helmets, one gas mask, one pair of glass and 350 anti-State slogans in the No (2) Basic Education High School in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

On the same day, Aung Thike Soe, son of U Tun Hla, was arrested together with one homemade gun and materials used in riots in Thapyaytan village, DaikU Township, Bago Region.

It is reported that those who hide the weapons to be used in riots will be taken action under the law. — MNA



Seized weapons and items to be used in riots.

## One man arrested for anti-State slogans at school front in Mandalay

ONE man was arrested for putting anti-State slogans in front of the No (20) Basic Education Middle School yesterday morning in Pyigyitagun Township, Mandalay Region.

Tun Myo Aung, 19, son of U Tun Tun, who lives in Thinpankone ward and two other men, were found putting anti-State slogans on the school's

entrance gate while security forces were patrolling in the township.

It is reported that action will be taken against the perpetrators, who write anti-State texts on public places and state-owned buildings, spread the slogans and papers on the streets in order to destabilize the country. — MNA



An arrestee is seen along with anti-State slogans.

## One man injured as police disperse crowd in Magway

THE security forces dispersed the rallying crowd near Phaya Taung Village in Pauk Township of Magway Region on 4 May.

The police followed those who committed incitements to unrest riots, threatened the public and urged the government employees to join CDM and they arrested three men, including U Kyaw Soe, who lives in Yay Pyar Village.

Moreover, about 300 people attacked the vehicle of security members with catapults, jingalis, bricks and other materials near Phaya Taung village on Pauk-Pakokku road in the evening. The security

members dispersed the crowd with riot weapons and arrested ten men, including Naing Win from Phaya Taung village. Two vehicles of security forces were damaged during the case.

About 400 rioters surrounded the Yay Pyar police station shouting for the release of detainees at about 5:25 pm. Then, the police dispersed the rallying crowd and detained six men. One of the suspects, Kyaw Zin Latt (under scrutiny) was injured and taken to Pakokku Hospital.

The detained persons will face legal action under the law. — MNA

### Daily Newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper](http://www.issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper), [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper)

News and Periodicals Enterprise

## Bearish sentiment still strong for domestic rubber price

MON State's rubber market data showed the price of domestic natural rubber remained low at K740-830 per pound in a sluggish market.

The natural quality rubber was priced at K750 per pound in late January 2021. It reached K950-980 per pound (for RSS1 and RSS3) in the second week of March 2021, following positive global cues. The price is in bear market trends at present on the back of weak demand.

Usually, Myanmar's natural rubber price is tracking the global rates, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA) stated.

The pandemic hinders international producers. Consequently, natural rubber prices went into the bear market in 2020. However, the natural rubber hit up to K1,000 per pound at the end of 2020.

Myanmar's rubber is priced lower than the international rate owing to raw material variability. Rubber price stood at US\$2,600



Rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar.

per tonne in 2020-end in global market, whereas Myanmar rubber fetches only \$2,100 per tonne.

Myanmar's rubber body is endeavouring to export its natural rubber with a country of origin labelling to external markets. Nevertheless, illegal exports are happening, and it contributes to revenue losses. Thailand is buy-

ing Myanmar's natural rubber at a reasonable price through the black market in Phayathonzu, Kawthoung and Myeik towns. As a result of this, the government needs to control illegal rubber exports strictly, MRPPA stated.

Additionally, natural rubber is estimated at K1,300 per pound in Thailand. In contrast, Myan-

mar's rubber is priced about K400 lower than their prices, market's data showed.

Myanmar's rubber has raw material variability, and it may lead to quality compliance issues, process inconsistency, productivity problem and high input cost. Meanwhile, Thailand's rubber is priced at a premium due to its

quality and consistency. Thailand's rubber fetches US\$2,500 per tonne, while the global rate is at \$2,200 per tonne, the association reported.

Rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season's data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar; with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber made in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries, according to the MRPPA.

Myanmar yearly exports over 200,000 tonnes of natural rubber to foreign countries, generating over \$200 million. — GNLM

## Companies registered on MyCO exceed 2,000 in four months: DICA



At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, the DICA stated.

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, topped 2,000 in the first four months of this year, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies

Law 2017.

During Q1 of 2021, the number of registered companies on MyCO was 1,373 in January, 188 in February, 163 in March and 254 in April, the DICA's statistics showed.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, the DICA stated.

Last year, the figures of registered companies stood

at 1,415 in January, 1,298 in February and 1,015 in March, only 348 companies in April, 798 in May, 1,314 in June, 1,650 in July, 1,551 in August, 1,378 in September, 1,693 in October, 1,099 in November and 1,521 in December, as per statistics of the DICA.

The figure stood at 1,733 in January 2019, 1,419 in February, 1,108 in March, and over 1,045 in April, 1,411 in May, 1,307

in June, 1,428 in July, 1,302 in August and 1,181 in September. The figures reached a fresh new peak of 2,059 in October 2019. Then, 1,615 new companies in November and 1,772 in December were recorded, data of the DICA showed.

When the online registry was launched in August 2018, 1,816 new companies registered on MyCO. The figure stood at 2,218 in September 2018, 1,671 in October, 1,431 in November and 1,364 in December 2018.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies shall simultaneously submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5).

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within

28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, more than 16,000 companies were suspended as of September-end for failure to submit AR forms within the due date.

Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.





The DICA has notified that any company that fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 to restore the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the Register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/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 Nyein Htet Yan (Specialist)	Ottarathiri Obstetrics and Gynaecology Speciality Hospital	Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
2	Dr Zwe Min Aung (Specialist)	Ottarathiri Children's Speciality Hospital	Mawlamyine Town, Mon State	505-a	
3	Dr Kyaw Zin Thant (Specialist)	Ottarathiri Children's Speciality Hospital	Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
4	Dr Lily Su Myat (Specialist)	Ottarathiri Obstetrics and Gynaecology Speciality Hospital	Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
5	Dr L Jar Eain (Assistant Surgeon)	Ottarathiri Obstetrics and Gynaecology Speciality Hospital	Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
6	Dr Bo Min Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Kyaukhtongyi Station Hospital	Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	

7	Dr Maung Maung Htay (Medical Superintendent)	Patheingyi Hospital	Patheingyi Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	Dr Thet Thet Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Singu Hospital	Singu Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
9	Dr Phyo Thiha Kyaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Pakokku Hospital	Pakokku Town, Magway Region	505-a	
10	Dr Soe Moe Htwe (Kalay District Health Officer)	Kalay District Public Health Department	Kalay Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	

Among them, Dr. Thet Thet Aung (Assistant Surgeon) of Singu Hospital, Dr. Phyo Thiha Kyaw (Assistant Surgeon) of Pakokku Hospital, and Dr Soe Moe Htwe (Kalay District Health Officer) of Kalay District Public Health Department 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

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

THE following teachers 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 CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	U Saw Kyaw Thet Oo	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Bu Village) Sedoktara Township	Sedoktara Township, Magway Region	505-a	
2	Daw Khin Cho Set	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Kanyingyo) Kyaukdaga Township	Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region	505-a	
3	U Aung Phyo Wai	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (KaiOo) Pinlebu Township	Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	
4	Daw Hla Lay Sein	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEMS (Ahlechaung) Ywangan Township	Ywangan Township, Shan State (South)	505-a	
5	Daw May Thu San Aye	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Taungtha), Myingyan Town	Myingyan Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	

6	U Kaung Khant Hein	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS-Branch (Thakyin), Ngazun Township	Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
7	U Thein Tun Aung	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEMS (Wahkyunkan), Mahling Township	Mahling Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	Daw Nay Chi Htwe	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (Kantgawgon), Labutta Township	Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region		
9	U Hein Htet Aung	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (Post-Primary School), (Khokkhar) Kya-inseikkyi Township,	Phayathonzu Town, Kayin State	505-a	
10	Daw Nay Chi Aye Myint	Upper Division Clerk-2, BEHS (3) Kyaiklat Town	Kyaiklat Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those education staff charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those teachers and action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff. —MNA

# Pfizer sees Covid-19 as 'durable' revenue stream as profits rise

PFIZER sharply increased its 2021 profit projections on Tuesday, citing much higher Covid-19 vaccine sales which are on track to provide a "durable" revenue stream in the wake of the pandemic.

The drugmaker reported a jump in first-quarter profits based on surging revenues, with nearly one-fourth of sales coming from Covid-19 vaccines.

With German partner BioNTech, the pharma giant is ramping up vaccine production and now estimates 2021 revenues of \$26 billion from the vaccine, up from the \$15 billion projected in February.

But the surging profits have drawn criticism as governments face pressure to step in to ensure vaccines are provided to underserved countries.

Pfizer, which says it is on the cusp of winning US approval for individuals 12 to 15 years old to receive its vaccine, is holding talks with "basically all governments of the world" about providing booster shots through 2024, Chief Executive Albert Bourla told analysts on a conference call Tuesday.

The company is studying the efficacy of giving the jabs six or more months after the second vaccine dose, and devel-



Pfizer sharply increased its 2021 profit projections on Tuesday, citing much higher Covid-19 vaccine sales which are on track to provide a "durable" revenue stream in the wake of the pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

oping doses that could be stored at standard refrigerated temperature for up to 10 weeks. Bourla expects "durable demand" for Covid-19 vaccines, similar to that of the flu vaccine. "It is our hope that

the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will continue to have a global impact by helping to get the devastating pandemic under control and helping economies around the world not only open, but stay open," Bourla said in prepared remarks.

That would create "a scenario in which Pfizer can continue to be both a leader and a beneficiary," he said. Pfizer has won wide praise for its technological prowess in developing a game-changing vaccine in record time. However, critics called the profits troubling given the divide in vaccine availability between rich and poor countries. —AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Facebook's Workplace tool grows as jobs go remote

FACEBOOK'S Workplace business software has grown by about 40 per cent in a year to reach seven million paying subscribers as the pandemic accelerated a remote work trend, the company said Tuesday.

The service, which companies can use as an internal social network to communicate with employees, still trails behind top rivals like Teams which Microsoft says now has some 145 million daily active users.

Facebook said it has notched up some big users like Starbucks coffee chain and the World Health Organization. "We built Workplace as an internal version of Facebook to run our own company, and it was so useful we started letting other organizations use it too," Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg said in a post.

From about a year ago the number of paid subscribers has grown by 40 per cent, he added. —AFP ■

### Activision earnings boom on Call of Duty play

VIDEO game giant Activision Blizzard on Tuesday reported earnings boomed in the first quarter of this year as players spent time and money with the blockbuster game Call of Duty.

Activision said it made a profit of \$619 million on net revenue in the first three months of this year that hit \$2.28 billion, topping expectations.

"Our employees continue to demonstrate exceptional performance under challenging circumstances," Activision chief executive Bobby Kotick said in an earnings release.

Kotick added that the company is raising its financial outlook for this year. Activision shares jumped some five per cent in after-market trades that followed release of the earnings figures. —AFP ■

## Nissan to sell entire Daimler stake for \$1.4 billion

NISSAN on Wednesday announced the sale of its entire 1.54 per cent stake in German auto giant Daimler for around 1.15 billion euros (\$1.4 billion), following a similar move by its French partner Renault.

The Japanese automaker has been trying to become profitable again and recover from

the reputational damage caused by the departure of its now-fugitive former leader Carlos Ghosn.

Nissan said the divestment will allow it to "further strengthen and enhance its business competitiveness, including investments to promote electrification".

Its industrial cooperation with Daimler re-

mained unchanged, the company said, adding: "The two groups continue to collaborate in several areas".

In March, Renault also announced the sale of its entire 1.54 per cent stake in Daimler after the French automaker booked a record loss in 2020, its performance hit by the pandemic.

Nissan has upgraded its full-year forecast, projecting a net loss of 530 billion yen (\$4.8 billion) for the fiscal year to March, smaller than its earlier estimate.

Nissan, which has maintained its partnership with Renault and Mitsubishi, will announce annual results next week. —AFP ■

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The above trademark is in respect of "Tobacco; smoker's articles; matches" International Class 34.

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P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.  
Phone: 01-8372416

Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

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# G7 talks vaccines after pleas to help poor

THE Group of Seven wealthy democracies will discuss coronavirus vaccines Wednesday as they face growing pressure to share stockpiles and know-how with poor nations trailing far behind on fighting the pandemic.

Foreign ministers of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States are wrapping up three days of talks in central London that will set the agenda for a G7 leaders' summit next month in Cornwall, southern England.

After a day focused on showing a common front of democracies towards China, the final sessions will also bring in development chiefs and address global challenges including the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.

"A really valuable part of the G7 format is to think in the round – what do we need to do to help the most vulnerable countries



The United States said last week it was urgently shipping more than \$100 million in Covid relief supplies to India. PHOTO: AFP

around the world?" British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told reporters.

Wealthy nations have put an emphasis on Covax, a UN-backed

programme meant to share vaccines with the poorest nations.

But rich nations have also effectively elbowed out Covax in the early stages, striking their

own deals with drug manufacturers and taking the overwhelming share of the more than 1.2 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccine that have already been injected

worldwide.

Raab stressed the importance of Covax but said there was an additional question of "what we do about surplus domestic supply".

The issues are "a really good opportunity for the G7 together with our Indo-Pacific partners to talk all of that through and come up with positive answers", Raab said.

Britain invited India to the G7 talks, seeking to include a democratic ally crucial to discussions on China – but one which has been devastated in recent weeks by Covid.

## Questions on vaccine future

The United States has promised more than \$4 billion to Covax – far more than any other country – and said last week it was urgently shipping more than \$100 million in Covid relief supplies to India. —AFP ■

## Germany records post-war all-time high in far-right crime



Demonstrators gather in Berlin's Tiergarten district between the Brandenburg Gate and the Victory Column during a major demonstration for an open and caring society organized by the action group "Unteilbar" (indivisible) on Oct. 13, 2018. PHOTO: JOHN MACDOUGALL/ AFP/FILE

THE number of crimes committed by right-wing extremists in post-war Germany jumped to its highest level ever recorded in 2020, according to official figures released on Tuesday.

Police recorded 23,604 crimes of a far-right nature last year, a jump of over 5% on the previous year, and the highest figure since records began in 2001. "Right-wing extremism remains the biggest threat to our country," said Interior Minister Horst Seehofer as he presented the figures at a press conference on Tuesday. He added that right-wing violence had left a "trail of blood" through Germany in recent years, citing deadly far-right

crimes such as the murder of pro-refugee politician Walter Luebecke in 2019 and the 2020 racist attack in Hanau which killed nine people.

The 2020 figure just exceeds the previous high of 23,555, recorded at the height of the refugee crisis in 2016, while the total number of politically motivated crimes also reached a new all-time high of 44,692.

Noting that there had also been a sharp rise in the numbers of left-wing extremist and Islamist crimes, Seehofer said the figures showed a "brutalization of our society".

"They are unsettling, above all because they show that the trend of recent years is continuing," he said. —AFP ■

## Venezuela appoints new, pro-president electoral council

VENEZUELA on Tuesday installed a new national electoral council that has a majority favourable to President Nicolas Maduro's government, setting up potentially fresh barriers to opposition participation in upcoming votes.

The National Electoral Council (CNE) is one of the main obstacles in negotiations between Maduro's government and the opposition ahead of regional elec-

tions to be held before the end of the year. Many observers say the opposition will likely boycott those elections, as well.

Three of the five new members of the new CNE, elected Tuesday by the National Assembly, also controlled by Maduro's party, are considered followers of the leftist leader's mentor Hugo Chavez. The other two members are close to the opposition.

The assembly confirmed the

members with two-thirds voting in favor. Maduro's government and its allies control 256 of the 277 seats in the National Assembly after their landslide victory in December 2020. Opposition leader Juan Guaido had expressed his disapproval before the assembly vote, saying: "The result will be the same as in 2018 and 2020: non-recognition and refusal," referring to the presidential and legislative elections. —AFP ■

## Macron negotiates politically charged Napoleon commemoration

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron is to lay a wreath at the tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte to mark the 200th anniversary of his death on Wednesday after months of debate about the legacy of the country's most famous autocrat.

Macron waited until the last minute to announce his plans for the tricky bicentenary and is seeking to walk a middle path between those who wanted a celebration, and others who called for a boycott.

The famed Corsican is one of the most divisive figures in French history, his huge contribution to the creation of the modern state set against his imperialism and war-mongering.

But in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement and the emergence of a new generation of vocal anti-racism campaign-

ers in France, Napoleon's decision to re-establish slavery in 1802 has become the focus of debate. —AFP ■



Napoleon is one of the most divisive figures in French history, his huge contribution to the creation of the modern state set against his imperialism and war-mongering. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## Sri Pahan FC signs Myanmar striker Aung Kaung Marn on half-season



Myanmar striker Aung Kaung Marn seen with Malaysian Club Sri Pahan FC jersey. **PHOTO: SRI PAHAN FC**

MALAYSIAN Super League Club Sri Pahan has signed Myanmar young striker Aung Kaung Marn on a half season-long contract.

According to the football club, the team authorities officially signed Aung Kaung Marn on 5 May, and the Myanmar striker will wear a number 14 shirt for the team.

The Malaysian Super League is the highest level league in Malaysia, with 12 teams comprising. Sri Pahan FC officials are starting with quick

action for the first half of the season due to poor results after the first half.

With the opening of the mid-season transfer window of the Malaysian League, Sri Pahan FC has recruited four foreign players, including Aung Kaung Man.

Hein Htet Aung, another young Myanmar winger, who is also a friend of Aung Kaung Marn, is also playing for Ceylon Go, a Malaysian Super League team.

Malaysian clubs are interested in signing more Myanmar players this year, with two currently playing.

Aung Kaung Marn made his international debut last year and moved to the Thai League. The Myanmar forward player played for Thai League-1 Club and Thai League 2 Club in the 2020-2021 season.

He played for Khon Kaen United and parted ways with Khon Kaen FC during the football season. — Ko Nyi Lay /GNLM

## La Liga launches virus probe after Messi's Barca party

SPAIN'S La Liga is investigating whether a party organized by Barcelona players at their captain Lionel Messi's home broke Covid-19 protocol.

"We're looking into it," La Liga sources told AFP on Tuesday.

Monday's meal brought together Barca players, some accompanied by their partners, at the Argentinian star's house, despite social distancing rules in the Catalan capital outlawing groups of more than six to meet in private.

The party may constitute "a possible breach of Covid-19 protocols", the source suggested.

The purpose of the get-together according to local media was to give the team a morale boost ahead of the season run-in, with Messi's double in

Sunday's 3-2 win over Valencia leaving them two points adrift of Atletico Madrid with four games to play, and to celebrate last month's Copa del Rey triumph.

Images carried in various media showed players like Sergi Roberto and the teenager Pedri leaving Messi's house. In a video chants of 'champions, champions' could be heard.

"The public health agency will study this case and decide whether to take it any further," Pere Aragonés, vice-president of the regional Catalan government, said on Tuesday.

He added: "We call on everyone to respect the (social distancing) measures and urge those in the public gaze to be extra attentive as they can lead by way of example".

—AFP ■

## Union, Cruz Azul advance in CONCACAF Champions League

PHILADELPHIA Union reached the semi-finals of the CONCACAF Champions League for the first time on Tuesday, drawing 1-1 with Atlanta United to wrap up a comfortable 4-1 aggregate victory. Union, who had taken a commanding 3-0 lead following their first leg victory in Atlanta last week, secured a draw on the night in Tuesday's second leg with Kacper Przybylko's 88th-minute strike.

Przybylko — who bagged two goals in the first leg — was once again on hand to round off a sweeping Philadelphia counter-attack, thumping a close range finish high into the net two minutes from time. Atlanta had raised hopes of an improbable comeback after Argentine striker Santiago Sosa scored in first-half stoppage time to give the visitors the lead at Subaru Park.

But that goal was as good as it got for Atlanta, as Philadelphia dominated for long periods in the second half before finally



(R) Cruz Azul forward Bryan Angulo celebrates his goal in the Mexican club's 1-0 CONCACAF Champions League semi-final win over Toronto. **PHOTO: AFP**

grabbing an equalizer through Przybylko in the closing minutes.

Philadelphia will play either Portland Timbers or Mexican giants Club America in the semi-finals. Portland and America met in Mexico City on Tuesday, with the tie finely balanced after a 1-1 draw in the opening leg in Oregon last week. In the other half of the draw on Tuesday, Mexico's

Cruz Azul advanced safely to the semi-finals with a 1-0 win over Toronto FC at Mexico's City's famous Azteca Stadium.

Cruz Azul had all but assured themselves of a place in the semi-finals after a 3-1 win in the first leg in Florida last week, where Toronto are based this season because of Covid-19 travel restrictions. —AFP ■

## Guardiola exorcises Champions League demons to lead Man City to first final

AFTER a decade of disappointment, Pep Guardiola is back in a Champions League final and just one game away from delivering on his task to make Manchester City champions of Europe for the first time.

In the battle between two clubs with seemingly endless resources but no Champions League titles to their name, City kept their cool to beat Paris Saint-Germain 4-1 on aggregate as the French champions paid for



Riyad Mahrez scored twice as Manchester City beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-0 on Tuesday to reach their first ever Champions League final. **PHOTO: AFP**

losing their heads in both legs of the semi-final tie. Riyad Mahrez, born and raised in Paris, scored twice to secure a 2-0 win for City in Tuesday's second leg before Angel di Maria's red card for lashing out at Fernandinho rounded off another miserable European exit for the French champions.

A first Champions League final for City, against Real Madrid or Chelsea in Istanbul, is the culmination of the club's rise since an Abu Dhabi takeover in 2008

transformed their fortunes. In the coming days, they will seal a fifth Premier League title in the past 10 years.

Once dubbed the "noisy neighbours" by legendary former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, City are now not just the dominant force in Manchester but also in English football. By the end of the month, the mix of Emirati wealth and Guardiola's coaching may have also conquered Europe. —AFP ■