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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Martial Law Order 4/2021

3rd Waxing of Kason 1383 ME
13 May 2021

1. In order to further effectively provide security, the rule of law and community peace, the State Administration Council has transferred the executive and judicial power (Martial Law) to the Commander of the North-West Command to exercise the martial law in Mindat Township of Chin State under the North-West Command area under Section 419 of the Constitution.
2. Depending on changing situation in the region, the Commander shall exercise the Martial Law by himself or transfer the power to the military region commanders.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Martial Law Order 5/2021

3rd Waxing of Kason 1383 ME
13 May 2021

1. With the State Administration Council's Martial Law Order 4/2021 dated 13 March 2021 (3rd Waxing of Kason 1383 ME), the council has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of North-West Command to exercise the Martial Law in accord with Section 419 of the State Constitution to enforce security, the rule of law and community peace in Mindat Township of Chin State where the martial law was imposed in the area of North-West Command.
2. Local administration bodies in the areas which have been placed under the Martial Law shall carry out the tasks concerned with them under the command of the Commander of North-West Command.
3. The Commander of North-West Command shall designate the military regions in the martial law areas of the North-West Command. With the martial law orders, the Commander of North-West Command shall appoint commanders of the military areas with the approval of the State Administration Council Chairman.

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NSPNC meets ALP officials

THE National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) held a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, Committee Chairman Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Vice-Chairman (3) of ALP Daw Saw Mra Yazar Linn made the greetings, respectively.

Then, the Secretary of the committee briefed them on the work plans of peacemaking committees of the State Administration Council, and the officials of ALP presented peace and region development affairs.

The NSPNC will cooperate with the officials concerned to conduct further negotiations. — MNA



The coordination meeting between NSPNC and ALP in progress.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Martial Law Order 5/2021

3rd Waxing of Kason 1383 ME
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4. The Commander of North-West Command shall accomplish the following tasks by himself, or commanders of the military regions or an appropriate person or a body he transferred the power.
- (A) Administration**
- (1) security issues
 - (2) social issues
 - (3) trade issues
 - (4) transport issues
- (B) Judiciary**
- (1) **Formation of courts:** The Commander of North-West Command shall decide the trials for criminal cases that occurred during the martial law period at the courts formed under the existing law or Military Tribunal.
 - (2) **Trials at Military Tribunal:** Criminal cases can be heard and sentenced by Military Tribunal in a summary way.
 - (3) **Punishment:** Following punishments shall be sentenced by a Military Tribunal as per the existing laws for anyone who is found guilty for crimes mentioned in Appendix (A)-
 - (AA) Death Sentence
 - (BB) Prison sentence with hard labour for unlimited years
 - (CC) The highest punishment designated in line with respective crimes
 - (4) **Approval:** The decisions and sentences handed down by Military Tribunals shall be final. However, a death sentence shall be approved only with the approval of the State Administration Council Chairman. An unlimited imprisonment sentence shall be agreed with the support of the Commander of North-West Command. Followings are the rights for exercising approval.
 - (AA) Abolishing a decision of a case
 - (BB) Commuting a sentence
 - (CC) Changing a sentence to another lesser one
 - (DD) Approving the conviction
 - (5) **Appealing:** No appeal for decisions or convictions handed down by Military Tribunals.
 - (6) **Applying for reversal of decisions:** If a death sentence is handed down by a Military Tribunal, applying to the State Administration Council Chairman can be made for reversal of the decision within 15 days from the date of conviction. Reversal for other punishments can be applied to the Commander of North-West Command within 15 days after the convictions. The State Administration Council Chairman or the Commander of North-West Command shall reverse the decision. Followings are the rights for exercising power for reversal of the decision.
 - (AA) Abolishing a decision of a case
 - (BB) Commuting a sentence
 - (CC) Changing a correction to another lesser one
 - (DD) Approving the conviction
 - (7) The Chairman of the State Administration Council or the Commander of North-West Command not only shall exercise the rights mentioned in the above sub-para (6) but also shall increase the punishment.
5. The Commander of North-West Command can form an advisory body for martial law to get assistance for performing his duties.
6. The Commander of North-West Command shall report to the Chairman of the State Administration Council on the situation of the martial law areas.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Crimes to be heard by Military Tribunal

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High Treason (Section 122 of the Penal Code) 2. Attempt to excite sedition towards the Government (Section 124-A of the Penal Code) 3. Sabotage or hamper the performance of the Defence Services of the Union or law enforcement organizations (Section 124-c of the Penal Code) 4. Disrupts or hamper Defence Services and Government employees (Section 124-d of the Penal Code) 5. Section 505 of the Penal Code 6. Directly or indirectly make causing the panic to any government service personnel to commit crime, commit the incitement and spread the false news (Section 505-A of the Penal Code) 7. Cases against unlawful associations act 8. Cases against weaponry act 9. Murder cases | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Death cases 11. Rape cases 12. Robbery cases 13. Banditry cases 14. Corruption cases 15. Cases against Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993) 16. Cases against protection of public property act 17. Cases against protection of public property law (1963) 18. Cases against press and media law 19. Cases against printing and publishing law 20. Cases against Myanmar Immigration (provisional) act (1947) 21. Cases against electronic communications law 22. Cases against ward or village-tract administration law 23. Cases against counter-terrorism law |
|--|--|

Till today, more than 1.9 million people have been injected with the COVID-19 vaccine

ALTHOUGH the infection rate of COVID-19 rises across the world, Myanmar faces one to two per cent of infection out of inspection capacity as of 1 May. But, some restrictions for COVID-19 cannot be eased. Till today, more than 1.9 million people have been injected with the COVID-19 vaccine.

(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 11 May 2021)

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

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Aung Naing Oo met with the Chairman and members of Kayah State Administration Council and Kayah State Investment Committee members at the office of Kayah State Investment Committee's meeting room in the morning of 13 May 2021.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said that investors are interested in Kayah State due to its vast investment opportunities, and the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER) will continuously support investment promotion of the State. He also emphasized facilitating the investment in accordance with the Myanmar



Investment Laws, Rules and procedures and encouraged to monitor and provide necessary assistance to the existing investments which were permitted by MIC and endorsed by State Investment Committee.

The Union Minister informed that Myanmar Investment Commission is formulat-

ing the investment policies and strategies in line with the five points Road Map and nine objectives of the State Administration Council and the State Committee was urged to promote the investment in agriculture and livestock sector, renewable energy and MSMEs development as quick-win projects.

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

The Union Minister explained the current banking

issue due to the act of political agitators and urged the State committee to disseminate information of the government efforts to address the public concerns.

Then, the Chairman of Kayah State Administration Council and the Chairman of Kayah State Investment Committee discussed the matter related to the investment promotion activities and the future development programme. After that, the Union Minister responded to the comments and questions raised by the committee members.

The Union Minister also met with the investors and he informed the government's programme to support the business and coordinated and facilitated some trade and investment issues raised by the investors.—MNA

Japanese reporter Mr Yuki Kitazumi to be released after closing his cases

JAPANESE reporter Mr Yuki Kitazumi assisted in continuing CDM activities and riots. Files of the lawsuit were opened against him under Section 505-A of the Penal Code and the case of breaking the visa disciplines on 18 April 2021.

Although Japanese reporter Mr Yuki Kitazumi broke the law, the cases filed against him were closed. He will be released by emphasizing the request of the Japanese government's special envoy for national reconciliation in Myanmar with focusing on the up to current friendly relations and future relations between Myanmar and Japan.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Information (3) not to cause violent infection of further wave of COVID-19 pandemic

Dated: 7 May 2021

AS the COVID-19 pandemic continues, infection with momentum throughout the world, more than 156.7 million global people were infected, and more than 3.2 million of the population died of the pandemic. It was reported that speedy infection of such kind of pandemic spread in some neighbouring countries.

Not to cause violent infection of the further wave of COVID-19 pandemic and not to cause the spread of variant viruses into Myanmar, everybody is informed and requested to abide by the following ways of COVID-19 pandemic preventive measures without fail in accord with the motto: "Take preventive measures against COVID-19 pandemic starting from you".

- (1) Systematically wear masks whenever goes outside and also wear face shield whenever associates with many people.
- (2) Take adequate distance from each other as much as they can.
- (3) Avoid the crowds.
- (4) Take 20 seconds in systematically washing hands many times.
- (5) Avoid the visits to the closed chambers, air-conditioned rooms and the lesser ventilated rooms as much as possible.
- (6) Those who need to go outside houses should avoid acts close to and eat meals together with older persons above 60 years and those with diabetes, hypertension, and heart diseases.
- (7) Fully cooperate in quarantine processes.
- (8) Don't buy something from the vendors who do not wear masks.
- (9) Exchange information to each other.
- (10) Cooperate in vaccination of COVID-19 pandemic. Continuously follow the preventive measures although they have received the vaccinations.
- (11) Strictly follow the work guidelines for preventing the COVID-19 pandemic issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.
- (12) If somebody suffers from symptoms of higher body temperature, coughing, suffocation, tiredness and sudden loss of smell and flavour, they need to immediately contact nearby health units to receive medical treatment.

Ministry of Health and Sports

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.

Union Minister U Ko Ko attends paper reading session on ancient cultural heritages conservation

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture conducted a paper reading session on ancient cultural heritage conservation yesterday.

During the event, Union Minister U Ko Ko talked about the 13 papers to be read in the event, discoveries of fossil primates, and the country's ancient cultural and natural heritage.

He then said ancient religious buildings, palaces, cities and materials of the ancestors can be seen nowadays across the nation.

Similarly, the country boasts of traditional materials of ethnic people and intangible culture.

Moreover, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum also conducted preserva-



tion works on ancient cultural sites and buildings for sustainable structures step by step.

The ministry also designated 48 heritage zones to conserve these areas under the law. Moreover, the ministry drafted laws and rules to protect and pre-

serve ancient cultural buildings, materials, and ancient cultural sites.

Arrangements are also being made to enact a law to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

Moreover, papers to be read

at the event are based on the research conducted on ancient buildings, wall paintings, stone reliefs, bricks, stone inscriptions and wooden monasteries of bygone eras like bronze, iron, Pyu, Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, MraukU and Amarapura.

The paper—reading session can be supposed to implement one of the facts of social affairs in the objectives of the State Administration Council “To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics”.

The Union Minister then discussed holding monthly paper reading sessions and planned to publish the papers read in the events and aims of holding the events.

Then, the researchers read out their papers respectively and concluded the first-day session. The paper reading session will also be conducted today. — MNA

MoE holds capacity enhancement course for promoted pro-rectors

THE Ministry of Education held the capacity enhancement course opening ceremony for promoted pro-rectors of the universities yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe, the Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Directors-General, promoted deputy rectors and officials.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister said the promoted pro-rectors would need to take

responsibilities for administrative and financial matters of the universities.

He added that this course would help them solve the difficulties they may face while on duty as the pro-rectors as they are promoted from being professors.

He urged them to perform duties under the leadership of the Rectors and cooperate with their directorate and the Ministry of Education to develop the universities.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint said the

benefits of the capacity enhancement course for the promoted deputy-rectors.

A total of 105 professors (71 from arts and science universities and 34 from computer/technological universities) were promoted to the pro-rectors.

The capacity enhancement course will be held on 13 May and 14 May.

The course is conducted into five subjects: The Policies of the Ministry of Education, Financial Matter, Civil Service Law and Rules and University management. — MNA



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.

MoE opens financial management refresher course for DTVET

THE Ministry of Education yesterday opened the Financial Management Refresher Course for the Technical, Vocational Education and Training (DTVET) Department in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe said Financial Management Refresher Course is opened in 4 categories in respective departments in the Ministry, aiming to the systematic and practical use of finance as per the guidelines to the development of colleges and universities. He added the need to use the fund given to the colleges and universities in the set time with the consultation of the principals and report the performance to the relevant department, and to be

free from party politics.

Deputy Minister U Zaw Win explained the importance of the finance sector in completing the individual goal and big projects.

The course is conducted in three subjects: Planning and Budgeting, Financial Management and Financial Rules and Regulations on 13 and 14 May.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, officials from the Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training, trainees from the government colleges, institutes and the government Technological High Schools, and relevant officials.—MNA



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn makes inspection tour to Myeik

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Ohn made an inspection tour for the hotels and tourism sector development in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region on 12 May.

During the tour, the Union Minister observed the services of the Pearl Thandar Hotel and said the importance of following the COVID-19 rules and regulations in operating the hotel.

He visited the natural bird-house in Myeik, and officials explained birds' production and commercial sale. The bird sanctuary, which has been in existence for more than 50 years, is the only home in Myeik District that has been home to several glossy swiftlets. Many houses produce bird nests using the recorded



chirping of birds, making it a popular tourist destination for local and foreign tourists visiting Myeik.

The Union Minister also visited the colonial building lived by Mr Maurice Collis, a famous Irish writer during his

service in Myeik for four years from 1931 to 1934. He paid homage to the Atulayanthi Shwe Tha Lyaung reclining Buddha

image situated on the other bank of Myeik. The image is the 7th largest of the reclining Buddha statues. It is a famous pilgrimage that attracts tourists as the sea view from terrace, and the beach beauty of Myeik town can be enjoyed.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited the fry shrimp farm, fish and shrimp cold storage, dockyard, shrimp farm and soft crab farm where most Thai tourists usually pay a visit.

Myeik town is an exciting tourist destination where local and international tourists are interested in visiting the sea and beautiful islands where pearl farming, edible birds nest and seafood farming as well as colonial-era buildings.—MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

12 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 Pakokku, Minbu, Pwintbyu, Ngaphe, Sedoktara, Salin and Mindon townships of Magway Region.
- According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 849,197 eligible voters in these seven townships of Magway Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 801,121 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 41,610 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 8,547 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 100,426 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	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	Pakokku	350	246,482	240,560	8,119	3,440	35,308
2	Minbu	171	143,792	135,510	7,575	1,138	15,516
3	Pwintbyu	163	136,136	106,160	13,061	1,185	16,134
4	Ngaphe	78	39,626	37,841	1,471	78	2,286
5	Sedoktara	69	34,651	33,243	391	3	360
6	Salin	279	198,415	197,106	10,124	2,694	29,490
7	Mindon	104	50,095	50,701	869	9	1,332
	Total	1,214	849,197	801,121	41,610	8,547	100,426

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Pakokku, Minbu, Pwintbyu, Ngaphe, Sedoktara, Salin and Mindon townships of Magway 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 1,214 polling stations in these seven townships took out 986,211 ballots and used 670,251 ballots. It left 295,101 ballots instead of 315,960 ballots. The difference was 22,581 ballots and it found 1,722 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	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Pakokku	350	285,186	189,201	95,985	86,221	10,165	401
2	Minbu	171	166,355	113,766	52,589	50,066	2,799	276
3	Pwintbyu	163	155,140	108,072	47,068	42,359	4,796	87
4	Ngaphe	78	46,682	33,313	13,369	13,209	360	200
5	Sedoktara	69	41,529	29,184	12,345	12,328	162	145
6	Salin	279	231,030	155,751	75,279	71,943	3,849	513
7	Mindon	104	60,289	40,964	19,325	18,975	450	100
	Total	1,214	986,211	670,251	315,960	295,101	22,581	1,722

- According to the inspections on voter lists of these seven townships of Ayeyarwady Region, the numbers of eligible voters are more 48,076 than the voter lists according to the lists of citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens who had turned 18 in 2020 of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a).
- There are 41,610 non-identity voters. Moreover, Hluttaw Election Law Section (15) (c) in Chapter VI "Preparation of Voting Roll" stated "Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time." But, there were 8,547 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 100,426 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these seven townships of Magway Region.
- Findings in these seven townships were as follows:
 - There were 678,439 voters and used 670,251 ballots out of all withdrawals, which was 8,188 less than the numbers of voters.
 - It found 22,581 missing ballots in withdrawals and used ballots
 - It found 1,722 extra ballots at some polling stations
 - It did not found the names of voters, voting numbers, polling station No, Ward/village-tracts, signatures or fingerprints on the ballot receipts.
 - The non-identity voters were on the voter lists and the voters cast votes just with the certificates without any national identity cards
 - They conducted measures that violate the law when they started collecting advance ballot
 - They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near
- It found voting frauds in Pakokku, Minbu, Pwintbyu, Ngaphe, Sedoktara, Salin and Mindon townships of Magway Region. The shortage/extra ballots were found in the inspection. They failed to follow the stipulations of Hluttaw Election Law and Rules.

Union Election Commission

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Request to Public

3rd Waxing of Kason 1383 ME

13 May 2021

- The Ministry of Electricity and Energy conducts power-generating services, supply and maintenance work daily to provide stable and reliable energy to the public. It keeps making efforts to offer the best services.
- In order to supply power to the public sufficiently, the electricity is generated from the state-owned power plants in addition to the privately-run power plants.
- The revenue from the electricity fees of people is used to generate stable and reliable electricity from the state-owned power stations and purchase from the private power stations.
- Therefore, people should pay the power bills before the monthly fixed bill payment deadline. The payment can be made online or through mobile banking. According to the Electricity Law, there will be no power cuts for those who do not pay after the deadline.

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

MoEA Union Minister receives Mro ethnic leader



UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint received Mro ethnic leader U San Thar Aung in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that he discussed literature and culture with Rakhine State ethnic literature and culture associations in his visit, the appointment of TA/LT for ethnic languages, distribution of storybooks, development of ethnic literature and ethnic regions, and cash assistance to these associations.

Then, Mro ethnic leader U San Thar Aung discussed the teaching of Mro language at basic schools, the appointment of TA/LT for ethnic language and other matters.

Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung said Mro Ethnic Literature and Culture

Associations should have common literature to teach at the schools. The approval of the Rakhine State Administration Council is needed. If they have perfect documents, the ministry will discuss them with the Ministry of Education to seek approval. After receiving the permit, the TA/LT for ethnic language will be assigned.

The Union Minister also stressed the need to preserve the literature, culture and traditions. He also said Mro ethnic people should hold a conference of Mro people to designate a common literature as other ethnic people or the ministry cannot make the decision for this issue. If there is a literature that all Mro people agree with, the ministry will help in accordance with the law or rules to protect the rights of ethnic minorities.—MNA

Information Deputy Minister meets IPRD staff in Nyaungshwe, Kalaw

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspected broadcasting processes of the MRTV retransmission station in Taunggyi Township of Shan State yesterday.

The Deputy Minister then visited the Department of Information and Public Relations offices in Nyaungshwe and Kalaw and inspected the community centre, public library, display booth, children's reading room, computer training class and office structure, mobile library and mobile library truck.

The Deputy Minister then met the staff of respective townships community centres.

He also met the staff officers in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone and other staff officers at Community Centres of Taunggyi IPRD, MRTV retransmission station and Taunggyi Sub-Printing House on 12 May. – MNA



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 sub-section (e) of Section 6 and sub-section (b) of Section 72 of the Anti-Terrorism Law.

1. Unlawful Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH and National Unity Government NUG 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, 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 NUG and PDF. 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

Eliminate poverty with the creation of chance for improving society

POVERTY, the giant enemy of global people as well as the endless challenge of the globe, is unable to be eliminated as we all think.

But, we should gather the necessary equipment to fight against poverty in a systematic manner. Despite the endless process, we can eliminate poverty through various ways and means to secure the deserved success.

In fact, poverty is not based on property, failure, personality and morality, but it is really structured on the mental power which can change everything. Nowadays, we need to change our mindset.

We all need to forge unity with hardworking in all sectors to overcome challenges so that poverty is always attacking society. It is because poverty is triggered by mismanagement of the government and stakeholders of society. Their wrongdoings turn over the excellent situation of society.

"It was really difficult... A lot of my friends haven't gotten a slot until now and they are still waiting."

Maskara, like millions of younger Indians terrified by the current surge in infections, is rushing to get vaccinated against the coronavirus after the country this month opened up its inoculation drive to all adults.

But the expansion came with restrictions, including only online registrations for the 18-44-year-olds, locking out up to half of India's population, particularly in poor and rural areas, who don't have smartphones or internet access.

Race for jobs in India's vaccination drive exposes digital divide

It's 2:00 am and Ananya Maskara's face is lit up by her smartphone as she nervously scrolls through a list -- looking for a green or yellow tab indicating that a Covid-19 vaccination slot is available in India's capital New Delhi.

FOR anyone aged between 18 and 44, getting a slot in India's expanded vaccination drive -- already plagued by shortages and political squabbles -- has been like buying tickets for a rock concert where popular bands sell out in minutes.

Numerous Indian states are also struggling with vaccine shortages, meaning there are limited slots available for the up to 600 million people in the 18-44 cohort now eligible for jobs.

Maskara was eventually successful in finding a slot, but many others are still desperately searching.

So far, only three per cent of India's 1.3 billion people -- or 39.5 million -- are fully vaccinated with both doses. An additional 10.6 per cent have received just their first shot.

Hackathon
Techies have developed workarounds to help users in some cities where slots have been opening up at random times of day and are filled within one or



India opened its vaccine drive to all adults this month, but for anyone aged between 18 and 44 getting a slot is very difficult. PHOTO: AFP

two minutes.
Berty Thomas, 35, a Chennai-based hobbyist programmer and business analyst, created a tool that alerts users via the Telegram messaging app when slots in their district open. It's already gotten more than 400,000 subscribers.
"My focus right now is to

expand these alerts to multiple small towns and villages across the country," Thomas told AFP, adding that some users wanted to book for relatives in regional and rural areas.

Local media say some families have even travelled long distances to secure slots for their

younger members.
Devang Bhatt, 28, told AFP that after days of scouring the vaccine portal for a slot in Ahmedabad in the western state of Gujarat, he found one on the outskirts of the city.

No internet, no vaccination
But for Seema, a house-help working in the northern city of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh state -- which has been ravaged by the virus -- getting vaccinated seems unlikely.

"I don't have access to the internet... A few boys in my neighbourhood do have smartphones but they don't know how to use it for this (registration)," the 40-year-old who goes by one name told AFP.

"(The government) should think about people like us. Every day I run the risk of exposing myself to the disease as I work for three households. I wish I could get myself vaccinated."

Experts say that the government should allow walk-ins at vaccination centres -- a measure already introduced for people above 45 years old.

Authorities should also consider "taking vaccines to the people rather than having people coming to the vaccines", Ashoka University physics and biology professor Gautam Menon told AFP. He suggested steps like mobile vaccination clinics in remote areas.

For Mohendra Sharma, who doesn't own a mobile phone, such changes can't come soon enough.
"There needs to be a system for door-to-door vaccination. Those who don't have a smartphone -- what will they do?," the 26-year-old told AFP at a milk store in Delhi where he works.

"I am worried for my family and for myself if we don't get the vaccination."

Source : AFP

99 of 100 cities most at risk environmentally in Asia

Of the 100 cities worldwide most vulnerable to environmental hazards all but one are in Asia, and four-fifths are in India or China, according to a risk assessment published Thursday.

ACROSS the globe, more than 400 large cities with a total population of 1.5 billion are at "high" or "extreme" risk due to some mixture of life-shortening pollution, dwindling water supplies, deadly heat waves, natural disasters and climate change, the report found.

The sinking megacity of Jakarta -- plagued by pollution, flooding and heat waves, with worse to come -- topped the ranking.

But India, home to 13 of the world's 20 most risk-laden cities, may face the most daunting future of any country in the world.

Delhi ranks second on the global index of 576 cities compiled by business risk analysts Verisk Maplecroft, followed within India by Chennai (3rd), Agra (6th), Kanpur (10th), Jaipur (22nd) and Lucknow (24th). Mumbai and its 12.5 million souls is 27th.

Looking only at air pollution -- which causes more than seven million premature deaths worldwide each year, including a million in India alone -- the 20 cities with the worst air quality in the world among urban areas of at least a million people are all in India. Delhi in pole position.

The air pollution assessment was weighted towards the impact of microscopic, health-wrecking particles known as PM2.5, cast off in large measure by the burning of coal and other fossil fuels.

China's middle class
Outside Asia, the Middle East and North Africa have the largest proportion of "high risk" cities across all threat categories combined, but Lima is the only non-Asian city to crack the top 100.

"Home to more than half the world's population and a key driv-

er of wealth, cities are already coming under serious strain from dire air quality, water scarcity and natural hazards," the report's lead author Will Nichols told AFP.

While richer than India, China faces formidable environmental challenges as well.

Thirty-five of the 50 cities worldwide most beset by water pollution are in China, as are all but two of the top 15 facing water stress, according to the report.

But different political systems and levels of development may ultimately play in China's favour, Nichols said.

"For China, an emerging middle class is increasingly demanding cleaner air and water, which is being reflected in government targets," he told AFP.

Africa hit hardest
"China's top-down governance structure and willingness



Across the globe, more than 400 large cities with a total population of 1.5 billion are at high or extreme risk due to some mixture of life-shortening pollution, dwindling water supplies, deadly heat waves, natural disasters and climate change. PHOTO: AFP

to take abrupt measures, such as shutting down factories to meet emissions goals -- gives it more of a chance of mitigating these

risks."
India's weaker governance, coupled with the size and scale of its informal economy, makes

it far harder to address environmental and climate issues at the city level, he added.

Source : AFP

Public information

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

Yangon Region Administration Council

သတင်းစာ ဂျပန်ယူ စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာခံချိန်ဖို ပုံနှိပ်လိပ်ပြာ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။
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> သတင်းနှင့်အချက်အလက်ဗဟိုဌာန (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ဧပြီပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၄၁၂၁၀၊ ၀၉-၄၃၀၀၀၅၂	> ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(စစ်တွေ) ဖုန်း-၀၄၃-၂၀၂၅၀၃၊ ၀၄၃-၂၀၂၃၀၆၀
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> The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၉၅၄၄၃၃၊ ၀၉-၄၄၀၀၄၂၂၁၄	> ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(ကလေး) ဖုန်း-၀၇၃-၂၀၂၂၁၃၃
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> ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(မော်လမြိုင်) ဖုန်း-၀၅၇-၂၀၂၇၅၅၊ ၀၅၇-၂၀၂၇၅၆	> ကိုယ်ပွားသတင်းစာတိုက်(ညောင်) ဖုန်း-၀၅၉-၂၀၄၂၁၀၃

၂၀၂၁ ခုနှစ်အတွက် အချိန်ကုန်အလေးချိန် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြေးမုံ



Security forces seizing weapons, equipment used in terrorist attacks



Arrestees seen along with seized weapons in Myaing.

SECURITY forces confiscated weapons and equipment used in terrorist attacks in Bago Region, Sagaing Region, Tanin-

thayi Region, Mon State, Magway Region, Yangon Region and Kayah State on 12 May. Three men were arrested

with homemade guns, gas gun and related equipment used in terrorist attacks in Bago, Taninthayi and Sagaing re-

gions.

Naing Han Thar, 56, fugitive of the Mawlamyine District court and Nay Lin Oo, 17, were arrested with a vehicle, one 9 mm American-made pistol, one magazine and 29 bullets and one grenade in Werat village in Ye Township, Mon State.

Three men riding a motorbike were stopped and searched by the security forces while patrolling the wards in Myaing Township, Magway Region and one handmade gun and related equipment were

confiscated from them.

Similarly, a homemade gun made by PVC plastic pipe and related materials were found and confiscated in the drain near the Toe river bank in Kawhmu township, Yangon Region. Two men were arrested with 15 detonators and related items in their backpack in Prusho Town in Kayah State.

It is reported that investigations are conducted to take action against the owners of the weapons and related equipment and those who hide them according to the law. — MNA



Arrestees seen with seized items in Yay.



Arrestees seen with seized items in Myaing.



Arrestees seen with seized items in Kawhmu.

Two arrested with handmade firearms in Sagaing Region

TWO men arrested together with several handmade guns, including handmade mines and bombs, in ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region yesterday.

The combined team comprising security members raided the vicinity area of Kyan Tine Aung pagoda in Kye Gone Village and Mathae Kya Gwin station in ChaungU Township upon a tip-off. Some young men gathered to commit acts of terrorism, handmade guns, bombs, and mine and

firearm training in order to affect the State's administrative machinery due to the incitements of unscrupulous organizations.

When the security members arrived there, about 100 armed insurgents attacked the police with the firearms they made.

After the clash, the police arrested Wai Yan from Chaung Ma Nar Village and Toe Toe from Mahti Thar Village.

The police seized 220 long

percussion lock firearms, two short percussion rifles, 24 gas guns, 24 12-bolt guns, 107 12-bolt bullets, one handmade gun, one time bomb, 80 handmade bombs, 19 packs containing 20 rounds of ammunition, 42 packs containing gunpowder, 1 Canon Printer, two motorcycles and other materials.

The security members investigate to take action against the participants in violence. The suspects will face actions in accord with the law. — MNA



Wai Yan



Toe Toe



Lawsuit filed against former Rector of Mandalay University of Medicine

A lawsuit has been filed against Dr Khin Maung Lwin, former Rector of the Mandalay University of Medicine under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for his acts and incite-

ments for the Civil Disobedience Movement.

He declared the University of Medicine, Mandalay as the CDM university, leading the doctors and staff to

become involved in the CDM movement on 8 February.

In addition, he threatened Daw Khin Soe Yi, the Director and party who reopened the university on 26 February.

The lawsuit was filed at No (8) police station in Chanayethazan Township under Section 505-A of the Penal Code on 28 February.

It is reported that a pub-

lic notice has been issued to report to the nearest police station if he was found and those who hid them will have to face effective action under the law. — MNA

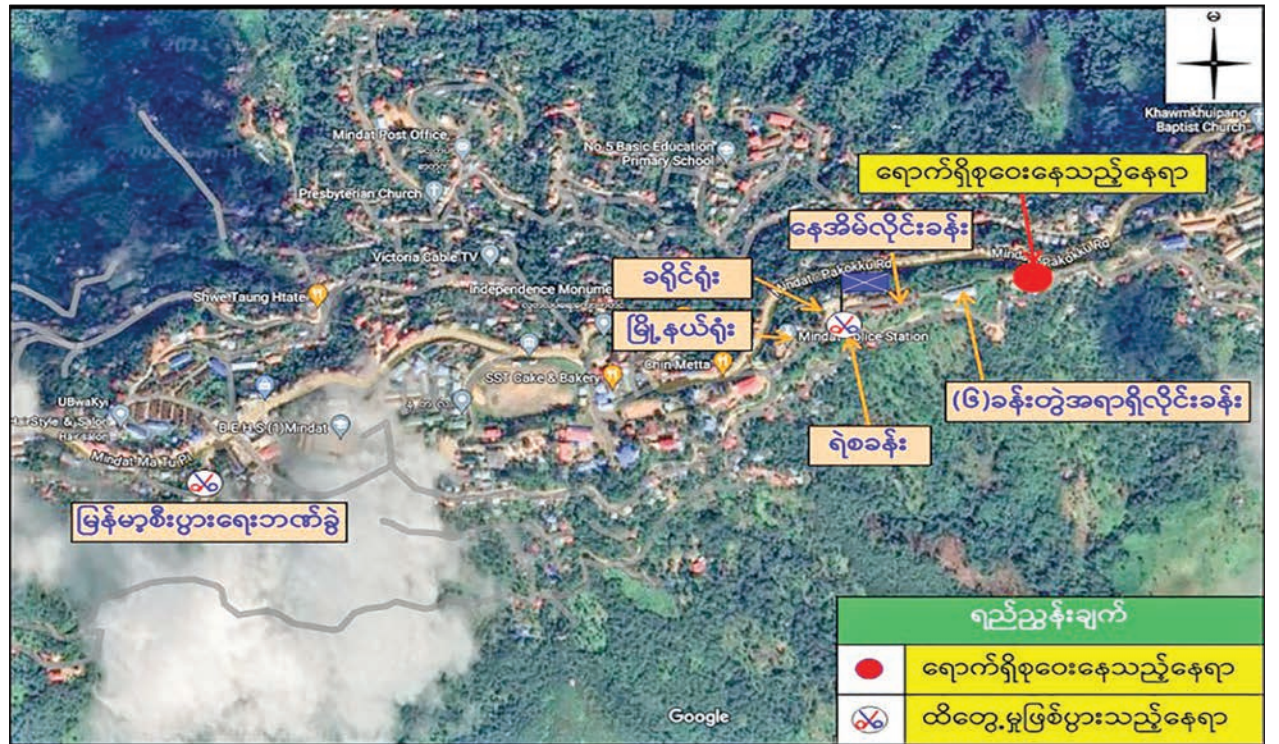
Armed terrorists attack Myoma police station, bank in Mindat

ARMED terrorists attacked the Mindat Myoma Police Station and the Myanmar Economic Bank in Mindat, Chin State, on 12 and 13 May.

About 100 terrorists attacked the township police station at around 7:40 pm with homemade guns, and about 50 terrorists attacked the My-

anmar Economic Bank at around 7:30 pm.

Similarly, 40 terrorists attacked the bank again yesterday morning and retreated when the security forces defended. It is reported that no member of the security forces was injured. — MNA



Two found dead in burning truck



THE terrorists set a fire on a six-wheel truck in Saw Township of Magway Region yesterday, resulting in two deaths.

The truck carrying cement bags caught fire between 51 miles and 2 furlongs and 3-fur-

longs point on Seikphyu-Kazunma-Saw road in Saw Township.

The truck driver U Phoe Cho (under scrutiny), who lives in the western ward of Seikphyu Township and the conductor U Tun Lwin Soe (under

scrutiny) were found dead at the incident place.

The security forces investigate to take action against the terrorists who committed such brutal murder under the law. — MNA



ဦးထွန်းလွင်နိုး(သေဆုံး)



ဦးနိုးချို(သေဆုံး)

MRTV to broadcast press conference 5/2021 of Information Team live

The press conference 5/2021 of the State Administration Council will be held at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 15 May. The Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube and Radio Myanmar will broadcast the press conference live.—MNA

State Administration Council Information Team to hold press briefing 5/2021

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press briefing on 5/2021 at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 15 May. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference. — MNA

7 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 May, total figure rises to 143,004

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 143,004 after 7 new cases were reported on 13 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,069 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,212 after one died.—MNA

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





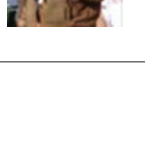
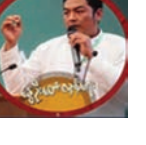
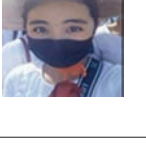


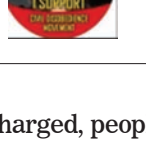
THE following nurses have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and health staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative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

Sr	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Daw N J Lynn Nar (Senior Nurse)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
2	Daw Nang Se Non (2) (Senior Nurse)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
3	Daw Nway Nway Phy (Senior Nurse)	Kawlin Hospital	Kawlin Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
4	Daw Aye Htwe (Nurse)	Ye Hospital	Ye Town, Mon State	505-a	
5	Daw Nang San Kyu Yi Moe (Nurse)	Ngaputaw Hospital	Kyonpyaw Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
6	Daw Phyto Lei Mon (Nurse)	TadaU Hospital	TadaU Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	
7	Daw Khine Thazin Nwe (Nurse)	Letpadan Hospital	Letpadan Town, Bago Region	505-a	
8	Daw Thinzar Mon (Nurse)	Letpadan Hospital	Letpadan Town, Bago Region	505-a	
9	Daw Ngu Wah Lwin (Nurse)	Thaton Hospital	Thanbuzayet Town Mon State	505-a	
10	Daw Nang Than Than Htay (Nurse)	Myawady General Hospital	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those nurses charged, action will be taken against the the persons who admitted them under the law for the supporting those nurse who participated in CDM and CRPH activities. —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 Tun Lin	Deputy Township Education Officer, Office of the Township Education Officer, Bogale Town	Bogale Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
2	U Naing Naing Tun	Staff Officer, Office of the Township Education Officer, Wetlet Town	Wetlet Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
3	U Zaw Win San	Headmaster, BEPS (Indawkan), Kanyutkwin Town	Pyu Township, Bago Region	505-a	
4	U Kyaw Thin Oo	Headmaster, BEMS- Branch (3), Wetlet Town	Wetlet Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
5	U Aung Min Tun	Headmaster, BEPS (Taunggon) Bamauk Township	Bamauk Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
6	U Myat Thi-ha Tun	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS(Y-wathitsu), Maubin Township	Maubin Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
7	Daw Khine Su Lwin	Headmistress, BEHS(Kayin Ywagyi) Toungoo Township	Ottwin Township, Bago Region	505-a	
8	U Naung Htet Aung	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS(Padaukkon), Yedashe Township	Toungoo Town, Bago Region	505-a	
9	Daw Khin Hnin Thet	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS (Sithmuthtan-haung) Myawady Town	Myawady Town, Kayin State	505-a	
10	Daw Khet Khet Nyein	Primary Assistant Teacher, BEPS(Magyikwin), Letpadan Township	Letpadan Township, Bago 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, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff. — MNA

Japan's FY 2020 travel surplus down 89% due to virus travel bans

JAPAN'S travel surplus in fiscal 2020 plunged 89.2 percent from the previous year, as the number of inbound visitors nosedived due to strict international travel restrictions by nations in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, the Finance Ministry said Thursday.

The surplus of the travel balance, showing the amount of money foreign tourists spend in Japan versus Japanese spending abroad, shrank to 264.5 billion yen (\$2.4 billion), marking the first fall since the balance turned black in fiscal 2014, according to the ministry's preliminary report.

Japan's annual travel balance had continued to improve since fiscal 2004 as tourists from overseas



Far fewer people than usual are seen on a street leading to Kiyomizu Temple, one of the top tourist attractions in Kyoto, western Japan, on May 9, 2020, under an extended nationwide state of emergency over the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

increased almost every year, and the surplus of 2.46 trillion yen in fiscal 2019 through March last year was the largest since comparable data became available in fiscal 1996.

As for the current ac-

count, one of the widest gauges of international trade, its surplus in the reporting year fell 3.8 percent to 18.20 trillion yen from a year earlier, marking the lowest level since it totaled 8.70 trillion yen in fiscal 2014. It

decreased for the third straight year.

The goods trade surplus grew eight-fold from the previous year to 3.90 trillion yen, remaining in the black for the sixth consecutive year. — Kyodo News ■

Napoleonic jewels dazzle in Geneva auction

A jewellery set worn by French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte's adopted daughter sold for \$1.65 million in Geneva on Wednesday, soaring way above the pre-auction estimate.

Marking the 200th anniversary of Napoleon's death, Christie's auction house sold the nine imperial jewels adorned with sapphires and diamonds, which were from the collection of his adopted daughter Stephanie de Beauharnais.

Some 38 sapphires from Sri Lanka were used to create the set in the early 1800s.

Offered as separate lots, the jewels had remained in the same family ever since they

were offered to Beauharnais on her wedding to Charles, the grand duke of Baden, at the Tuileries Palace in Paris in 1806.

Besides their historical value, the jewels were also prized for their natural blue, as sapphires usually undergo heat treatment to accentuate the colour. The nine pieces included a tiara, a necklace, a pair of earrings, two pendants, two brooches, a ring and a bracelet.

"There was a huge demand from collectors around the world, both in Asia and the Middle East, also Europe and the Americas," auctioneer Max Fawcett told reporters at the Magnificent Jewels sale. — AFP ■

US consumer prices spike 4.2% last month from April 2020

US consumer inflation surged 4.2 per cent last month compared to April 2020, the Labour Department said on Wednesday, posting the biggest year-on-year increase since 2008 as the economy recovered from the pandemic.

Compared to March of this year, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.8 per cent last month, seasonally adjusted, far above expectations and driven by widespread price increases, including for used vehicles and food, according to the report.

The data is sure to add fuel to the debate over whether the Federal Reserve's strategy of keeping interest rates low for a long period of time and allowing somewhat higher inflation to spur employment growth, as well as President Joe Biden's massive spending proposals, could overheat the economy. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (100N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (100N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SAN PEDRO VOY. NO. (117S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SAN PEDRO VOY. NO. (117S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Christina Grey Group Company Limited, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Thailand, and having its principal office at Unit 909-910, 9th Floor, 57, Park Ventures Ecoplex Building, Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:



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For **Christina Grey Group Company Limited**
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Dated: 14th May 2021

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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09 454 237 515

UK economy in recovery mode before lockdown easing



Easing of pandemic restrictions will help the British economy to recover further in the coming months. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITAIN'S economy began to recover strongly at the end of the first quarter despite only minor easing of lockdowns, official data revealed on Wednesday.

Gross domestic product jumped 2.1 percent in March, the Office for National Statistics said, although by not enough

for the UK economy to avoid contracting overall in the first quarter.

GDP shrank by 1.5 percent in the first three months of 2021 compared with the final quarter last year, the ONS said.

The UK is exiting lockdowns at a gradual pace, allowing the

economy to further recover from pandemic fallout.

"As we cautiously reopen the economy, I will continue to take all the steps necessary to support our recovery," finance minister Rishi Sunak said in reaction to the data.

Darren Morgan, ONS director of economic statistics, said the strong recovery seen in March was led by retail and school reopenings, offsetting weakness in the services sector.

He added that construction grew strongly over the quarter and stood above its pre-pandemic level in March.

Morgan also noted that manufacturing recovered robustly in both February and March.

Meanwhile, "exports of goods to the EU continued to increase in March and are now almost back to their December

level" before Brexit took place, he added.

"However, imports from Europe remain sluggish in the first three months of the year, being outstripped by non-EU imports for the first time on record."

Britain formally exited the European Union at the start of the year.

The growth recovery tallies with the Bank of England's outlook.

The BoE last week said the UK economy will enjoy a stronger-than-expected recovery this year after the government began easing its coronavirus pandemic lockdowns quicker than anticipated.

It is expected to rebound by 7.25 percent this year amid vaccine rollouts, the central bank predicted after it upgraded its prior guidance of a 5.0-percent expansion. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-UK leader Cameron faces MP grilling over Greensill lobbying

BRITISH lawmakers will on Thursday get their first chance to quiz former prime minister David Cameron about his controversial lobbying for collapsed finance group Greensill Capital, following months of scandal and revelation.

The former Conservative leader, who was an adviser to the company and reportedly held lucrative stock options that are now worthless, will appear before a parliamentary committee probing lobbying ahead of the loan company's collapse in March.

The firm's implosion threatens about 50,000 jobs at companies around the world that relied on its financing for their supply chains, and has rekindled the debate on the close ties between the upper echelons of British politics and finance. —AFP ■

US asks Mexico to probe GM union vote

THE United States formally requested that Mexico investigate allegations of wrongdoing in a union vote at a General Motors factory, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced Wednesday.

Tai cited allegations of "serious violations" of worker rights during recent union vote at a GM plant in Silao, in the state of Guanajuato. The request marks the first time any country has invoked a provision of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

"Using USMCA to help protect freedom of association and collective bargaining rights in Mexico helps workers both at

home and in Mexico, by stopping a race to the bottom," Tai said.

The request concerns a worker vote last month on whether to continue to recognize the union, an affiliate of the Confederation of Mexican Workers.

The Mexican government previously suspended the election following allegations the union destroyed unfavorable ballots and committed other chicanery.

Tai praised the Mexican government for suspending the vote, saying the US move "will complement Mexico's efforts to ensure that these workers can fully exercise their collective bargaining rights." —AFP ■



The United States formally requested that Mexico investigate allegations of wrongdoing in a union vote at a General Motors factory, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced Wednesday. **PHOTO:AFP**

DR Congo to suffer \$4 bn shortfall from Gertler contracts: activists



A cobalt plant in Lubumbashi, southeastern DR Congo. The vast central African country is rich in minerals but most of its people are poor. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Democratic Republic of Congo is on track to suffer a shortfall of nearly four billion dollars from mining and oil contracts that it signed with controversial Israeli billionaire Dan Gertler, an anti-corruption group said on Wednesday.

The United States hit Gertler with sanctions in December 2017 over mining deals he struck with help from his friend, the DRC's then president Joseph Kabila.

The tycoon had deprived the DRC of tax revenues of \$1.36 billion over a decade, according to a 2013 report by the Africa Progress Panel chaired

by former UN chief Kofi Annan.

On Wednesday, a coalition of anti-graft campaigners called The Congo Is Not for Sale (CNPV) said that its own analysis of public finances found "the DRC lost income of \$1.95 billion between 2003 and 2021."

"If nothing is done to stop this haemorrhage, an additional \$1.76 billion could escape state coffers between 2021 and 2039," the CNPV said.

CNPV spokesman Jean-Claude Mputu told a news conference that "no intermediary has ever cost the country as dearly" as Gertler. —AFP ■

Amazon wins EU court appeal, in major tax case

AMAZON scored a major legal victory on Wednesday when an EU court annulled an order from the bloc's powerful antitrust authority that Luxembourg recoup €250 million in back taxes.

The decision handed a fresh defeat to EU competition supremo Margrethe Vestager who in 2017 accused Luxembourg of handing tax privileges to the internet retail giant that amounted to illegal state aid. But the EU General Court found "no selective advantage" had been given to the firm by the small EU Duchy, a statement said. The setback for the EU lands less than a year after iPhone maker Apple spectacularly won its appeal in the same court against the European Commission's blockbuster order in 2016 that Apple repay Ireland 13 billion euros.

French energy giant Engie meanwhile lost its appeal on Wednesday in the same court against a similar EU order to repay Luxembourg 120 million euros in taxes. —AFP ■

Republicans oust Trump critic Cheney from leadership

US House Republicans on Wednesday ousted conservative Liz Cheney, a fierce critic of Donald Trump, from her powerful leadership role in a move that tightens the former president's grip on the party.

Eighteen months before crucial midterms and three years before the next presidential race, the Republican Party punished one of its own for her refusal to embrace Trump's false claim that Democrats stole the 2020 election.

Cheney, daughter of former vice president Dick Cheney, remains a member of Congress. But a swift, closed-door voice vote to remove her as the number three House Republican offered her up as the latest political sacrifice in the



US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris met with the top four leaders in Congress, two Democrats and two Republicans, minutes after the the Republican Party ousted anti-Trump congresswoman Liz Cheney from leadership. **PHOTO: AFP**

GOP's alignment with Trump.

The Wyoming lawmaker told reporters afterwards she would continue fighting for

conservative principles and against the embrace of a one-term leader who keeps spreading voter fraud falsehoods.

"We cannot be dragged backwards by the very dangerous lies of the former president," Cheney said.

"We must go forward based on truth. We cannot both embrace the big lie and embrace the Constitution."

The 54-year-old also stood firm against the prospect of Trump running again in 2024.

"I will do everything I can to ensure that the former president never again gets anywhere near the Oval Office," she said.

Trump punched back in a typically abrasive, personal attack.

"Liz Cheney is a bitter, horrible human being," he said in a statement after her ouster. —AFP ■

Biden says spoke to Netanyahu, hopes Israel violence ending 'sooner than later'



Smoke billows from Israeli air strikes in Gaza City, controlled by the Palestinian Hamas movement, on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

US President Joe Biden said Wednesday that Israel has a right to defend itself but after speaking with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu he hopes violent clashes with Palestinians will end quickly.

"I had a conversation with Bibi Netanyahu not too long ago," Biden told reporters. "My expectation and hope is that this will be closing down sooner than later, but Israel has a right to defend itself when you have thousands of rockets flying into your territory."

Biden said US diplomacy was in high gear with national security and defense staff "in constant contact with their counterparts in the Middle East — not just with the Israelis, but also with everyone from the Egyptians and the Saudis to the Emiratis."

Biden spoke as calls grew internationally for a de-escalation of violence after intense hostilities between Israel and the Palestinians that have left dozens dead and hundreds injured.

The Israeli army has launched hundreds of air strikes on the Gaza Strip since Monday, while Palestinian militants have launched more than 1,200 rockets, according to Israel's army, in some of the worst violence in seven years. Coinciding with the aerial bombardments is surging violence between Arabs and Jews inside Israel.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he had spoken by telephone with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, to urge an end to the rocket attacks. —AFP ■

Temporary Afghan ceasefire to begin after deadly violence

A three-day ceasefire agreed by the warring Taliban and Afghan forces was due to come into force on Thursday, after weeks of intense clashes throughout the country. Proposed by the militants and agreed to by President

Ashraf Ghani, the truce marks the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which comes at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. Violence has intensified in the country since Washington missed a May 1 deadline, agreed with the Taliban last year, to withdraw all of its troops.

It will be only the fourth pause in fighting in nearly 20 years of conflict, and is expected to give respite to Afghan families as they celebrate Eid.

"I have not seen my relatives who live in Logar province

for about a year. I will use this opportunity to go to the Taliban controlled areas and visit them," said Mustafa, a Kabul resident.

Tens of thousands of Afghans have been killed and millions have been displaced by the conflict, which has seen a resurgent Taliban take hold of large swathes of the country.

The militants and the Afghan government launched peace talks in September last year, but progress has stalled despite international efforts to jump start the negotiations.

Ceasefires in the past have largely held, in what is widely thought to be an exercise by the Taliban leadership to prove they have firm control over the myriad factions across the country that make up the hardline movement. —AFP ■



The three-day ceasefire will be only the fourth pause in fighting in nearly 20 years of conflict in Afghanistan. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Imprisoned pro-Haftar fighters freed in Libya

SEVENTY-EIGHT prisoners who fought on the side of eastern Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar in his year-long offensive against the capital Tripoli were released late Wednesday, according to an AFP correspondent at the scene.

The detained fighters were released at the end of a reconciliation ceremony organised in Jedaida prison in Tripoli that was attended by the minister of justice.

They were then reunited with their waiting families.

The release comes on the eve of the Eid al-Fitr holiday that marks the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, traditionally celebrated by families gathering together.

Libya has been ravaged by bloodshed since the fall and killing of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in a NATO-backed 2011 revolt. —AFP ■

Crisis-hit city of Cali emblematic of Colombian anger

POVERTY, long-simmering racial tension, drug trafficking and a recent outbreak of violent anti-government protest: the Colombian city of Cali has come to encapsulate all the ills of a country recently emerged from half a century of conflict but tumbling back into crisis.

With 2.5 million inhabitants, just over half of them black, the tropical melting pot near the Latin American nation's Pacific coast is weighed down by crushing poverty and unemployment.

It is a "cocktail with racist components, empowered by irritation and weariness towards the government," professor Delfin Grueso from the University of Valle told AFP.

Once famous as the fiefdom of the feared Cali Cartel, which dominated the world's cocaine market; or as a hotbed for salsa, the city is now paralyzed by road blocks, protests and clashes between civilians and police. —AFP ■

PSSI Football Congress to be held on 29 May

ACCORDING to an announcement with the ASEAN Football Federation, an annual Football Congress chaired by the Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) will be held on 29 May 2021 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The date was confirmed

following a videoconferencing meeting last week chaired by PSSI President Mochamad Iriawan.

“The Executive Committee meeting decided to set the PSSI 2021 Congress to be held after Hari Raya Idul Fitri on 29 May

2021 in Jakarta,” said Mochamad.

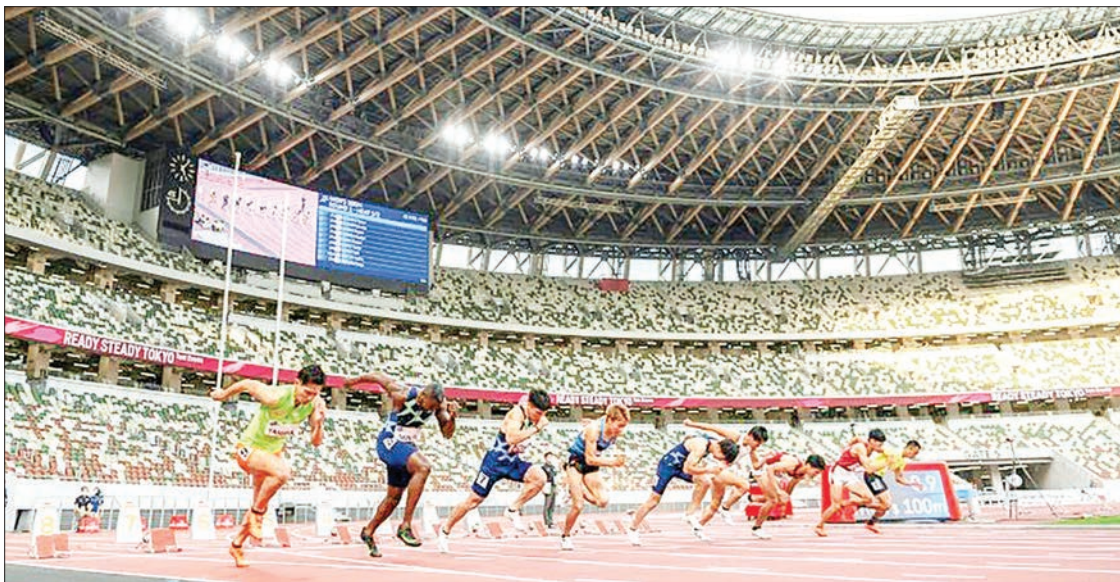
“We have also appointed Ahmad Fadh Karim as a coach of the national eSports team. He successfully qualified for the FI-FAe Nations Cup in August 2021 in Copenhagen, Denmark,” he added.

“Other than the usual house-keeping agendas to be presented to the Congress for approval, there will also be other areas for discussion such as the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers, AFF Under-15, AFF U18, SEA Games, AFF Suzuki Cup, AFF U16 Women’s, and

others.

At the Executive Committee meeting, PSSI has also put forward plans to kick off the upcoming Indonesia Liga 1 2021 on 3 July 2021 with Liga 2 planned for two weeks later,” officials stated. —GNLM ■

US track and field scrap Japan pre-Olympics camp over virus: officials



American sprinter Justin Gatlin (2nd L) took part in an athletics test event in Tokyo at the weekend.

PHOTO: AFP

THE US track and field team has scrapped plans for pre-Olympic training in Japan over concerns about safety during the pandemic, Japanese officials said.

US athletes were supposed to train in Chiba, outside Tokyo, before the pandemic-postponed Games open on July 23.

But the Chiba regional authority said in a statement the team cancelled “because of concerns over athlete safety as the coronavirus pandemic

continues around the world with no prospects of winding down”.

“Although the cancellation is extremely regrettable, we think it is the best decision... given the current situation,” it said.

The American team (USATF) said its plans had been badly disrupted over the past year, adding that athletes had been encouraged to train in the US.

“With the uncertainty sur-

rounding competitions in 2020 and 2021, USATF provided domestic competitive opportunities... and encouraged Team USATF athletes to stay in the US and train,” a spokesperson said in an email to AFP.

Pre-training camps across Japan have been cancelled either by prospective host towns or the athletes involved over virus concerns as the country battles a fourth wave of infections. —AFP ■

Williams to play in Parma after early Rome exit

SERENA Williams has been given a wild card to play in next week’s WTA tournament in Parma after her premature exit from the Italian Open, her entourage told AFP on Thursday.

Williams crashed out in the second round on Wednesday, her first match in nearly three months since her semi-final defeat in the Australian Open.

The 39-year-old will continue to warm-up on clay at the Emilia-Romagna Open which starts on Sunday before the French Open in Paris on May 30.

Williams needs one more Grand Slam title to match Aus-

tralian great Margaret Court’s record of 24 major trophies.

“It’s tough to have a first match on clay,” said Williams after losing 7-6 (8/6), 7-5 to Argentina’s Nadia Podoroska, 24, a surprise semi-finalist at last year’s Roland Garros.

“But I usually don’t take this much time off on a clay court season, so usually I play like a Charleston or a Madrid or somewhere.

“So my season doesn’t usually start this late on clay. But the training isn’t for nothing, so I know that it’s just a matter of time. —AFP ■



Serena Williams lost her opening match at the Italian Open in Rome. PHOTO: AFP

Ronaldo reaches 100 goals for Juve in vital win at Sassuolo



Cristiano Ronaldo’s 100th goal for Juventus in all competitions helped keep alive his side’s hopes of a top-four Serie A finish after a 3-1 win at an impressive Sassuolo on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

CRISTIANO Ronaldo’s 100th goal for Juventus in all competitions helped keep alive his side’s hopes of a top-four Serie A finish after a 3-1 win at an impressive Sassuolo on Wednesday.

The result was not easy to come by for Juve, with returning goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon saving an early penalty, but goals from Adrien Rabiot, Ronaldo and Paulo Dybala meant they stayed fifth, two points off the Champions League qualification places.

Buffon, who announced this week that he is leaving the club at the end of the season, replaced Wojciech Szczesny in goal and immediately showed he has lost none of his ability as he brilliantly kept out Domenico Berardi’s spot-kick.

The chances kept coming for the home side, and their profligacy proved costly as Rabiot

drilled home the opener in the 28th minute, before Ronaldo reached another milestone just before the break with a cool finish from the edge of the area.

Sassuolo continued to do everything but score, until Giacomo Raspadori finally beat Buffon just before the hour mark.

But Dybala also reached a century of Juve goals, with a fine dinked finish, to ensure they kept pace with their top-four rivals Atalanta, AC Milan and Napoli, who all won in the latest round of matches, with two games to play.

Elsewhere on a busy night in Serie A, AC Milan thrashed Torino 7-0 to stay third and Atalanta cruised to a 2-0 win over Benevento, who remain deep in the relegation mire, to remain second. —AFP ■