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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 9 May 2021

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Anti-Terrorism Central Committee Declaration of Terrorist Groups

Notification No 2/2021

12th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME

8 May 2021

The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has issued this order with the approval of the State Administration Council in exercising the Anti-Terrorism Law Section 6, sub-section (e), Section 72 and sub-section (b).

1. Unlawful Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH and National Unity Government formed by CRPH constantly incited Civil Disobedience Movement-CDM participants to commit violent acts. Many riots occurred in many places of the country due to their incitements. They perpetrated bombing, arson,

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Myanmar Medical Council Executive Committee meeting held

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the Myanmar Medical Council Executive Committee meeting held on 7 May.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said the status of the work to resume public health services throughout the country, the assistance of the ministry to those who want to return to work and the action being taken to the staff who do not return to work in accordance with the rules and regulations.

Regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, he said the incidence of the disease is rising again in neighbouring countries, and our country needs to take precautionary measures to reduce the incidence of the disease.

He also added the vaccination in regions and states. The students passed the matricula-



The MoHS Union Minister presides over the Myanmar Medical Council EC meeting on 7 May 2021.

tion exam in 2020 to the medical universities and related universities, continuing postgraduate courses at medical universities. He expressed words of thanks to the Myanmar Medical Council

for scrutinizing the Certificate of Good Standing for Myanmar doctors and the ongoing work during this period.

Chairman of the Myanmar Medical Council Professor Dr

Khin Maung Aye discussed the ongoing works of the council and the members of the council and executive members participated in the discussion.

In the afternoon, the Union

Minister and party met with the officials of the COVID-19 Medical Treatment Centre (Phaungyi) and discussed the acceptance of the COVID-19 patients and the completion of new wards.

The Union Minister expressed words of thanks to the Tatmadaw medical corps for the acceptance of the COVID-19 patients and said the purpose of his visit is to discuss to continue the medical work of COVID-19 Medical Treatment Centre (Phaunggyi) when the regular training courses are reopened at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar).

During the inspection tour, the Union Minister checked the construction of the new wards and said the ministry would provide necessary assistance as soon as possible.—MNA

To prevent the spread of COVID-19

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



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09-263147385
09-671443555
09-662443555

Mandalay
PH:09-661702244
09-661702255
09-661702277

Sales Department
PH:-09-694027866
Nay Pyi Taw
PH:09-693407494
09-693235737



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 Anti-Terrorism Central Committee Declaration of Terrorist Groups

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8 May 2021

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manslaughter, and intimidation to disrupt the state administrative machinery due to the influence of the leaders of CRPH and NUG. Moreover, NUG established People Defence Force-PDF. Violent acts occurred in the name of regional defence forces instigated by CRPH and NUG. It is found that their acts to join CDM, threatening non-CDMs, inciting students and teachers not to go to schools, supporting terrorist acts and perpetrating such terrorist acts violate Section 3 (b) and Sub-section 13 of the Counter-Terrorism Law – acts with the intent to cause fear in public, to force Government or any internal and external organization to do an illegitimate act or to refrain from doing a lawful act, and other acts, stipulated by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 23 on 4 June 2014.

2. Therefore, unlawful associations – Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH, National Unity Government-NUG, People Defence Force-PDF and all their subordinates have been declared as terrorist groups.

*Chairman
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee*

Black bean price declines by K42,000 per tonne in three weeks

MYANMAR black bean prices have declined by K42,000 per tonne in three weeks, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Depot).

Although the black bean price on 22 April was K930,000 per tonne, the price fell to about K888,000 per tonne on 8 May, a decrease of K42,000 per tonne in only three weeks, according to the bean market data.

The black bean price keeps its down-

ward trend because India, the primary buyer of Myanmar pulses, controls its bean purchasing volume with their quota system. India's purchasing system is based on the quota system. The price of beans has increased while the bean is highly demanded when India sets up the quota and issues the bean companies' licences. The price of beans will plunge while the quota is almost completed. According to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and

Sesame Seeds Merchants Association (MPBSSMA), the demand has also declined.

Myanmar yields around 400,000 tonnes of black bean annually, and the bean is primarily exported to India. Similarly, about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas are produced yearly and exported to India as well.

Since 2017, India has been setting the import quota on beans, including black

beans and pigeon peas. Myanmar has to export black beans and pigeon peas under a quota system and limit period. Consequently, according to market observers, there is no guarantee that we could get the prevailing market price this year.

Following no assurance of black beans and pigeon peas in the market, the association suggested on the end-October 2020 that the local farmers grow the black-eyed beans more. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar needs to emphasize preventive measures of COVID-19

ENCOURAGEMENT should be given to the people to take physical exercises for their healthiness. Myanmar's expected lifespan is about 66 years, which is less than those of other countries. Priority must be given to uplift the health sector for ensuring the health and fitness of the people. As the infectious rate of COVID-19 is high in some countries, including India, Myanmar needs to emphasize preventive measures of COVID-19.

(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)

MoRAC Union Minister attends religious matters

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko attended the donation ceremony of the eternal Soon endowment held at Min Kyaung Prathama Pyan monastery in Thanlyin Township yesterday.

The Union Minister and party firstly took five precepts from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member, Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Candima Bhivamsa of Min Kyaung Prathama Pyan monastery.

Then, the Union Minister briefed the religious affairs and donated the offertories and K5 million for Soon endowment to the Sayadaws.

The Union Minister then shared merits by pouring the water of libation when Sayadaw

Dr Candima Bhivamsa finished preaching sermons.

Then, the donors U Kyin Oo and Daw Chaw Su Lwin family of Popular Group donated K1 million to State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee members Sayadaws including Committee Chairman Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa and Sayadaw Dr Candima Bhivamsa at Maha Nayaka Monastery in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township.

The Union Minister and party also attended that donation ceremony.

Next, the Union Minister met the officials of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), Department of Archaeology and National Museum and State High School of Arts.



During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the reopening of schools, a significant part of human culture, cultures, language, tradition, arts and ethics, the vital role of literature

and Myanmar traditional arts.

He then instructed the needs to prepare the training schools in line with the COVID-19 health rules and provide teaching aid materials.

The diploma courses, first-year and second-year courses of the art schools are being opened, and the remaining diploma courses will be reopened on 10 May. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Than Aung Kyaw meets investors from industrial zones

DEPUTY MINISTER for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Than Aung Kyaw and member (3) of the Yangon Region Administration Council, U Aung Than Oo accompanied by the departmental officials, met with the responsible personnel from burned and damaged factories in Shwe Pyi Thar and Hlaing Thar Yar Townships in the morning of 8 May 2021.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister discussed matters regarding the import of machinery and equipment to restart the commercial operations, fire insurance coverage, employee social security benefits, facilitation entry visa for foreign investors and experts. He also mentioned the government's assistance programs to



mitigate the loss of business in accordance with the existing laws and regulations and investment facilitation matters.

After that, the investors and representatives discussed

the current issues, labour issues, financial matters and tax incentives. The Deputy Minister coordinated with the relevant departments to resolve the issues.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Minister and member (3) of the Yangon Region Administration Council attended the meeting with the officials from Myanmar Port Authority (MPA)

and responsible persons from Myanmar Mercantile Marine Development Association (MMMDA) at the office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) to facilitate the overseas shipping and container transportation.

The Deputy Minister highlighted the government's effort to reduce the high cost of trade due to the increase of containers' rental rate. He also mentioned undertaking necessary measures to provide the requirements of exporters in the peak season. Member (3) of Yangon Region State Administration Council, the officials from the MPA and the representatives of MMMDA, made suggestions to reduce trade and logistic costs.—MNA

Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi visit wood-based industrial zone in Yangon



UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi and officials visited the Wood-based Industry Department in South Dagon Wood-Based Industrial Zone, Myanmar Timber Enterprise and inspected the No (10) Furniture Factory yesterday morning in Yangon. During the visit, the General Manager of the Wood-Based

Industrial Zone explained the background history of the industry and cooperation with Prowess Myanmar Company Limited to export furniture.

The Union Minister said in resource extraction, priority is given to forest protection, and only the minimum demand is being extracted, adding exports of logs have been suspended since 2014 and logging in Bago Yoma has been suspended for ten years.

In the 2021-2022 FY, logging will be suspended for one year. For the development of the wood-based industry, more value-added wood products will be produced. The department and the company must work together in teamwork to export to foreign markets.

The Union Minister asked

about the technology of wood finishing machines, the market and current situation, and coordinated the needs.

The Union Minister visited Century Myanmar Private Limited Sawmill in East Dagon Township, inspected the operation condition of the factory and gave necessary orders.

Afterwards, he arrived at the National Wood Industry Ltd Teak processing factory, and the Managing Director of the factory explained the working condition of the factory, the current situation of Myanmar Wood-based industries, exports from Myanmar and the development of Myanmar's future Wood-based industry sector and the Union Minister coordinated as necessary. — MNA

Union Minister U Shwe Lay inspects road, bridge development works in Magway and Rakhine

UNION Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay inspected road and bridge development works in Magway Region and Rakhine State on 7 May.

During the inspection tour, the Union Minister inspected the paving of the Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myothit-Kanpya-Magway road by the Department of Roads, Nay Pyi Taw. The 22-mile section of the road will be paved with 12 to 18 feet wide concrete pavement.

The Union Minister and party checked the road pavement along the way. They arrived at Thayet Khwar Chaung bridge between the milestone 33/1 and 33/2.

They inspected the water flow under the bridge and erosion of the Box Culvert approach road and ordered to widen the existing bridge.

The construction of the 180-foot-long bridge between the milestone 62/7 and 63/0 was also inspected and instructed necessary work.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party checked the construction work of the Minbu-An road.

During the road construction officials meeting, he said among the three main gateways to Rakhine State- Minbu-An-Sittway road; Pyay-Padaung-Taungup road and Ngathinechaung-Gwa-Thandwe road; the Minbu-An-Sittway road is one of the main roads for mainland and state communication and freight flow. He added the need to widen the road's curves as it is a mountain road; to build directional signs, guard post and guard



rail; to record the data by year, and immediately widen the road, which can cause danger.

The Union Minister reached the An valley at the Rakhine State border and instructed them to pay attention to standards and quality in up-

grading roads.

In contrast, the Director of the Directorate of Roads explained the completion of the concrete pavement to the 18-foot-wide road between 151 km and 153 km.

The Union Minister also

made a detailed inspection of the strength and construction of the Thayu (Pepadone) bridge and ordered to conduct a feasibility study to construct another bridge with a load capacity of 60 tonnes near the bridge. — MNA

Onion cultivation acres may drop in next cultivation season because of plunging onion price: Onion traders

ACCORDING to the estimation of the onion traders, the acres of onion plantations are expected to drop down in the next cultivation season because of the plunging onion price this year.

The onions are primarily grown in Myittha, Myingyan and

Natogyi townships in the Mandalay region.

Earlier, the onion seeds fetched K40,000, but the growers bought and planted the seeds until they run out. But this year, the seeds of onion fetched K30,000 and there is no buyer.

“Some of the farmers are still growing the onion. But in this situation, there will be only a few growers of onion. Now, the onion seeds are selling for K30,000, but there is no buyer. The farmers could not afford to buy the seeds, and they are not planting the on-

ion yet. But they will grow the onion this year, I think. But this year, the growers will not get a good price despite the high yield. However, the onion production has improved to 3,500 visses per acre from 2,500 visses per acre,” according to the onion growers.

In the first week of May last year, the onion price was K500 per viss. But this year, the price of the onion is only K250 per viss.

This year, the farmers suffer losses because of high yield and no export to foreign countries. — Aye Maung/GNLM

Announcement of Union Election Commission 7 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 Kawthoung and Bokepyin townships of Taninthayi 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	75 polling stations in Kawthoung township of Taninthayi Region	112,589	67,416	24,679	202	6,040
2	114 polling stations in Bokpyin township of Taninthayi Region	59,099	31,412	16,900	181	3,304

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Kawthoung and Bokepyin townships of Taninthayi 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 189 polling stations in these two townships took out 185,343 ballots and used 106,818 ballots. It left 76,378 ballots instead of 78,525 ballots. The difference was 2,573 ballots and it found 426 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	Kawthoung	75	118,761	64,546	54,215	52,760	1,493	38
2	Bokpyin	114	66,582	42,272	24,310	23,618	1,080	388
	Total	189	185,343	106,818	78,525	76,378	2,573	426

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in KawthoungTownship

- According to the inspection, 75 polling stations in 12 Wards and 15 Village-tracts of Kawthoung Township in Taninthayi Region took out 118,761 ballots and used 64,546 ballots. It left 52,760 ballots instead of 54,215. The extra/shortage 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	110,950	63,122	47,828	46,373	1,493	38
2	Township Advanced ballots	1,424	1,424				
3	Township Remaining ballots	6,387		6,387	6,387		
	Total	118,761	64,546	54,215	52,760	1,493	38

- There were 1,493 missing ballots and 38 extra ballots at 75 polling stations in 12 Wards and 15 Village-tracts of Kawthoung Township. They used 1,424 township advance ballots and saved 6,387 township remaining ballots.
- Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Annawa Ward	2	2,900	1,678	1,222	1,222		
2	Bayintnaung Ward	2	3,100	1,817	1,283	1,287		4
3	Padaukshwewa Ward	3	6,050	3,501	2,549	2,554		5
4	Aungthukha Ward	4	6,700	3,579	3,121	3,117	4	
5	Ayemyakantha Ward	2	3,250	1,968	1,282	1,284		2
6	Thirimyaing Ward	1	2,950	1,569	1,381	1,381		
7	Shwehintha Ward	2	2,550	1,644	906	890	16	
8	Shwezinyaw Ward	3	4,200	2,412	1,788	1,787	1	
9	Ayeyeiknyein Ward	4	10,250	5,221	5,029	5,011	18	
10	Shwepyitha Ward	4	8,100	4,186	3,914	3,935		21
11	No (1) Ward, Khamaukgyi Town	6	7,550	4,321	3,229	3,228	1	
12	No (3) Ward, Khamaukgyi Town	1	800	550	250	250		
13	Pulotontone Village-tract	3	5,000	2,967	2,033	2,036		3
14	Semine Village-tract	4	5,600	3,346	2,254	2,051	203	

15	Changphan Village-tract	5	5,200	3,105	2,095	2,096		1
16	Awgyi Village-tract	2	2,150	1,090	1,060	823	237	
17	Songebaline Village-tract	7	8,050	5,185	2,865	2,706	159	
18	Zadatgyikyun Village-tract	1	1,300	1,018	282	281	1	
19	Seven mile/Shwepyisoe Village-tract	5	6,950	4,198	2,752	2,712	40	
20	Bankachyun Village-tract	3	4,200	2,400	1,800	1,779	21	
21	Maliwan Village-tract	3	5,900	2,910	2,990	2,663	327	
22	Payetsai (aungchantha) Village-tract	2	1,100	488	612	462	150	
23	Khikaphowi Village-tract	1	1,400	773	627	627		
24	Mayan Village-tract	1	1,050	545	505	505		
25	Phawthoke Village-tract	1	6,50	413	237	239		2
26	Nalichan (ayechantha) Village-tract	1	1,950	1,003	947	748	199	
27	Lonephaw Village-tract	2	2,050	1,235	815	699	116	
	Ward/village -tract Total ballots	75	110,950	63,122	47,828	46,373	1,493	38
	Township Advanced ballots		1,424	1,424				
	Township Remaining ballots		6,387		6,387	6,387		
	Township Total	75	118,761	64,546	54,215	52,760	1,493	38

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Bokepyin Township

- According to the inspection, 114 polling stations in 8 Wards and 19 Village-tracts of Bokepyin Township in Taninthayi Region took out 66,582 ballots and used 42,272 ballots. It left 23,618 ballots instead of 24,310. The extra/shortage 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	65,600	41,782	23,818	23,126	1,080	388
2	Township Advanced ballots	490	490				
3	Township Remaining ballots	492		492	492		
	Total	66,582	42,272	24,310	23,618	1,080	388

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9. There were 1,080 missing ballots and 388 extra ballots at 114 polling stations in 8 Wards and 19 Village-tracts of Bokeypin Township. They used 490 township advance ballots and saved 492 township remaining ballots.
10. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Pyigyimannaing Ward	2	1,250	1,027	223	223		
2	Layhnyar (east) Ward	2	1,200	941	259	259		
3	Layhnyar (west) Ward	1	300	230	70	70		
4	Shwebontha Ward	2	1,500	907	593	597		4
5	Aungmingala Ward	3	3,500	2,430	1,070	1,078		8
6	Karathuri No (1) Ward	2	950	207	743	101	642	
7	Karathuri No (2) Ward	1	150	108	42	42		
8	Karathuri No (3) Ward	1	450	314	136	136		
9	Bangalar Village-tract	2	2,450	1,404	1,046	1,046		
10	Chaungkaphet Village-tract	2	950	720	230	230		
11	Htaungyaik Village-tract	1	250	175	75	75		
12	Htaungngathaing Village-tract	2	1,500	938	562	612		50
13	Kawbut Village-tract	1	400	320	80	78	2	
14	Manoeyone Village-tract	4	3,000	1,964	1,036	932	104	

15	Shwegenyoy Village-tract	7	3,450	2,201	1,249	1,230	19	
16	Yayngangyi Village-tract	5	3,650	2,167	1,483	1,483		
17	Satein Village-tract	9	3,150	2,160	990	1,067		77
18	Htaungsonemahet Village-tract	3	1,800	1,295	505	482	23	
19	Aleman Village-tract	11	4,300	2,966	1,334	1,534		200
20	Atwinbokpyin Village-tract	4	2,350	1,687	663	712		49
21	Ohntawkan Village-tract	2	900	640	260	260		
22	Kamarchaung Village-tract	3	1,600	1,110	490	490		
23	Htaungkhamet Village-tract	10	6,700	3,797	2,903	2,853	50	
24	Noeingwa Village-tract	10	5,950	3,710	2,240	2,166	74	
25	Kawbamar Village-tract	5	2,050	1,308	742	731	11	
26	Hankabyu Village-tract	5	3,100	1,652	1,448	1,348	100	
27	Mathay Village-tract	14	8,750	5,404	3,346	3,291	55	
	Ward/village -tract Total ballots	114	65,600	41,782	23,818	23,126	1,080	388
	Township Advanced ballots		490	490				
	Township Remaining ballots		492		492	492		
	Township Total	114	66,582	42,272	24,310	23,618	1,080	388

Union Election Commission

Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 190,000 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 192,690 outpatients and 59,600 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 8,979 major operations and 4,599 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 11,597 babies to date. Of those, 4,640 cases are done in the caesarean section and 6,957 cases in ordinary de-

livery.

Moreover, the Commanders of respective Commands comforted and offered words of encouragement to the monks, officers and other ranks who had treatments at the military hospitals in Myitkyina Township of Kachin State, Mawlamyine Township of Mon State, Patheingyi Township of Ayeyarwady Region and Kalay Township of Sagaing Region and provided them with foodstuffs yesterday.

Then, the commanders and officers inspected the hospital compound. — MNA

A local patient seen receiving foodstuffs.



Tatmadaw medical teams provide healthcare to locals

THE Tatmadaw medical teams consisted of Tatmadaw doctors, specialists and nurses have been providing necessary medical treatment to the patients in military hospitals and public hospitals.

The Tatmadaw medical team continued to provide health-care-related to surgery, dental and oral healthcare, osteoporosis, obstetrics, gynaecology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in Thazi Township Hospital, Hanza hospital, Yinmabin hospital, Tagaung Public Hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Mattaya Hospital, Sintgaing hospital in Kyaukse township, Yintaw hospital, Myittha Public Hospital and Kume Hospital in Pyawbwe township Wailaung hospital in Taungtha Township, Kyaukpadaung Hospital, Thayawady District Hospital, Donzayit hospital in Shwegyin Township and Latpadan township hospital.

Officials from respective commands also inspected the medical services at the hospitals and comforted the patients by providing food aids and necessary things. It is reported that local residents are satisfied with the medical supports of Tatmadaw. — MNA

Military tribunal takes action against murderers and illegal drugs dealers

A total of seven people were arrested together with stimulant tablets and marijuana in Dagon Myothit (North) and Hlinethaya Township (West) between 6 and 10 April in Yangon Region.

A tribunal was set up to investigate their cases, and under Section 19 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, they were sentenced to indefinite work and imprisonment, respectively, on 7 May.

Myo Min Tun (a) Thargyi, son of U Soe Myint, has been on the run, and an arrest warrant was issued according to Section 87 and 88 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Similarly, the military tribunal investigated the murder cases that happened in Dagon Myothit (South), and Hlinethaya Township (East) and (West) between 26 March and 9 April and perpetrators were sentenced to 20 years in prison with work respectively under Section 302 and 436 of the Penal Code on 7 May.

The illegal drug dealers who were arrested together with stimulant tablets in Hlinethaya (East) Township on 9 and 10 April were also sentenced to 10 years in prison with work respectively under Section 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law on 7 May.

The Martial Law was declared on 14, and 15 May in Hlinethaya Township, Shwepyitha Township, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Dago Myothit (Seikkan) Township and North Okkalapa Township as terrorist attacks to industries, schools and ward administration offices were accelerated in these townships.

It is reported that 23 types of crimes that will be heard by the military tribunals in the townships where the Martial Law was declared were issued and that legal action is being taken effectively and rapidly if one commits these crimes. — MNA

Files opened against medical nurses who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

THE following medical nurses 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	Daw Than Than Yi (Senior Nurse)	Muse People's Hospital	Muse Township, Shan State (North)	505-a	
2	Daw Hla Hla Thin (Senior Nurse)	Muse People's Hospital	Muse Township, Shan State (North)	505-a	
3	Daw Ei Ei Mon (Senior Nurse)	Muse People's Hospital	Muse Township, Shan State (North)	505-a	
4	Daw La Pyae Wun (Senior Nurse)	Dala People's Hospital	Dala Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
5	Daw Maw Maw Khine (Senior Nurse)	Shwebo People's Hospital	Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region	505-a	






6	Daw Aye Nyein Thu (Nurse)	Kyaukse People's Hospital	Singaing Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
7	Daw Ingyin Phu (Nurse)	Mogok People's Hospital	Mogok Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	Daw Hanny Tun (Nurse)	Yintaw Station Hospital	Pyawbye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
9	Daw Hnin Wadi Hnin (Nurse)	Tetthit Station Hospital	Hlegu Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
10	Daw Aye Ei Paing (Nurse)	Bawlae Station Hospital	Htantabin Township, Yangon Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those medical nurses charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those medical nurses and action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those medical nurses. —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	Daw Hnin Ei Phyu	Deputy staff officer, Office of the Township Education Officer, Palaw Township	Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
2	Daw Khin Swe Win	Assistant Supervisor, Office of the Township Education Officer, Palaw Township	Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
3	Daw Nway Nway Ei	Lower Division Clerk, Office of the Township Education Officer, Palaw Township	Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
4	U Nyi Nyi Min	Account-3, Office of the Township Education Officer, Palaw Township	Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
5	Daw Aye Thi Aung	Headmistress, BEPS (3), Palaw Township	Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	

6	Daw Theingi Myo Nwe	Senior Assistant teacher, BEHS (7), Mingalardon Township	Mingalardon Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
7	Daw Yin Yin Nwe	Junior Assistant teacher, Post BEPS, Kyaikmaraw	Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State	505-a	
8	Daw Hnin Pwint Aye	Junior Assistant teacher, BEHS (Htithyinyway), Taunggyi Township	Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South)	505-a	
9	Daw Nanda Myo	Junior Assistant teacher, BEPS (Paung Village), Palaw Township	Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region	505-a	
10	U Soe Moe Wai	Primary Assistant teacher, BEHS, Bokpyin Township	Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi 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 education staff and action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff. —MNA

CBM's guarantee eases tensions of bank customers

ILL recent days, people across Myanmar were worried about the safety of their cash entrusted at various kinds of banks.

Everybody might worry about their property until they didn't have any guarantees. They might tremble with the loss of their property. Even in thoughts, they might tremble with the loss. It is a universal truth. It is because they tried to secure such kinds of property by spending their long precious time, labour and mental and physical strengths.

Recently, the terrible rumour spread out elsewhere that the banking system would collapse soon. So, the people who opened the banking accounts to entrust their money faced depression for their property.

At the weekly press conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council on a recent day, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar firmly said that the CBM has no plan to dissolve any banks. It was good news for all. It was because no collapse of the banking system means the safety of money entrusted by the customers.

We all should call "well-done" for affirmation of the Central Bank of Myanmar. The deputy governor granted the banks their status as well as the safety of banking accounts.

In fact, people need to analyze all forms of information. Some rumours are based on true information but on fake news. Regarding the banking story, it is undeniable that not only the government but also the banking entrepreneurs shall strive for the endurance of such financial institutions to be able to secure the trust of the customers.

The press conference also conveyed the further good news to us that the Central Bank of Myanmar

would ease the restrictions for the current system of taking out the entrusted money from the banks in the future. The eased restrictions of some banking systems can be transformed into delightedness for the customers.

Moreover, the deputy governor pledged that the money from the accounts of banks will never be lost for any reason. We all should express thanks to the CBM for its efforts.

Believe it or not! Now, nightmares of bank customers have gone with the wind.



Ibuprofen does not worsen Covid-19 symptoms: Study

Taking anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen does not increase the risk of developing a severe form of Covid-19 or of dying from it, according to a new study, the largest so far on this class of medicines.

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic there was concern over the potential effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), which are used to treat everything from minor pain to chronic arthritis and cardiovascular disease.

But observational research published Saturday (May 8) in the medical journal Lancet Rheumatology, based on 72,000 hospitalized patients, found that the drugs "do not increase the mortality or severity" of Covid-19.

The authors recommended that doctors should continue to prescribe NSAIDs as they have in the past.

"When the pandemic began over a year ago, we needed to be sure that these common medications would not lead to worse outcomes in people with Covid-19," lead author Ewen Harrison, a



Taking anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen does not increase the risk of developing a severe form of COVID-19 or of dying from it, according to a new study, the largest so far on this class of medicines. PHOTO: AFP

professor at the University of Edinburgh, said in a press release.

"We now have clear evidence that NSAIDs are safe to use in

patients with Covid-19, which should provide reassurance to both clinicians and patients that they can continue to be used in

the same way as before the pandemic began." The NSAID family of anti-inflammatory drugs includes those widely used by

the general public like ibuprofen - an active substance in common drugs, such as Nurofen or Advil - or ketoprofen.

NSAIDs before hospitalisation. The study found that the proportion of death was similar regardless of whether patients had taken the drugs or not - 30.4 per cent for those who had and 31.3 per cent for those who had not.

Death rates the same

Concerns over the drugs emerged at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and centred on suspicions that they can worsen infections, especially bacterial.

In March 2020, for example, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that people suffering Covid-19 symptoms avoid self-medicating with ibuprofen, after French officials warned that anti-inflammatory drugs could worsen effects of the virus.

The new research examined data on 72,000 Covid-19 patients admitted to 255 health centres in England, Scotland and Wales between January and August 2020. Of these, 4,211 had taken

the same way as before the pandemic began." The NSAID family of anti-inflammatory drugs includes those widely used by

the general public like ibuprofen - an active substance in common drugs, such as Nurofen or Advil - or ketoprofen.

NSAIDs before hospitalisation. The study found that the proportion of death was similar regardless of whether patients had taken the drugs or not - 30.4 per cent for those who had and 31.3 per cent for those who had not.

They also did not know how long patients had taken the drugs and whether they were taking them for a serious chronic condition or temporary symptoms. SOURCE: AFP

In fight against Covid variants some firms target T cell jabs

Getting Covid vaccines into the arms of the world's population is an international priority -- but will today's jabs stay effective against virus variants that are spreading across the globe?

It is one of the big questions about the pandemic, with Pfizer chief Albert Bourla recently acknowledging that it is likely a booster will be needed to help extend the protection conferred by its vaccine and ward off new variants.

A recent study presented a mixed picture.

It found that the antibody response of current vaccines could fail against variants. However, a second immune response in the form of killer T cells -- which attack already infected cells and not the virus itself -- remained largely intact.

Several startups are working on developing shots centred on T cells in hopes of producing a jab that would not only provide protection against new virus strains already on the loose, but also variants that don't yet exist.

Alexis Peyroles heads up French biotech firm OSE Immunotherapeutics, which is developing a vaccine that targets T cells that has just begun clinical trials.

"It could offer several years of protection," he told AFP.

Another French firm, Lyon-based Osivax, is also working on a T cell shot, promising a "universal" vaccine that would be effective against any potential variant.

The government of France, which has yet to develop its own vaccine, is supporting the effort with millions in funding.

Such projects are far from widespread. Among the 400 vaccines under development counted by the World Health Organization only a few are aimed at universal use.

The most advanced shot of its kind is the ImmunityBio vaccine under development in the United States. Very preliminary results released last month were mostly encouraging.

'Complement and broaden'

No lab foresees a final product before next year and many scientists are sceptical about the usefulness of trying to develop a shot to protect against a virus

strain that doesn't yet exist.

"Mass vaccination itself is a form of evolutionary 'selection' pressure," British virologist Julian Tang told AFP, "and this pressure may push the virus to evolve to escape any vaccine protection -- so it can be a double-edged sword."

Other questions involve the extent to which the body will be able to fight the virus with a T cell-based response.

T cells and antibodies work together to form an immune response in the body.

French virologist Yves Gaudin pointed out that if an antibody response fails, "T cells don't serve much purpose".

He said he is "doubtful about the effectiveness of such a vaccine," emphasising that an ideal vaccine would be effective in both areas.

In Europe and the United States the plan for T cell jabs, should they see the light of day, would be to give them to people who had already received the current antibody vaccines.

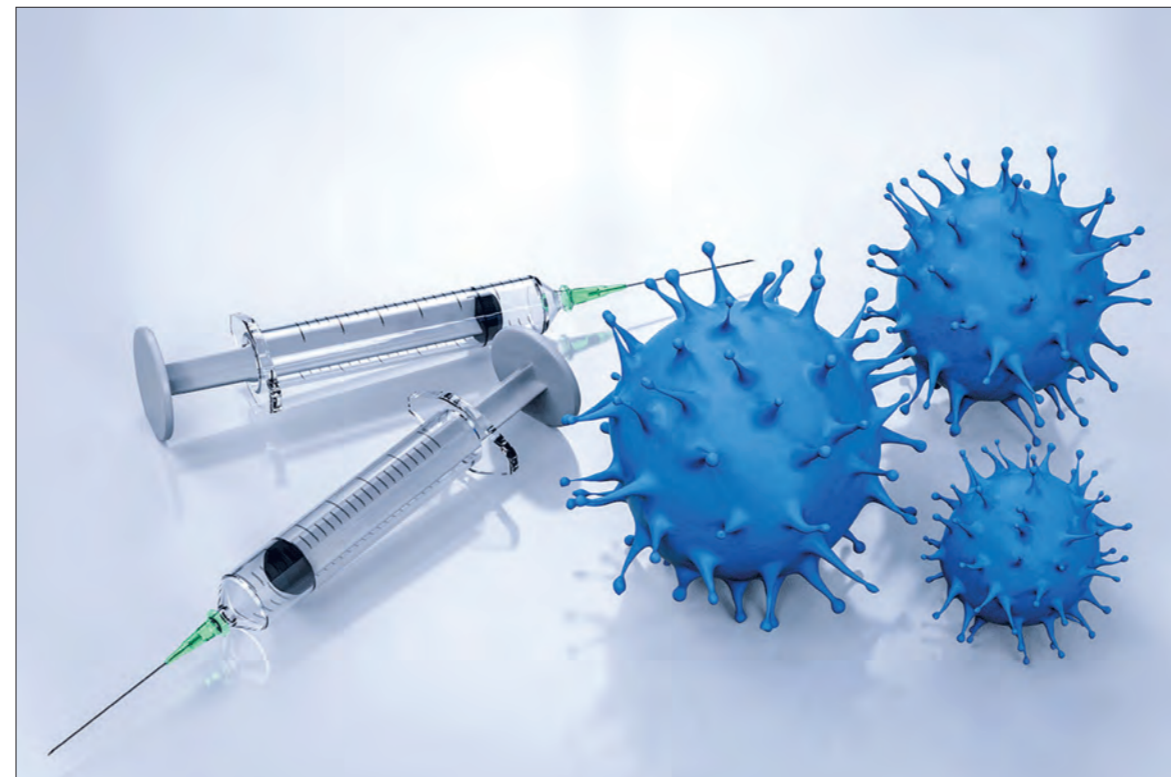
Peyroles confirmed that OSE's vaccine, should it prove effective in trials, is indeed meant as a way to strengthen current inoculations.

"You would complement and broaden the response created by the first vaccines in terms of scope and time."

He added that T cell vaccines

could offer protection to people who have difficulties developing antibodies due to other ailments such as diabetes or cancer.

SOURCE: AFP



Several startups are working on developing shots centred on T cells in hopes of producing a jab that would not only provide protection against new virus strains already on the loose, but also variants that don't yet exist. PHOTO: 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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The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်းချသတင်းစာများ မှာယူပတ်ဝတ်စုံခြင်းနှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် အခက်အခဲများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်-

> သတင်းနှင့်စာမူအဖွဲ့အစည်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ဧပြီလအတွင်း	> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(စစ်တွေ)
ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၄၁၂၁၀၊ ၀၉-၄၃၀၀၅၆၂	ဖုန်း-၀၅၃-၂၀၂၅၀၅၁၊ ၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၀၆၀
> ဧပြီလအတွင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်(ဧရာဝတီမြို့နယ်)	> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(တောင်ကြီး)
ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၆၀၀၇၊ ၀၉-၄၂၀၇၀၆၈၆၇	ဖုန်း-၀၈၁-၂၂၁၁၀၆၄
> မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်(ရန်ကင်း)	> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(မကွေး)
ဖုန်း-၀၁-၉၅၅၄၄၃၃၊ ၀၉-၄၄၈၀၄၂၁၄	ဖုန်း-၀၆၃-၂၀၂၅၀၅၂
> ကြော်ငြာရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်း(ရန်ကင်း)	> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(ကရင်စို)
ဖုန်း-၀၁-၉၂၉၂၃၀၁၊ ၀၉-၄၅၀၀၂၅၅၇၀	ဖုန်း-၀၈၄-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅
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> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(မန္တလေး)	> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(မြစ်ကြီးနား)
ဖုန်း-၀၂-၄၀၃၂၅၂၅၊ ၀၂-၄၀၃၂၅၅၀	ဖုန်း-၀၇၄-၂၅၂၅၅၅၂
> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(မုံရွာ)	> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(လားရှိုး)
ဖုန်း-၀၇၁-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅၊ ၀၇၁-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅	ဖုန်း-၀၈၂-၂၅၅၅၅၅၅
> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(မော်လမြိုင်)	> ကိုယ့်ပညာသတင်းစာတိုက်(ဖြူ)
ဖုန်း-၀၅၇-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅၊ ၀၅၇-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅	ဖုန်း-၀၅၉-၂၀၂၅၅၅၅

၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ်အတွင်း အသင်းအဖွဲ့အစည်းများအား ဆက်သွယ်ပါ။

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR သတင်းစာပျံ့နှံ့ရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်း

Action to be taken against those who do social punishment

THE State Administration Council is making efforts to develop political affairs, economy and social issues with a five-point roadmap and nine objectives. The government employees who want the nation's development also serve their duties in line with the Civil Services Personnel Law, Rules and ethics. Meanwhile, the politically extremist associations, their members, CDM participants, who do not want the state stability and development, threaten other government employees and commit incitements to do social punishment, especially on the teachers, medics and healthcare workers of the education and health sectors of the country.

Therefore, actions will be taken against those who threaten to do social punishment. Those who face such social punishment cases can inform the nearest security forces. The people can contact the following phone numbers to uncover the suspects.

Nay Pyi Taw Police Force			
Ottarathiri District Police Force	Ph- 067 550191, 067 550192, 067 550041 Viber Phone- 09 425283334	d. Pakokku District Police Force	Phone- 09 261017548/ 09 261017317/ 09 261017257 Viber Phone – 09 257080098
Dekkhinathiri District Police Force	Ph – 067 550193, 067 550388, 067 55042 Viber Phone – 09-450840888	e. Gangaw District Police Force	Phone- 09 425485818/ 09 425485813/ 09 425485834 Viber Phone – 09 973373688
Kachin State Police Force		Mandalay Region Police Force	
a. Myitkyina District Police Force	Phone- 09 880825694/ 09 880825695/ 09 880825696/ Viber Phone – 09 794611351	a. Mandalay District Police Force	Phone- 09 973715438/ 09 889846464/ 09 889858788 Viber Phone – 09 969956472
b. Bhamo District Police Force	Phone- 09 880825700/ 09 880825701/ 09 880825702/ Viber Phone – 09 420167126	b. PyinOoLwin District Police Force	Phone- 09 777847278/ 09 794195683/ 09 969629828 Viber Phone – 09 420760246
c. Mohnyin District Police Force	Phone- 09 880825697/ 09 880825698/ 09 880825699 Viber Phone – 09 403739163	c. Myingyan District Police Force	Phone- 09 400103369/ 09 400103374/ 09 400104933 Viber Phone – 09 681153453
d. Putao District Police Force	Phone- 09 880825675/ 09 880825676/ 09 880825677 Viber Phone – 09 250344219	d. Meiktila District Police Force	Phone- 09 757182238/ 09 400104611/ 09 400101124 Viber Phone – 09 440142667
Kayah State Police Force		e. Yamethin District Police Force	Phone- 09 400102699/ 09 400102899/ 09 400102811 Viber Phone – 09 403742265
a. Loikaw District Police Force	Phone- 09 264290312/ 09 264290347/ 09 264290342 Viber Phone – 09 777741980	f. Kyaukse District Police Force	Phone- 09 881114112/ 09 794208960/ 09 792444852 Viber Phone – 09 785082615
b. Bawkhe District Police Force	Phone- 09 264290217/ 09 264290266/ 09 264290268 Viber Phone – 09 258286992	g. NyaungU District Police Force	Phone- 09 400103328/ 09 400103348/ 09 400103386 Viber Phone – 09 420251484
Kayin State Police Force		Mon State Police Force	
a. Pha-an District Police Force	Phone- 09 448125301/ 09 880474883/ 09 883299682 Viber Phone – 09 257279157	Mawlamyine District Police Force	Phone- 09 756253892/ 09 684738395/ 09 682787882 Viber Phone – 09 255854410
b. Kawkaeik District Police Force	Phone- 09 260532203/ 09 664946519/ 09 774383759 Viber Phone – 09 409701972	Thaton District Police Force	Phone- 09 423332744/ 09 423332745/ 09 423332746 Viber Phone – 09 255711174
c. Myawady District Police Force	Phone- 09 422689899/ 09 664857785/ 09 740847950 Viber Phone – 09 5132511	Rakhine State Police Force	
d. Papun District Police Force	Phone- 09 428212313/ 09 692955557/ 09 882917596 Viber Phone – 09 400455156	a. Sittway District Police Force	Phone- 09 686294525/ 09 689318427/ 09 688900787 Viber Phone – 09 421004218
Chin State Police Force		b. MraukU District Police Force	Phone- 09 699508884/ 09 671005671/ 09 683972093 Viber Phone – 09 789978373
a. Mindat District Police Force	Phone- 09 774657154/ 09 880474883/ 09 883299682 Viber Phone – 09 259839260	c. Maungtau District Police Force	Phone- 09 662441336/ 09 690875480/ 09 694359402 Viber Phone – 09 402547244
b. Matupi District Police Force	Phone- 09 449615501/ 09 449615618/ 09 422911427 Viber Phone – 09 400455199	d. Kyaukphu District Police Force	Phone- 09 423239966/ 09 423239967/ 09 423239968 Viber Phone – 09 401582236
c. Phalan District Police Force	Phone- 09 422689899/ 09 427985091/ 09 426419992 Viber Phone – 09 2300817	e. Thandwe District Police Force	Phone- 09 678443713/ 09 672937348/ 09 969179661 Viber Phone – 09 254315299
d. Haka District Police Force	Phone- 09 443667626/ 09 443408100/ 09 258745928 Viber Phone – 09 444776659	Yangon Region Police Force	
Sagaing Region Police Force		a. Eastern District Police Force	Phone- 09 426182966/ 09 426183227/ 09 426183245 Viber Phone – 09 421128951
a. Sagaing District Police Force	Phone- 09 680151099/ 09 680745899/ 09 680374974 Viber Phone – 09 420736827	b. Western District Police Force	Phone- 09 426183228/ 09 426183339/ 09 426183293 Viber Phone – 09 43137729
b. Shwebo District Police Force	Phone- 09 258466668/ 09 43034463/ 09 793177931 Viber Phone – 09 258466668	c. Southern District Police Force	Phone- 09 426183193/ 09 426183237/ 09 426183238 Viber Phone – 09 5194223
c. Kanbalu District Police Force	Phone- 09 44850328/ 09 9978830256/ 09 759698783 Viber Phone – 09 259107072	d. Northern District Police Force	Phone- 09 426183277/ 09 426183282/ 09 426183264 Viber Phone – 09 786281456
d. Monywa District Police Force	Phone- 09 260093207/ 09 2300942/ 09 402547139 Viber Phone – 09 458025419	Shan State Police Force	
e. Yinmabin District Police Force	Phone- 09 262560743/ 071 73131/ 071 73133 Viber Phone – 09 951495409	a. Lashio District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461128550/ 09 3461128510/ 09 3461132710 Viber Phone – 09 253029477
f. Katha District Police Force	Phone- 075 251014/ 09 259851581/ 09 775745369 Viber Phone – 09 421071369	b. Kyaukme District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461128593/ 09 3461128569/ 09 3461132645 Viber Phone – 09 258117662
g. Kalay District Police Force	Phone- 09 420720535/ 09 970460258/ 09 686804901 Viber Phone – 09 402508468	c. Taunggyi District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461132777/ 09 3461128999/ 09 3461128684 Viber Phone – 09 250936567
h. Khamti District Police Force	Phone- 073 248100/ 09 420741198/ 09 262690123 Viber Phone – 09 880087340	d. Langkho District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461128668/ 09 3461132603/ 09 3461132595 Viber Phone – 09 789723749
j. Mawlaik District Police Force	Phone- 09 5190481/ 09 421599995/ 09 422465783 Viber Phone – 09 889291940	e. Loilem District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461132744/ 09 3461132819/ 09 3461128924 Viber Phone – 09 400448026
l. Tamu District Police Force	Phone- 073 40277/ 09 974832183/ 09 755624429 Viber Phone – 09 764422674	f. Kengtung District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461132587/ 09 3461132579/ 09 3461128643 Viber Phone – 09 976453699
Taninthayi Region Police Force		g. Tachilek District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461132801/ 09 3461132785/ 09 3461128965 Viber Phone – 09 5252765
a. Dawei District Police Force	Phone- 09 251138577/ 09 447920273/ 09 669905281 Viber Phone – 09 669905281	h. Monghsat District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461128940/ 09 3461132728/ 09 3461132504 Viber Phone – 09 420006067
b. Myeik District Police Force	Phone- 09 256445424/ 09 896999684/ 09 679496631 Viber Phone – 09 755100757	i. Muse District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461133072/ 09 3461132967/ 09 3461128742 Viber Phone – 09 957924159
c. Kawthoung District Police Force	Phone- 09 895912169/ 09 668888199/ 09 253583509 Viber Phone – 09 895912169	j. Hopan District Police Force	Phone- 09 3461132959/ 09 3461133023/ 09 3461132975 Viber Phone – 09 773117859
Bago Region Police Force		k. Momeik District Police Force	Phone 09 3461132942/ 09 3461133155/ 09 3461128841 Viber Phone – 09 689910970
a. Bago District Police Force	Phone- 09 420175016/ 09 447282774/ 09 794861506 Viber Phone – 09 400540140	Ayeyawady Police Force	
b. Toungoo District Police Force	Phone- 09 250059520/ 09 254033393/ 09 969773907 Viber Phone – 09 250999747	a. Patheingyi District Police Force	Phone- 09 420098306/ 09 685194866/ 09 451236070 Viber Phone – 09 266230077
c. Pyay District Police Force	Phone- 09 423664294/ 09 423684860/ 09 425551736 Viber Phone – 09 443135520	b. Hinthada District Police Force	Phone- 09 421713344/ 09 447374150/ 09 959591097 Viber Phone – 09 259042330
d. Thayawady District Police Force	Phone- 09 43081170/ 09 43071869/ 09 254290385 Viber Phone – 09 796584637	c. Myaungmya District Police Force	Phone- 09 682055975/ 09 264836809/ 09 459293345 Viber Phone – 09 454466667
Magway Region Police Force		d. Labutta District Police Force	Phone- 09 950977376/ 09 456699968/ 09 403722601 Viber Phone – 09 950977376
a. Magway District Police Force	Phone- 09 425485822/ 09 261017175/ 09 261017116 Viber Phone – 09 954206061	e. Maubin District Police Force	Phone- 09 791190519/ 09 688624135/ 09 450183526 Viber Phone – 09 2019953
b. Minbu District Police Force	Phone- 09 261017445/ 09 261017425/ 09 261017105 Viber Phone – 09 400311110	f. Pyapon District Police Force	Phone- 09 779929629/ 09 400021386/ 09 666974212 Viber Phone – 09 269482820
c. Thayet District Police Force	Phone- 09 261017238/ 09 261017040/ 09 261017288 Viber Phone – 09 794447280		

Homalin tea leaf plantations produce over 300 visses per acre

TEA leaf plantations made over 300 visses per acre in Homalin township, Sagaing region, it is learnt.

“Currently, the price of tea leaves is above K 800 per viss in the local market. Each acre of tea leaves yields over 300 visses. More than 2,000 growers from 33 village-tracts in Homalin Township are growing the tea leaves. There are also more than 8,000 acres of tea leaf plantations, said Daw Su Su Htway, the township head of the Agriculture Department in Homalin Township.

Tea leaves have been cultivated in Homalin township for many years. Now, the growers

are gradually expanding their cultivation, and it has now reached over 8,000 acres of tea leaf cultivation.

“Earlier, there were only over 6,000 acres of tea leaf cultivation. Then, the area of tea leaf plantation has dramatically increased year by year. This is the tea harvesting season, and the farmers started picking the tea leaves.

Earlier, Myanmar tea leaves were exported to the foreign market. Tea leaves are separated into various categories based upon taste and quality for local markets. In contrast, organic tea leaves aim to attract foreign buyers. — Lulay/GNLM



Tea leaves have been cultivated in Homalin township for many years. Now, the growers are gradually expanding their cultivation, and it has now reached over 8,000 acres of tea leaf cultivation.

Gold hit all-time high of K1.5 mln per tical on 7 May



The domestic gold price hit a record high of K1.5 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) in the bull market in the afternoon of 7 May.

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With gold being the best safe-haven asset in times of crisis, the gold bull market is predicted to continue in 2021, an investment observer shared his opinion.

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

“This move would regulate unsustainable rally in the gold market calling for the members to run cash-only for gold transaction in the same regions and states in order to avoid the verbal transactions over calls,” YGEA Chair U Myo Myint said.

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

It reached a new peak of K1.5 million on 7 May, tracking the positive global trends. The international gold prices topped US\$1,820 per ounce on 7 May.

The price stood at only K1,302,000 per tical on 4 March, and it tremendously soared to K1,500,000 per tical on 7 May. The price increased by around K200,000 per tical in two months, according to the domestic market.

The gold price was ranged between K1,316,000 per tical at its minimum (28 January) and the maximum of K1,336,000 per tical (6 January). It reached an all-time high of K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical on 2 February.

In March, the rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March). Last month, the gold price moved to the highest of K1,470,000 (24 April) and the

weakest of K1,388,500 (2 April), the gold traders said.

According to gold traders, the local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September).

In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). The rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,317,000 (9 November) and the lowest of K1,270,000 (30 November). In December, the pure yellow metal priced moved in the range of 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, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February and crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August). It climbed to over 1,200,000 between 7 August and 4 September, then reaching a high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019. — GNLM

Traders using Hundi system for convenient cash flow of border trading

TRADERS are using the Hundi system for the convenient cash flow of border trading due to restrictions imposed on the limit of cash withdrawal from the bank, Chairman U Min Khaing of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said.

Currently, the entrepreneurs are only allowed to withdraw K20 million per week from the bank. That is the reason why the Hundi system is in practice in order to transfer the money.

“Most of the businessmen are using the Hundi system. The government authorities have said that they will take legal action against practising the Hundi system. They said that it is an illegal cash flow system. The bank has also lowered the weekly withdrawal limit to K20 million for company accounts currently. “The amount is minimal for big companies because, with this amount of money, they can only buy a vehicle. The companies are transferring the amount of money equal to the value of 20 to 50 vehicles. So, it is not convenient for the companies, and they are forced to use the Hundi system,” he explained.

However, the Hundi business is weak to protect transactions because it is less secure. Besides, they charge too much for services, he added.

At present, Myanmar exports products including corn to Thailand through the Myawady

border trade. And, the price of a tonne of corn is about 8,000 Bahts. Myanmar is set to reach an export target of one million tonnes of corn to Thailand this year with Form-D. So far, the country has already exported 600,000 tonnes of corn, said Myanmar Corn Industrial Association. Myanmar is allowed to export corn to Mae Sot, Thailand through Myawady border trade between 1 February and 31 August with Form-D, under zero tariff.

Myanmar corn exports were exempted from tax between February and August. Thailand imposed a 73 per cent tax on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand. The maximum tax rate of 73 per cent is put under the notification of the World Trade Organization regarding corn import of Thailand.

In the 2019-2020 financial year, Myanmar exported 2.2 million tonnes of corn to the foreign market, with an estimated value of US\$360 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce’s data. Presently, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corns. — NN/GNLM

Tatmadaw recaptured Myothit Microwave Camp from KIA

THE Tatmadaw recaptured the Myothit Microwave Camp from the KIA in the afternoon on 7 May and the insurgents retreated to the east and northeastern borders of the country.

The Tatmadaw fought 24 battles to regain the camp and some Tatmadaw officers and soldiers lost their lives for the country and some were wounded. There have been reports of a number of casualties, including two brigadier generals from the KIA-led coalition, kinds of ammunition were confiscated and bodies were properly buried.

The KIA-led coalition forces attacked the Byuhar landsone base located about 4,000 metres northeast of Nwelan village and the Microwave base about 3,000 metres northeast of Myothit village. Tatmadaw was providing security on 11 April. At the same time, attempts were made to blow up the Tarpain bridge about 2,000 metres south of Myothit village to



The Tatmadaw recaptured the Myothit Microwave Camp from the KIA in the afternoon on 7 May and the insurgents retreated to the east and northeastern borders of the country.

disrupt traffic, and the security forces prevented the bombings.

Similarly, from 17 April to 7 May, the KIA fired 29 artillery shells and large weapons at local battalion headquarters around Myothit village and six attempts to seize it led to clashes. On 23 April, the KIA-led coalition forc-

es attacked the base again with better weapons and the security forces had to abandon the base.

A large-scale artillery attack was carried out on the Album Army security post about 3,000 metres from the Myanmar-China border and about 10,000 metres southeast of Dawphonyang town,

Momauk Township, Kachin State on 24 March by the KIA-led coalition forces.

Although the KIA-led coalition forces attacked the Album, Byuhar landsone, Myothit Microwave base camp, Tarpain bridge and battalion headquarters around Myothit with large weap-

ons, they had to flee with heavy casualties without being able to capture the battalion headquarters due to the brave retaliation of the Tatmadaw members.

The Tatmadaw has issued a statement suspending all military operations since 21 December 2018, except for the time when the government has been disrupting security and administrative machinery in order to achieve lasting peace and has opened the way for peace talks. However, it has been found that the KIA has committed acts of violence such as killing innocent people for no reason, destroying the lives and property of the people, disrupting the rule of law and regional stability, bombing public roads and bridges.

It is reported that the Tatmadaw, who is responsible for national security, will take security measures to ensure the rule of law and regional stability. — MNA

Bombs explode across nation

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

On 7 May, the explosions occurred at the region education officer office in Petgone Pawbwe Ward of Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region, in front of the Myawady Bank in Chanmyathazi Taung Ward of Chanmyathazi Township, at Technological University in Thanlyin of Yangon Region, at communication office beside Sagaing-Mandalay road in Mhantan Ward of Amarapura Township, near township education officer office and near No

(4) Branch BEHS in Thabyay Gone Village in Dala Township of Yangon Region.

Moreover, on 8 May, the bomb explosions also occurred at traffic light station at the corner of Bo Min Khaung and Alan Pya Pagoda streets in Pha Sa Pa La Ward of Mingalar Taungnyunt Township in Yangon Region, at Pyi Taw Thar Ward in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region and in Tachilek district hospital in Wan Gaung Ward in Shan State (east).

Similarly, the terrorists threw the handmade bombs at the security members of



Ravages seen in the aftermath of handmade mine explosion at Myawady Bank in Chanmyathazi Township.

Inwa Bank in Bhamo Township of Kachin State, district education officer office in Ho-

mon Ward of Muse township in Shan State (North), staff housing of township administrative department of Khar Nam Ward of Momauk Township of Kachin State, the security force members in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay Region and at the ramp of Maha Bandoola Bridge in No (3) Ward of Botahtaung Township in Yangon Region.

One bank security staff reported that one security forces member was injured and the police arrested one suspect who threw a handmade bomb in Aungmyethazan Township.

The security forces received information that the handmade bombs were planted in the compound of no (1) B.E.H.S in Mingalar Taung-

nyunt Township of Yangon Region, in No (1) B.E.H.S at Banyar Dala Street, at ward administrative office of Myoma Ward in Patheingyi Township of Mandalay Region, at the unoccupied yard at the corner of Lawpita and U Yar Zat streets in No (35) Ward of Dagon Myothit (North) in Yangon Region and under 2F-xxxx Toyota Belta parked in front of the Tun Yee painting and sports centre owned by Daw Moh Moh Win who lives in Phet Tan Ward of Mawlamyine Township in Mon State, and so the security members examined and removed the bombs.

The security members investigate to take action against those committing such terrorist attacks under the law.—MNA



Japan pharma industry opposes U.S. backing for vaccine patent waiver

THE Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association on Friday opposed the United States' support for a waiver of coronavirus vaccine patent rights held by pharmaceutical companies.

A waiver, which is being discussed at the World Trade Organization, could exacerbate global shortages of vital components of vaccines and stoke anxiety about product quality, the association said.

Earlier this week, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said

President Joe Biden's administration will support the idea of an intellectual property waiver to help expand global vaccine supplies as part of efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic. WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has welcomed Washington's stance.

Meanwhile, the Japanese association argued that an intellectual property waiver will not necessarily guarantee the production of vaccines with quality equivalent to those currently available.



The Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association on Friday opposed U.S. support for a temporary waiver of coronavirus vaccine patent rights held by pharmaceutical companies. PHOTO: KYODO

The group said it is concerned that noneffective products may circu-

late, and the risk of side effects could increase as well.

"We are deeply concerned that if vaccines are made in an uncon-

trollable environment, it will intensify scarcity of raw materials as well as further disperse and disrupt supply chains, possibly leading to a further delay in distributions," the association said in a statement.

With unequal availability of vaccines in many parts of the world, the Biden administration has been facing pressure from Democratic lawmakers and other countries to share the intellectual property to boost vaccine production. — Kyodo News ■

Volkswagen profits rise but chip shortage impact not over

GERMAN carmaker Volkswagen reported a jump in first quarter profits on Thursday but

warned that a global shortage of semiconductors that has hurt production would have a "more

significant impact" in the coming months.

The car giant reported net profits of €3.4 bil-

lion, up from €517 million over the January-March period in 2020 when the first wave of the pandemic closed showrooms and factories.

Revenues for the 12-brand group, which includes the Audi, Porsche and Skoda marques, climbed 13 per cent to €62.4 billion, it said in a statement. The hike was driven by a rebound in car sales especially in China, the world's largest car market, and robust global demand for high-profit luxury models, VW said.

The carmaker also highlighted the growing popularity of more environmentally friendly vehicles, with sales of its

electric and hybrid cars more than doubling to 133,000 units.

Overall, the group delivered 2.4 million vehicles in the first quarter of the year.

"We started the year with great momentum," said CEO Herbert Diess. "Our e-offensive continues to gain momentum and we are making good progress with the transformation. There is still much more we can achieve in the remainder of the year."

Chief finance officer Arno Antlitz said VW had "managed the effects of COVID-19 and the semiconductor shortages responsibly" over the first quarter.

Like other carmakers, VW has been grappling with a supply crunch of semiconductors as the pandemic boosts demand for crucial microchips also needed for consumer electronics. The chip shortage has forced VW to trim car production at some plants and put thousands of workers on shorter hours, delaying car deliveries.

"The shortage of semiconductors throughout the industry is expected to have a more significant impact in the second quarter than before," said Antlitz. "Nevertheless, we are confident regarding business development in the full year," he added. —AFP ■



VW's ID.4 SUV electric car. Sales of the company's electric and hybrid cars more than doubled to 133,000 during the quarter. PHOTO: AFP

Philip Morris to phase out cigarettes in Japan within decade

THE head of tobacco giant Philip Morris said the company will phase out conventional cigarettes in Japan within 10 years, in an interview with the Nikkei business daily published Friday.

The Marlboro maker announced in 2016 a long-term goal to stop selling cigarettes and replace them with alternatives that it says are less harmful — but this is the first time it has given a clear deadline.

"We want Japan to be

the first market" for the phase-out, newly appointed CEO Jacek Olczak told the Nikkei in an interview published in Japanese.

The company "will realise a smoke-free society in Japan within 10 years", he said.

Philip Morris International is betting on its IQOS: a sort of short cigarette inserted into a device that heats the tobacco and releases a vapour.

Olczak told the Nikkei they "plan to introduce de-

vices using new technologies".

Japan, considered by some a smoker's paradise, has long been an outlier in the developed world for cigarette use.

Under a law that came into effect in 2020, lighting up regular cigarettes is banned in most restaurants, while heated products are allowed while eating and drinking when certain conditions are met.

Japan's government earns billions of dollars

annually in cigarette tax revenue, and owns a one-third stake in Japan Tobacco, the world's third largest tobacco company.

Smoking in the street is banned in many places under local regulations that impose hefty fines on violators. Cigarettes cost only around 450 (\$4) to 570 yen a pack and carry modest health warning labels.

Despite that, tobacco use in Japan has been falling, in line with a broader global trend. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FLC HAPPINES

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FLC HAPPINES VOY. NO. (2543)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **09-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

Disappointing April jobs data pose new challenge for Biden agenda



Demonstrators march as they mark May Day in New York, on May 1, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

THE United States added just 266,000 jobs in April – a quarter of the number expected – in a surprise setback for President Joe Biden's efforts to revive an economy blighted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The weak hiring also pushed the unemployment rate up slightly to 6.1 per cent, according to the Labour Department's monthly employment report released Friday.

The data defied economists' upbeat predictions that widespread Covid-19 vaccines and government relief measures would allow businesses to return to normal and add one million jobs last month.

Biden said such setbacks are not unusual during recoveries,

and the report undermined criticism that his massive spending programmes were not needed since the economy was already recovering.

"We knew we were facing a once-in-a-century pandemic and once-in-a-generation economic crisis. We knew this wouldn't be a sprint, it'd be a marathon," the president said in comments following the data release.

He again called on Congress to approve two spending proposals costing more than \$4 trillion that are aimed at revamping US infrastructure and the workforce.

"We can't let up. This jobs report makes that clear. We've got too much work to do," he said.—AFP ■

Asian Development Bank proposes ending financing for coal plants

THE Asian Development Bank will stop financing new coal power plants under a draft energy policy released Friday that was cautiously welcomed by environmental groups.

The ADB, which provides loans and grants for projects in the poorest countries in the Asia Pacific region, said its current policy was "no longer adequately aligned with the global consensus on climate change".

"Coal and other fossil fuels have played a large part in ensuring access to energy for the region's economic development, but they have not solved the energy access challenge, and their use harms the environment and accelerates climate change," the

Manila-based bank said in the document.

The lender will also no longer fund "any coal mining, oil and natural gas field exploration, drilling or extraction activities", it said.

However, under certain conditions, it would provide funds for natural gas projects and "hybrid electricity solutions" involving fossil fuels as backup systems, according to the draft.

Between 2009 and 2019 the ADB funnelled \$42.5 billion into energy sector projects in Asia, where around 60 per cent of electricity is generated by coal, its data show.

The final version of the energy policy is expected to be submitted to the ADB board of directors by October.—AFP ■

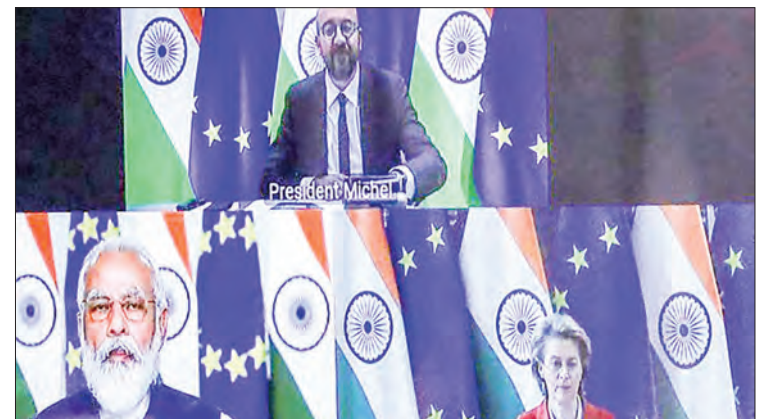
EU and India relaunch trade quest at Covid-hit summit

THE EU and India are expected to further bolster warming ties Saturday by relaunching long-stalled trade talks and agreeing to work together against the pandemic battering the south Asian giant.

The devastating wave of coronavirus infections sweeping India has already impacted the meeting by forcing Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap plans to fly to Portugal for in-person talks.

But the 27-nation bloc and the world's largest democracy remain determined to capitalise on growing momentum for tighter relations fuelled by shared concerns over the rising might of China.

"There is a positive dynamic because there is a convergence of



European Council president Charles Michel, top, at a virtual summit with European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen and Indian prime minister Narendra Modi last July. PHOTO:AFP

interests," a European diplomat told AFP. EU countries have sent medical equipment and drugs worth an estimated 100 million euros (\$120 million) to India as part of international efforts to help it fight against the flood of

Covid-19 cases. The focus on the virus at the summit will be on making sure the two vaccine-producing powerhouses can maintain global supplies – as well as on trying to plan together to tackle future pandemics.—AFP ■

EU leaders pledge Brussels' role in fight against poverty

EU leaders stressed on Friday the importance of fighting poverty and inequality as the continent emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic, but member states remain divided about Brussels' role in rebuilding a fair economy.

The heads of the EU institutions agreed an action plan with stakeholders from labour and civil society, before heading to dinner with most of the 27 member state leaders ahead of

Saturday's European summit.

"We are going to transform Europe's economic governance, thanks to this action plan, the model will be more balanced, more fair... a better Europe," host Antonio Costa, the socialist prime minister of Portugal, declared. A handful of leaders, notably German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, will attend only by videoconference.

In what was dubbed the

"social summit", the meetings began Friday with conferences bringing together representatives of civil society and trade unionists, as French President Emmanuel Macron and other leaders attended workshops.

"We are living unprecedented times," social summit delegates said, in a statement dubbed the Porto Social Commitment, calling for "a transition towards a green, socially just and digital economy".—AFP ■



A coal plant in Banten, Indonesia. About 60 per cent of electricity is generated by coal in Asia. PHOTO: AFP

Israeli police, Palestinians clash at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque

MORE than 160 people were wounded after Israeli riot police clashed with Palestinians at Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound late Friday, capping a week of violence in the Holy City and the occupied West Bank.

Stones, bottles and fireworks were hurled at officers who fired rubber bullets and stun grenades at the crowds at Islam's third-holiest site, also revered by Jews as the location of two biblical-era temples.

At least 163 Palestinians and six Israeli officers were reported wounded at Al-Aqsa and elsewhere in east Jerusalem, as the Palestinian Red Crescent said it had opened a field hospital because emergency rooms were



Israeli security forces deploy next to the Dome of the Rock mosque amid clashes with Palestinian protesters at the al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem. **PHOTO: AFP**

full.

Police said officers had restored order because of the "rioting of thousands of worshippers"

after evening prayers.

Tensions in Jerusalem have soared in recent weeks as Palestinians have protested against

Israel's restrictions on access to parts of the Old City during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and after authorities ordered several Palestinian families to leave their homes to make way for Israeli settlers. The United States called for "de-escalation" and said the threatened evictions could worsen the situation in east Jerusalem, as the United Nations warned the forced evictions could amount to "war crimes".

Friday's unrest came on Al-Quds (the Arabic name for Jerusalem) Day, an annual day of pro-Palestinian rallies held by Iran, the arch-enemy of Israel, which also saw many thousands march in majority-Muslim countries across the region and as far as Pakistan. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rio police face fury, calls for probe after bloody raid

POLICE in Brazil faced outraged protests and a UN call for an investigation Friday after a raid on a Rio de Janeiro favela left 28 people dead -- some reportedly killed in cold blood.

"Stop killing us!" said hundreds of protesters from the impoverished neighbourhood of Jacarezinho, who marched outside police headquarters accusing officers of perpetrating a "massacre."

"This is one of the most barbaric acts in the history of the Rio police," student Roger Denis told AFP.

It was one of several protests against Thursday's police operation, which rights groups said was the deadliest ever in a city all too used to violence and police killings -- particularly in the poor, majority-black favelas, or slums. — AFP ■

Defects, damage suspected in Mexico metro disaster



Rescue workers use cranes to remove the wreckage of a metro train that fell as an overpass collapsed in Mexico City. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE collapse of a Mexico City metro overpass that left 25 people dead could have been caused

by defects in the steel beams or damage to the joints, experts told AFP.

The capital's mayor, Claudia Sheinbaum, said after Monday's accident, which also left 80 injured, that a beam holding up the section of elevated track had given way. Norwegian engineering company DNV has been asked to help prosecutors with the investigation into the disaster, which has prompted accusations of negligence and demands for justice from devastated relatives.

Sergio Alcocer, a researcher at the engineering faculty of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, said that the collapse "may be due to a defect in the steel" used to make the beams. Like other experts, he

based his initial suspicions on a police video showing the moment when an elevated part of metro line 12 collapsed, sending two carriages plunging towards the ground.

Juan Manuel Fuentes, technical director of Mexican structural engineering firm Quasar, said that "the deafening vibration" on some of the sections of the line also could have caused the overpass's joints to weaken.

According to a senior Mexico City official, Jesus Antonio Estevas, "it is clear that there was a failure in the metal structures" of the section of elevated track that came crashing down. — AFP ■

Trump administration obtained phone records of journalists: Washington Post

THE Trump administration secretly obtained the phone records of Washington Post journalists who reported on allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, the newspaper reported Friday, prompting concerns over freedom of speech.

The Justice Department sent letters to three reporters -- Ellen Nakashima and Greg Miller, and former Post reporter Adam Entous -- saying that it had received work, cell or home phone records "for the period from April 15, 2017 to July 31, 2017," according to the Post.

The newspaper was "deeply troubled by this use of government power to seek access to the communications of journalist," Post acting executive editor Cameron Barr was quoted as saying. — AFP ■

Texas racist place names poised for historical reckoning

RACIST and offensive Texas place names are holdovers from a dark past, but they are poised to finally change as a reckoning on how white America treats Black people washes over the United States.

Though state lawmakers sought to officially rename a series of features in 1991, that change was stymied, and decades later places like "Negrohead Lake" or "Negro Creek" still carry their derogatory monikers.

Yet the murder last year of African American George Floyd under a white police officer's knee has brought new impetus

to confronting racism, including place names or statues honouring Confederate war generals.

While Texas fought on the side of the slavery-supporting Confederacy during the nation's civil war, today it is a state where non-Hispanic white people are in the minority. A vote by a federal panel that is set for next month could finally officially rebaptize 16 Texas places whose names include the word "negro", a once common description that many now see as outdated and offensive. "It's a tremendous relief. It's late, but better late than never," Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis told AFP. — AFP ■



Negrohead Lake near Houston may finally see its name officially changed amid America's racism reckoning. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPL football tourney to be held behind closed doors

THE 2021 football season of AIA Singapore Premier League (SPL) will continue behind closed doors starting this month, said the source with the ASEAN Football Federation.

"All the matches will be played in accordance with ad-

ditional community measures announced earlier this month by the COVID-19 Multi-Ministry Taskforce," officials said.

"The return of spectators to SPL matches in recent weeks was a heartening sight, but the well-being of the football frater-

nity and the wider general public will always be our top priority, and we encourage all to adhere to the prevailing safe management measures.

"SPL fans will still be able to watch every SPL match live on broadcast at Singtel TV, StarHub

TV, and live streaming online via the SPL Facebook page and YouTube channel, as well as the Facebook page of 1 Play Sports," the football authorities added.

The Singapore Premier League currently comprises eight clubs, consisting of three

rounds in which each team plays every other team once.

The football seasons run from late March to October, with teams playing 21 matches each, and thus a total of 147 games to be played in one season. — GNLM ■

Ronaldo and Ibrahimovic face off in battle for Champions League spot

DETHRONED Juventus host Milan on Sunday in a clash of former Serie A title hopefuls now fighting to qualify for the Champions League.

Juventus' bid for a 10th consecutive title collapsed as Inter Milan sealed their first league crown since 2010 with four games to spare last weekend.

Antonio Conte's Inter host Sampdoria in the San Siro Saturday, their first game at home since being crowned champions, with fans only allowed to celebrate outside because of Covid-19 restrictions. Behind Inter, five teams battle for the other three Champions League spots.

Atalanta, Juventus and Milan are all level on 69 points, with fifth-placed Napoli two points behind and Lazio a further three points adrift but with a game in hand.

Not qualifying for the Champions League would have been unthinkable at the start of the season for Juventus, twice finalists of Europe's top club

competition in the past decade.

"We know that we have to qualify for the Champions League at all costs," said Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo, whose side also host Inter before the end of the season.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice last weekend at Udinese to rescue three points and extend his lead at the top of the scoring charts with 27 goals, six more than Inter star Romelu Lukaku.

Ronaldo, 36, has one more year left on his contract, and amid speculation over his future failure to qualify for the Champions League could herald his exit.

Veteran Sweden star Zlatan Ibrahimovic has already committed to another season at Milan which will take him to 40 years old. Ibrahimovic galvanised Milan after his return midway through last season, leading the line as the 'Rossoneri' went 27 games unbeaten before losing 3-1 to Juve at the San Siro in January. —AFP ■

Nothing can stop Olympics from going ahead: IOC's Coates



John Coates admits not having the Japanese public fully on board for the Games is concerning. PHOTO: AFP

International Olympic Committee vice-president John Coates was adamant Saturday that nothing could stop the Tokyo Olympics from going ahead, despite ongoing risks from Covid-19.

Asked by AFP if there was any scenario in which the Games, which are due to start on July 23, could be cancelled or postponed again at this late stage, he replied: "No, there's not."

"The prime minister of Japan said that to the president of

the United States two or three weeks ago. He continues to say that to the IOC.

"We're working with him (Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga) on all of the safety measures. It's going ahead."

Suga held talks with US President Joe Biden in April and stressed the Asian nation was doing everything possible to contain Covid-19 infections and hold a "safe and secure" Olympics.

But questions continue to be raised about the viability of the Games, given the ongoing

pandemic and a virus state of emergency in Tokyo and other parts of Japan being extended on Friday.

While Japan's Covid-19 outbreak remains much smaller than in many countries, with just over 10,500 deaths, its vaccine rollout is moving slowly and polls show most Japanese people support cancellation or another delay.

Coates, the point man for the Games as head of the IOC's coordination commission, said a huge amount of work had been done to ensure the safety of athletes and the Japanese public.

"We spent the first half of last year identifying all the worst-case scenarios," he told reporters in Sydney on the sidelines of the Australian Olympic Committee's annual general meeting.

"We spent the next six months looking at the countermeasures that are necessary.

"We're implementing those countermeasures, predicated on there being no vaccine, so that situation has improved. The Games will go ahead." —AFP ■

Three share Quail Hollow lead with McIlroy, Mickelson in pursuit



American Gary Woodland has a share of the 36-hole lead along with Matt Wallace and Patrick Rodgers at the US PGA Tour Wells Fargo Champions hip. PHOTO: AFP

FORMER US Open champion Gary Woodland headlined a leading trio at Quail Hollow on Friday, where two-time winner Rory McIlroy was in the mix along with five-time major champion Phil Mickelson.

Woodland, the 2019 US Open winner who has struggled of late, carded a two-under-par 69 for a six-under total of 136, where he was joined by England's Matt Wallace and American Patrick Rodgers. Wallace, a four-time European Tour winner who is gunning for a first US tour title, had five birdies in his four-under 67

while Rodgers posted a 68 highlighted by a 13-foot eagle putt at the seventh. The three were one stroke in front of Kramer Hickock, who posted a 69 for 137.

McIlroy, who was outside the projected cutline after a first-round 72, grabbed six birdies in a five-under-par 66 to head a group on four-under 138 — just two shots off the lead. Mickelson, who held the overnight lead after a sparkling seven-under 64, was 11 shots worse in the second round, but his four-over 75 left him in a group only three strokes off the pace on three-under 139. Woodland, who

said his missed cut at Innisbrook last week marked the "rock bottom" of a downward trend that all started with a left hip injury and his attempt to play through pain, said a phone consultation with coach Butch Harmon and in-person work with Pete Cowen had helped him start to get back to what he was doing "when I was hitting it well." "I've seen some shots this week that I just haven't seen in a long time," Woodland said. "The golf swing feels so much better. Confidence has gone way up, which I did not have really in the last year." —AFP ■