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Only when every citizen has the will to build a better country will the country have prosperity: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC 11/2021 meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 May 2021.

TATMADAW did not commit the coup d'état but manages the State responsibilities in order to guarantee the democracy, said State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC 11/2021 meeting at the Council Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his opening address, the Senior General said political protests were staged after Tatmadaw had taken the State power.

Although the situation of taking over the State responsibilities has been explained many times, some people understood it, but some so didn't. Now, sabotages are committed via insurgents. They attend the explosive and sabotage courses in the area of armed insurgents. They formed CRPH, NUG and PDF declared as unlawful associations to commit terrorist acts on the destruction route. Myanmar Police Force and administrative bodies are to join hands for taking security measures through the public

security system.

Since the country started walking on the path to the multiparty democracy in 2011, it has not yet restored the cent per cent peace in its democratization process amid armed conflicts. Hence, the invitation was extended to hold dialogues on peace in 2011, and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA was signed in 2015. Before signing the NCA, gentlemen agreements were sought from ethnic armed organizations.

The Tatmadaw took the re-

The Tatmadaw did not commit the coup d'état but manages the State responsibilities to guarantee democracy.

sponsibilities in accord with the Constitution without revocation of the Constitution (2008). The Tatmadaw did not commit the

coup d'état but manages the State responsibilities to guarantee democracy.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Message of Greetings sent by Most Venerable Dr Nañissara on the occasion commemorating the 2610th Birthday Anniversary of the Buddha

Good morning

- First, may I extend my loving-kindness to
- All highly-respected Venerable monks
- All Buddhist brothers and sisters around the world
- All strata of world people,
- and particularly to the people of the Union of Myanmar with a wish that you all be free from the Three

Catastrophes of ' Diseases, Weapons and Famine.' According to the Buddha, "Greed, Anger and Ignorance" are the root-causes of the said three catastrophes. So, I wish all people of the Myanmar manage to control these three root-causes in order that they would lead happy lives daily.

Today is the 2610th Birthday Anniversary of the Buddha, also known as the Buddha's Day. Today, which is the Threefold Sacred day, is the most significant and auspicious day for the Buddhist World since Prince Siddhattha Gotama was born, attained Supreme Enlightenment and passed into final demise on this very full-moon day of Kason, known as "Vesaka Punnima", better known as "Vesakha" in the Buddhist world. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity of expressing my special thanks to the Buddhist Associations around the world for organizing this great occasion in honour of the Buddha.

As a matter of fact, Buddha and his Dhamma were born in India. It is just a matter of pride and honour for Asians since not only the Buddha, but also the Founders of other religions were born in Asia. I think it is not hyperbolic if I say Asia is the Noble Continent.

It has been over 2564 years since the Buddha perished. However, the Dhamma torch He lit, which originated in India, has spread to all parts of the globe, and is still flourishing. I would, here, like to stress that it is the duty of all Buddhists for the Dhamma light the Buddha lit not to fade away, not to extinguish but to be shining brighter than before instead.

Here, I would like to quote a piece of the Buddha's teachings which said:

Due to greed, hatred, anger and delusion in the hearts of humans,

- the whole world is trembling and shaking
- the whole world is smoky
- the whole world is internally burning
- the whole world is totally ablaze with flames
- the whole world is needy

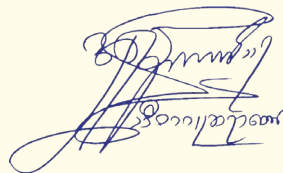
So, I would like to strongly urge that with systematic and sustainable practice of the Buddha's teachings,

- Let's change the unstable world to a stable one
- Let's purify the world by removing the smokes of defilements
- Let's put out the internal and external burnings of the whole world
- Let's fulfill the needs of the people

With this earnest appeal, I conclude my Buddha's Day message.

May the sublime Dhamma prevail in its pristine purity in every corner of the world.

Thank you.



Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Nañissara

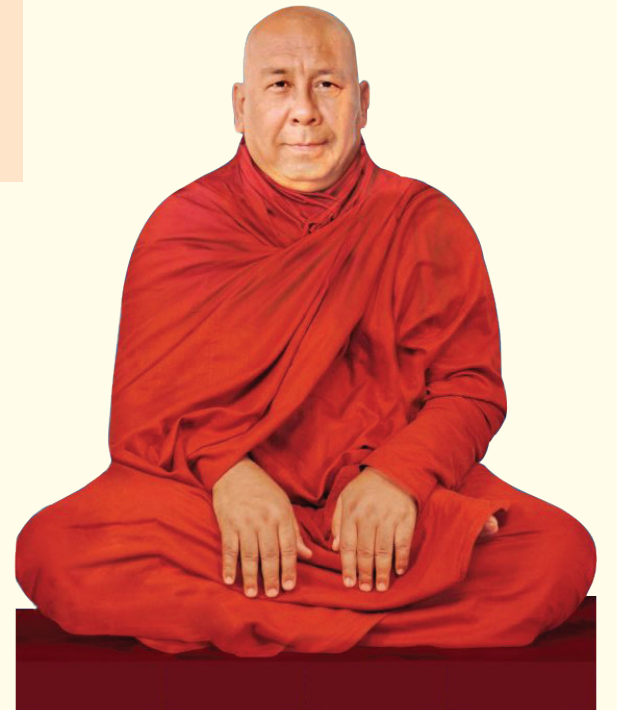
Vice-Sangha Raja of Shwekyin Nikaya Buddhist Order

Abhidhajamaharathaguru, Abhidhajaaggamahahasaddhammajotika Ph.D., D.Litt.,

Founder of Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Association,

Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies, Patron of Sitagu Ayudana and Sekkhu Dhana Hospitals,

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Theravada Dhamma Society of America



To educate the people for systematic littering

MYANMAR lost billions of kyats in the loss of natural disasters on a yearly basis. Currently, it is possible to begin the storms and squalls in Myanmar. Preventive measures must be taken at respective buildings and in relevant regions. Township administrative bodies and development committees need to coordinate the plans to ensure the proper water flow in drains of respective townships.

(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 21 May 2021)

Only when every citizen has the will to build a better ...

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There are more than 90 parties in the country based on politics, regions and ethnic nationals. They need to carry out politics in unison without diverse concepts. If they do not have unity, they face difficulties in restoring peace and stability. Politicians and media should not commit incitements and spread fake news. The peacemaking process goes on as it is necessary to cease armed conflicts among the ethnic nationals for restoring peace and stability based on security measures.

The council needs to carry out peace and stability of the State, ensure food sufficiency and resurge the economy. It is necessary to undertake agriculture and livestock tasks suitable for the respective regions to improve the rural economy. Encouragements must be given to reoperate the suspended businesses and develop cotton

cultivation to produce industrial materials.

Emphasis must be placed on generating hydropower without environmental impacts. Efficient use of water and sufficient electrification will help develop the nation. River water pumping projects must be implemented to improve the agricultural tasks. The government, the political parties, and all citizens need to work in concert to fulfil the nation's needs.

The council members discussed matters pertaining to effective security measures for reopening of schools, declaration of martial law orders in some townships, exposing those who keep a large amount of money in hand with unscrupulous attempts, the rapid response of media, taking security for the people through public strength, taking action against those who harm banking system and delay of currency circulation, protec-

Suppose anyone does not follow the law in a democracy. In that case, it is impossible to restore the rule of law and to implement free, fair and clean democracy.

tion for administrative officials and families at different levels, holding of workshops at respective departments for the development of human resources, supply of drinking water in Rakhine State, reclamation of highland farmlands in hilly regions, the appointment of new staff in vacant posts, control of gold mining in Mabein Township and sinking of tube-wells in water shortage areas.

In his response, the Senior General said efforts are being made to regularize the banking

services and currency flow to win the people's trust. The tax system of the State is being undertaken under the law. Security measures will be taken for the protection of ward/village chairpersons. Relevant ministries must scrutinize the duty and functions of NGOs and INGOs in the country. Appointment of new staff in vacant posts must be carried out under the Public Service Personnel Law, Rules and rules of service personnel and disciplines.

In line with the motto:

"National discipline starts at schools", it is necessary to initiate the disciplines for the nationals, and students need to abide by school disciplines. The students should pay attention to learning. Disciplines must be realized in respective arenas. Suppose anyone does not follow the law in a democracy. In that case, it is impossible to restore the rule of law and to implement free, fair and clean democracy. It is necessary to turn out many educated persons and disseminate the knowledge to each other in the nation to ensure the rule of law. Only when every citizen has the will to build a better country will the country have prosperity. In order to do so, the education sector needs sound foundations. The Senior General invited suggestions from regions and states for the people to have the resurgence of the economy and food sufficiency. — MNA

Tatmadaw provides treatment to over 210,000 outpatients

TATMADAW keep providing health care services for the patients at the military hospitals and temporary treatment hospitals in the townships of regions and states.

The Tatmadaw medical teams comprising Tatmadaw doctors, specialists, medical assistants and nurses, have been giving medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services.

A total of 218,197 outpatients and 66,193 inpatients reached these hospitals

from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medical assistants and nurses have conducted 10,183 major operations and 5,201 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment for the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 12,919 babies to date. Of those, 5,233 cases are done in the caesarean section and 7,686 cases in ordinary delivery.

Moreover, Shan State Administration Council Chairman Dr Kyaw Tun and North-East

Command Commander Brig.-Gen Naing Naing Oo and party offered words of encouragement to the patients—locals, military officers, other ranks and their families-- who took medical treatments at station military hospital in Lashio Town, Shan State (North) and gave foodstuffs.

Officials received K3 millions which donated by Shan State Administration Council to purchase medicines for the local patients who had treatments at the military hospital.

In addition to providing



medical care to patients in need of hospitalization, Tatmadaw is making arrange-

ments for the well-being of hospitalized patients and caregivers. —MNA

Trials begin for former President, State Counsellor, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman



THE hearings of former President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung were conducted at the special court of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

Former President U Win Myint was charged under the Natural Disaster Management Law Section 25 at Zabuthiri Township court for violating

COVID-19 restrictions as he welcomed the election car campaign containing 760 people in 220 cars and on 32 motorcycles at the gate of his presidential residence on 19 September 2020.

Similarly, former State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was charged under the Natural Disaster Management Law Section 25 for welcoming the election car campaign at

her house on 19 September 2020 and organizing a door-to-door election campaign in Shwekyarbin Ward of Zabuthiri township by breaching the COVID-19 restriction on 8 August 2020. She also faced additional charges under Section 67 of the Telecommunications Law and Section 8 of Export and Import Law at Zabuthiri Township court for the illegal importation of 10 radio com-

munication devices and 1 set of Jammer on 1 February 2021.

Moreover, the letter of NLD CEC sent to foreign embassies, EU and international organizations not to cooperate with the military junta, and President U Win Myint is the country's official government on 7 February 2021 and notification No 6/02/21 affected the state community. Therefore, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Win Myint and Dr Myo

Aung were prosecuted under the Penal Code Section 505 (b) at Zabuthiri township court.

The hearings of U Win Myint, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Dr Myo Aung were carried on at the special court in Nay Pyi Taw Council office compound, and they were sent to the court. They were also allowed to meet their lawyers. Further hearings will proceed according to the law. — MNA

CBM governor virtually joins 49th ACU's BOD meeting

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor U Than Nyein joined the virtual meeting of the 49th Asian Clearing Union's Board of Directors yesterday.

The meeting chair Bhutan firstly made an opening speech and transferred the chairmanship to India. Then, the leaders kept holding the ACU Board of Directors meeting.

The meeting discussed matters pertaining to the economic status of ACU member countries, efforts and reports of ACU Secretary-General in trading among the member countries in 2020FY, the

important role of non-bank financial institutions, proper methods to resolve the current challenges, hardships of exporters and importers who adopt ACU system and building of Web-based Application.

They also focused on ACU Agreement and Procedure Rules regarding the use of Japanese Yen in ACU system, payment and clearing system of ACU and nomination of ACU chair and vice chair for 2022-2023.

The ACU member countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. — MNA



State Administration Council Press Release

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

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

Nay Pyi Taw hosts School Enrolment Day ceremony (2021-2022)



THE Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw, held a School Enrolment Day ceremony for the 2021-2022 academic year at B.E.H.S 9 in Zabuthiri Township yesterday.

The students of B.E.H.S 5 opened the ceremony with the song 'Kyaung-at-hnan-yay-thi-din-pat'. Then, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe

said the school enrolment day is celebrated from 24 to 31 May across the nation. The students' parents will be satisfied with the reopening of schools on 1 June. The parents should not believe the spreading fake news like the officials will collect money for school admissions. The respective officials and teachers should give accurate informa-

tion in a timely manner.

He then said that all the teachers are civil service personnel and should be free from party politics and perform their duties whatever the government is.

He also highlighted the vital role of teachers in guiding students with the lessons stated in the school textbooks and en-

suring that every child will have access to education regardless of wealth or not.

Then, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing briefed all on the preparations for the reopening of 757 schools in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 June and security measures for teachers and students.

Union Minister and party

handed over the books and textbooks to the respective township education officers.

The students of B.E.H.S (9) Zabuthiri Township sang "Zar-ti-man."

The Union Minister and party then inspected the school enrolment processes and comforted the students' parents.

—MNA



28 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 May, total figure rises to 143,262

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **143,262** after **28 new cases** were reported on 24 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **132,218** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

School enrolment day ceremonies held at schools in Yangon region



Eastern Yangon District; No (1) Basic Education High School, Thanlyin Township in South Yangon District; No (1) Basic Education High School, Insein in North Yangon District.

The School Enrolment Day ceremonies were held in schools at Yangon Region to ensure that all school-age children access education in this academic year yesterday. — MNA

A school enrolment day ceremony was held in BEHS No.4 Ahlon yesterday.

YANGON Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe and members attended the School Enrolment Day ceremony held at No (4) Basic Education High School yesterday morning in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region.

The chairman said that when schools reopen, there may be harassment by fraudsters in various ways. He urged all to coordinate among teachers, parents, authorities and volunteers to respond in the best way. He also said to teachers to discharge the duties and responsibilities given by the State and

work well as civil servants.

Student textbooks, note books and COVID-19 protective materials were distributed to the school. The chairman and officials also encouraged the enrolment situation at No (4) Basic Education High School in Ahlon Township and No (2) Basic Education High School in Latha Township.

Chairpersons of District Administration bodies and District Education Officers attended the School Enrolment Day ceremonies held at No (1) Basic Education High School, Thuwunna in



Textbooks, note books and COVID protective materials are distributed free to students.

School enrolment week kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw

BASIC Education Schools in Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory began the enrolment processes yesterday morning, and teachers conducted temperature check and distributed masks. They arranged for students to stay 6 feet apart from each other during the enrolment process.

Deputy Director Daw Myint Myint Khine said the Nay Pyi Taw Education Office inspected basic education schools, monastic schools and private schools according to 35 guidelines (version 4.0) of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Inspection on schools includes 6 feet spacing arrangement at school entrances, 4 feet distancing seats at classrooms, hand gel, face shields and masks, adequate supply of disinfectants for spraying, good ventilation and health-care facilities in line with the set guidelines.

School buses are also arranged for the students. Full security is provided where necessary to ensure peaceful education in basic education schools, she added.

In addition to no charge for enrolment, textbooks, one dozen note books and four pencils are provided to primary level students. Readers, one dozen note books, two pencils and two pens are presented to middle and high school students. Moreover, every student and teacher is supplied with two reusable masks and one face shield.

Daw Khin Thein Myint, who came to No (9) Basic Education High School to enrol her children, said, "There is no charge for the enrolment. And the State provides the necessary paper, pencil, mask and face shields. I see that every-



one who comes to the school today is happy. I am also satisfied with the preparations for COVID-19 disease."

She also urged parents to come and enrol in the schools with the appreciation of the State's goodwill, adding that parents have to provide the education to their children.

It is reported that members of the Myanmar Police Force and relevant township administration bodies are also providing security for the safety of the students and teachers on duty.

There are 757 basic education schools, 28 monastic education schools, and 74 private schools in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Teachers, school heads and officials from the Ministry of Education have worked together to reopen schools that have been closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Schools will be reopened on 1 June following the COVID-19 rules and regulations, and school enrolment week is set from 24 to 31 May across the country.

— Naing Aung/GNLM



Watering banyan trees, a tradition of Myanmar Buddhists

Lord Buddha allowed His disciples to pay homage to Dhatu Ceti, Dhamma Ceti, Paribhoga Ceti and Udissa Ceti, dedicating to His attributes when disciples supplicated how they paid tribute after the Lord Buddha had attained the Parinibbana.

The Buddhism treatises mentioned that the materials, equipment and furniture used by the Lord Buddha could be identified as the Paribhoga Ceti. As the Lord Buddha attained the Enlightenment under the shade of a Bo tree called banyan tree, it can be identified as Paribhoga Ceti.

That is why the water-pouring on banyan trees is a good deed for all Buddhists in preserving Myanmar's tradition.

banyan trees as a festival in the tradition. Up to now, such tradition of water pouring ceremony at banyan trees has turned some 700 years.

As part of efforts to pay homage to the Paribhoga Ceti, water is poured at banyan trees. On the other hand, such movements aim to thrive banyan trees in the hot season, in line with the Desana preached by the Lord Buddha, to be able to create shade in their environs for all the living beings, contributing to the start of the showers in monsoon.

That is why the water-pouring on banyan trees is a good deed for all Buddhists in preserving Myanmar's tradition.



Kason: the month of the festival of pouring water on the Bodhi tree

By Dr Khin Maung Nyunt (Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu)

KASON (May) is the second month in the Myanmar calendar. It is the hottest month of Myanmar summer. As the sun reaches the Tropic of Cancer, its rays fall directly on Myanmar, drying up water in lakes, ponds, streams and rivers, and reducing Myanmar soil to an almost parched land. Evaporation generates more heat causing perspiration and loss of Saline water in the human body. Hence there are two Myanmar rhymes to describe this weather: တန့်ခူရေကုန် ကဆုန်ရေခန်း "In Tagu water is diminished, but in Kason water is dried" ကဆုန်နယုန်၊ ဆွေဆွေခွန် "In Kason and Nayon, the heat is unbearable". But rain is not totally absent in this month. Occasionally rainclouds would gather to let down some showers, or sometimes unexpected storms should arise, bringing pre-Monsoon downpours relieving all beings of intense heat. The natural environment has turned fully green, and among the flowers that bloom in this month Saga (Champak Michelia), fragrant yellow flower is traditionally marked as the flower of the month. It is the flower of a kind of timber tree that grows wild in the Mt Popa area, which is its habitat. In the astrological cycle of seasons, Kason id Vrishabha (Taurus) with the figure of Bull as its zodiacal sign. At night in the firmament, appear astride the moon Witha Kha, the asterism of 14 stars in Libra resembling a drum circle.

The word 'Kason', according to philologists, is a combination of two words, 'Ka' and 'Son'. 'Ka' means water and 'Son' means to pour; and so Kason means 'to pour water'. But Pali scholars say that this word is derived from the Pali word 'Kachina', meaning 'water shortage'. It is the month of water shortage due to extremely hot weather. Both interpretations are plausible as the former implies the supply of water and the latter the demand for it.

Kason is an auspicious month for the Buddhists because of its full-moon day, which is religiously important. Four major events in the life of Lard Gautama Buddha took place on the full-moon day of Kason that Lord Dipankaya Buddha gave divine prophesy to the hermit Thumeda that the hermit would become Lord Gau-

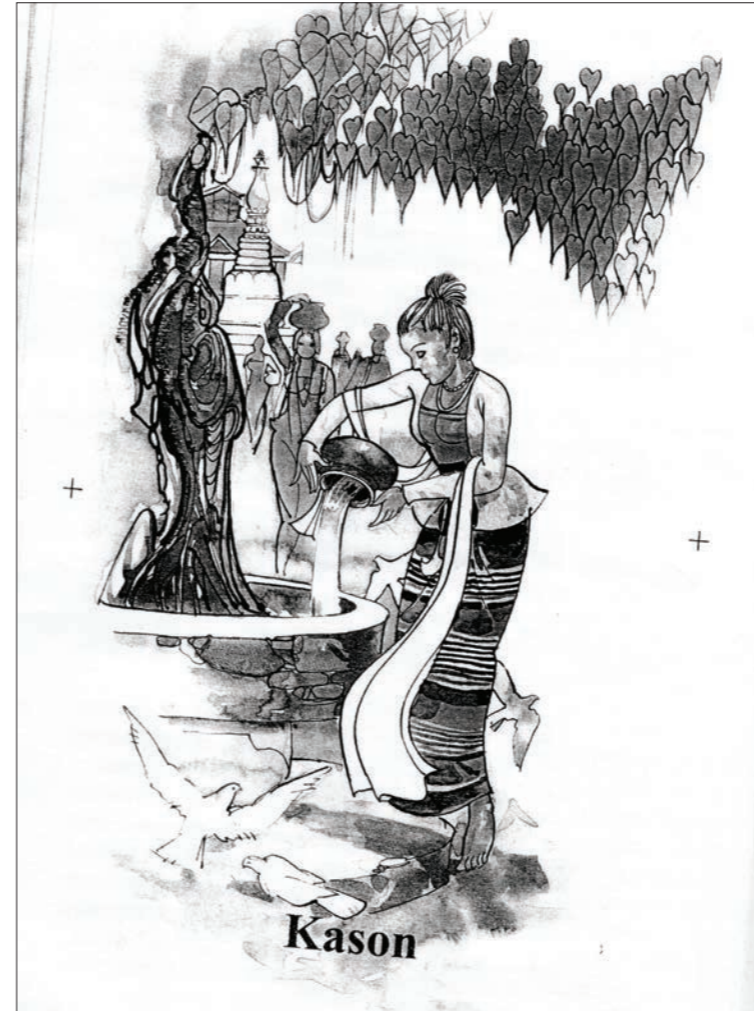
tama Buddha. Secondly, it was on the full-moon day of Kason in the Maha Sakarit year of 68 that babe Prince Siddhartha was born of Queen Maha Maya. Thirdly, it was on the full-moon day of Kason in the Maha Sakarit year of 103 that Prince Siddhartha (Bodhisatta), after six arduous years of practising austerity as a recluse became enlightened and thus became Lord Gautama Buddha. Fourthly, it was on the full-moon day of Kason in the Maha Sakarit year of 148 that Lord Gautama Buddha entered Parinibbana (Demise). Because of these four great landmarks in the Buddha's life, the full-moon day of Kason is regarded by all Buddhists as the most auspicious and fourfold blessed. In Myanmar, the full-moon day of Kason is a public holiday as it is marked as Buddha Day. Religious functions are held on this day, such as recitation of Parittas, administering of moral precepts by monks and visiting pagodas and shrines by devotees to pay homage and do charity work. In other Buddhist countries, this day is called Vesak Day, which is celebrated by Buddhists by doing religious work such as the monks chanting Suttas (discourses) and devotees visiting shrines to pray.

In Myanmar, the traditional festival of pouring water on the Bodhi tree is held in Kason. Tree worship was one of the prehistoric beliefs, and it was quite prevalent in Stone Ages. Later, it was passed down to early civilizations. Myanmar indigenous races have the custom of worshipping tree-god (The guardian spirit of tree) called 'Yokka-soe', who is believed

to be benevolent to humans. When Hindu Brahmanism arrived here, it brought many Hindu deities, including tree god. Hindu Brahmins revere the Bodhi tree because they believe that it is one of the abodes of Vishnu, the Maha Deva. Yokka-soe appears quite often in Myanmar fables and folk tales. Even in the Jatakas, we find that tree god plays no small role. In the last life of the Lord Buddha, there was one incident that proved the dominance of tree worship at that time. While the Bodhisatta (the Buddha-to-be) was seated in meditation under a banyan tree, Sujata, the daughter of a rich man of Senani village, came to offer to the Bodhisatta some rice boiled in concentrated milk she had specially prepared. She brought it there to offer to the Guardian god of that tree as a special thanks-giving as her request to have a son which she had made at the foot of that tree, had been fulfilled. Even today in Myanmar, we see little shrines at some big shady trees in which little idols of Yokka-soe are housed and worshipped, and believers are scared of chopping trees with such shrines.

In spite of the tradition of tree worship, the rite of pouring water on the Bodhi tree is entirely Buddhist in origin and not connected with animism.

There are references in Buddhist literature pertaining to the worship of the Bodhi tree in the lifetime of the Lord Buddha. In the Kalinga Jataka of the 13th Nipata, which forms a portion of Tipidaka, there is mention of planting of a Bodhi tree by Shin Ananda,



the disciple of the Buddha. How Shin Ananda induced King K-ala and his people to pay homage to the Bodhi tree was described in it. There was the story of Bhikhuni Sangha Sumitta, daughter of King Asoka being sent out to Sri Lanka as a missionary with a southern branch of the Maha Bodhi Tree at Buddhagaya. The sacred branch was ceremonially planted at Anuradha City by the Lankan king himself. The Bodhi tree that grew out of it came to be known as Dakkhina Sakha (Southern Branch) Bodhi Tree. As all

Buddhas attained enlightenment under big shady trees and major events in the last life of Gautama Buddha took place in the forests, devotees regard such trees and forests as sacred, and they respect them. Weithabu Buddha became enlightened under the Sal tree (Pentacme Siamensis). Kakusanda Buddha became enlightened under the Kokko tree (Albizia lebbek), Konagamana Buddha under the Yethahpan tree (Ficus glomerata), Kassapa Buddha under the Banyan tree (Ficus indica) and Gautama Buddha under the Bodhi tree (Ficus religiosa). In fact, the trees under which Buddhas attained 'Omniscience' are called Maha Bodhi Tree. Bodhi is a Pali word meaning 'Knowing' or 'perceiving'. Maha Bodhi tree is classified as a kind of Paribawga Ceti in which Paribawga or priestly utensils used by the Buddhas were enshrined. So this tree is regarded as sacred. The act of pouring water on the Maha Bodhi Tree is the expression of piety and respect shown to the Buddhas.

Maha Bodhi trees found in the precincts of pagodas and monasteries all over Myanmar are those grown out of seeds or saplings brought from Buddhagaya in India or Sri Lanka by Myanmar envoys,

monks, or personages in different periods of Myanmar history. Seeds or saplings of Maha Bodhi Tree were religious objects sent with Buddha's relics to Myanmar kings by rajas of Sri Lanka. Some Myanmar kings despatched religious missions to Buddhagaya and Kandy to do religious work there, and they brought back seeds and saplings. The earliest historical evidence of planting Bodhi tree in Myanmar was found in the reign of King Narapati Sithu (A.D 1173-1210) of the Bagan dynasty. It was in his time that one Myanmar monk named Ashin Kassapa Maha Thera went to Sri Lanka, and on his return, he brought back seeds of Maha Bodhi Tree, drawings of Maha Zedi, Lawha Pathada Pyatthat, and many sacred relics which he gave to the king. Other planters of the Maha Bodhi tree were King Uzana of Pinya dynasty, who planted it in A.D 1340; King Narapati and King Maha Thiha Thura of Inwa dynasty, both of whom sent their envoys to Sri Lanka in A.D 1442 and A.D 1468, respectively and the envoys brought home saplings of Bodhi Tree; King Dhamma Zedi of Mon dynasty who planted in A.D 1471 the seed of Maha Bodhi Tree from Sri Lanka on a hillock now called Bodhi hill in the northwest of Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon; King Bodawpaya of Konbaung dynasty who sent to India a party of scholars in A.D 1800 to study Maha Bodhi Tree at Buddhagaya. On their return, they brought back description and drawings of the Sacred Tree, and two saplings of it presented by its caretaker. The saplings were ceremonially planted by the King himself in the precinct of Mingun Pagoda; King Bagyidaw his successor who planted in the south-west of his place the saplings which his envoys brought from Buddhagaya in A.D 1834; and King Mindon, second last Myanmar king who received two saplings sent by Sri Lankan monks in A.D 1860, and he planted them at Bodhi-koon, south of his palace, Mandalay.

There are also four Bodhi trees at four corners of the precinct of Kyauktaw Gyi Image, Mandalay. They were brought from Buddhagaya and planted there by King Mindon.

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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

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ ဖာမူလိပ်ပြန် အက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းထက်ကမ်းချိန်ခွဲ ပံ့ပိုးလိပ်ပြန် အက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

01 860 4530

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 24 May 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30 hrs MST today, the Cyclonic Storm "YAAS" over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal has moved North-Northwestwards. It is centered at about 295 Nautical miles Northwest of Coco Island, about (320) Nautical miles West of Pathein(Myanmar), about (250) Nautical miles Southeast of Paradip, about (295) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Digha (India). It is forecast to move North-Northwestwards and intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm during next (12) hrs and Very Severe Cyclonic Storm during next (36)hrs. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25 May 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Magway regions and Kayah State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago Regions and (Southern and Eastern)Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Northern Shan, Rakhine, and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40-45 mph. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 mph. Wave height will be about (13 -17)feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and about (9-13)feet in Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in Deltaic areas.


FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 May 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 May 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 May 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Files opened against nurses 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 and NUG unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

| Sr | Name | Hospital | Address | Section of Penal Code | Photo |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | Daw Kathy Khine (Senior Sister) | Nay Pyi Taw Hospital | Natmauk, Magway Region | 505-a |  |
| 2 | Daw Tint Tint (Sister) | Nay Pyi Taw Hospital | Pobathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw | 505-a |  |
| 3 | Daw San Myint Yi (Sister) | Nay Pyi Taw Hospital | Sagaing Town, Sagaing Region | 505-a |  |
| 4 | Daw Yu Wah Lwin (Senior Nurse) | Kawthoung Hospital | Dawei Town, Taninthayi Region | 505-a |  |
| 5 | Daw Hnin Pwint Hlaing (Senior Nurse) | Kawthoung Hospital | Dawei Town, Taninthayi Region | 505-a |  |
| 6 | Daw Nyein Nyein Soe (Senior Nurse) | Kawthoung Hospital | Launglon Town, Taninthayi Region | 505-a |  |
| 7 | Daw Zin Mar Win (Senior Nurse) | Kawkut Station Hospital | Zalun Town, Ayeyawady Region | 505-a |  |
| 8 | Daw Hnin Wai Wai (Senior Nurse) | Kawkut Station Hospital | Ngathainggyaung Town, Ayeyawady Region | 505-a |  |
| 9 | Daw Myo Thadar Tun (Nurse) | Hleseik Station Hospital | Thongwa Town, Yangon Region | 505-a |  |
| 10 | Daw Ngu Wah Soe (Nurse) | Kyonpyaw Hospital | Kyonpaw Town, Ayeyawady Region | 505-a |  |

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those nurses charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those persons and action will be taken against the persons who admitted them, under the law. —MNA

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

THE following education staff 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 and NUG unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

| Sr | Name | Occupation | Address | Section of Penal Code | Photo |
|----|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | Dr Hlaing Tun Aung | Lecturer, University of Magway, Magway Town | Magway Town, Magway Region | 505-a |  |
| 2 | Dr Zaw Latt | Lecturer, Yadanabon University, Amarapura Township | Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region | 505-a |  |
| 3 | U Thaw Zin Oo | Lecturer, Technological University (Pakokku), Pakokku Town | Pakokku Town, Magway Region | 505-a |  |
| 4 | U Aung Myo Win | Lecturer, University of Shwebo, Shwebo Town | Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region | 505-a |  |
| 5 | U Lal Ram Lawma | Lecturer, University of Kalay, Kalay Town | Kalay Town, Sagaing Region | 505-a |  |
| 6 | Daw Hnin Yi Hlaing | Lecturer, Technological University (Loikaw), Loikaw Town | Loikaw Town, Kayah State | 505-a |  |
| 7 | U Toe Zaw Thant | Lecturer, Technological University (Lashio), Lashio Town | Lashio Town, Shan State (North) | 505-a |  |
| 8 | U Soe Myat Htwe | Lecturer, Technological University (Myitkyina), Myitkyina Town | Mogaung Township, Kachin State | 505-a |  |
| 9 | U Than Zaw Oo | Assistant Lecturer, Technological University (Toungoo), Toungoo Town | Toungoo Town, Bago Region | 505-a |  |
| 10 | U Kyaw Kyaw Aye | Laboratory Technician-2, Government Technical Institute (Yenangyoung), Yenangyoung Town | Yenangyoung Town, Magway 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

Kason: the month of the festival . . .

FROM PAGE - 9

The planting of the Bodhi tree in Myanmar continues in modern times. There is a place near Monywa in Upper Myanmar where one thousand Bodhi saplings had been planted, and this place came to be known as “One thousand Bodhi trees” (Bodhi Ta Htaung). In the precinct of Shwedagon are the Bodhi trees the one at the northwest corner was planted on the day of the attainment of Myanmar independence, 4th January 1948. Next to it on the right is the Bodhi tree planted in 1905. Both were brought from Buddhagaya. There is another Bodhi tree at the southeast corner (Tuesday Direction) with a brick platform around it. It was planted by Head monk Meidet Sayadaw. It is at this tree that the ceremony of pouring water on Kason full-moon day takes place annually.

The rite of pouring water on the Bodhi tree began on the date of the arrival of its seeds and saplings in Myanmar. The earliest mention of this rite was found in the Bagan inscription

of A.D 1201, known as “Thingyi Nyaung Ok” stone inscription. Later, Saw Hla Win Paya stone inscription of A.D 1291, and one Ka-chin song of the Pinya Period had mention of the pouring of water at the Banyan tree. Myanmar chronicles and literature have accounts of the royal performance of this rite on the full moon day of Kason. Lawka Byu Har or Inyone Sardan a famous Treatise on Court Ceremonies and Festivals compiled by Minister Thiri Uzana of Inwa Period, described how the King and his court participated in the rite of water-pouring at the Bodhi Tree and the festivities that followed it.

But Kason festival is not confined to the Court. It is a public event in which peoples from all walks of life take part. In every Buddhist house, there is the family altar with a Buddha image, and on it are placed three pots called Nyaung Ye Oh (pots in which water and flowers are placed as a religious offering) dedicated to the Buddha, Dhamma (Teachings) and Sangha (Pure disciple). There is an

old Myanmar greeting, “I pray for your health and happiness by offering Thabye (Eugenia) sprigs to the Buddha and pouring water on the Banyan tree!” Many Myanmar folk rhymes and songs describe Kason festival. These are the pieces of evidence to prove that it is a public festival. One noted court poet and Minister of Konbaung Period named Letwethondara composed a ratur verse while he was in exile at the Meza Hill near Katha. In the second stanza, he described the Kason Nyaung Ye festival as he saw it in the local village. The first few lines run as follow.

ပွဲခါညောင်ရေ၊ သွန်မြပေတည်း၊
ရိုသေသဒ္ဓါ၊ ထုံးစဉ်လာဖြင့်
မဲဇာရပ်သူ၊ တောင်းဆုယူသည်။

At the Nyaung-Ye Festival
Meza people all devout
Duly fall in prayer and pour
Water to the banyan tree.

Today the best places to watch The ceremony of watering on Bo tree at the month of Kason and participate in it are Shwedagon Pagoda precinct, Yangon, Bawdikone Pagoda and Shwe Kyet Yet Pagoda in and near

Mandalay and other famous pagodas with Bodhi trees. The ceremony takes place early in the morning or in the evening. The ceremony held at the southeast corner of the Shwedagon pagoda precinct is traditional and grand. Brilliant pageantry proceeds the procession of colourfully dressed participants carrying pots of water and Eugenia sprigs and flowers. Chanting of Paritta and administering of moral precepts by monks, a brief explanation of the rite, recitation of Pali poems praising the Lord Buddha follow one after another. Then begins the pouring of water at the foot of the Bodhi Tree. Organized groups composing mostly of damsels come in by turn and pour water, singing hymns. The highlights of the occasion that create a festive atmosphere are the feast and entertainment. Light refreshments are served gratis to all, and music, song and dance performed by amateurs and merry-makers keep up the festive mood.

In the countryside Kason festival is held at the village pagoda

or monastery where there is a Bodhi Tree. Mirthful processions of village maidens in their best are seen skillfully balancing on their heads water pots as they wend their way with measured steps to the sacred Bodhi tree to perform the water pouring rite. Behind them follow a party of joyful village youths playing wind and percussion instruments to produce sonorous music. It provides a social occasion for young people to meet each other.

On this occasion of the Kason festival, it is the customary practice of Myanmar Buddhists to remove the fishes and turtles from nearby dry ponds and lakes to places where there is abundant water. This merit is regarded as a life-saving act of charity.

In ecological parlance Kason festival of watering trees and saving fishes may be taken as a sort of public activity in the preservation of the natural environment.

Demise: The ultimate passing away of Buddhas and Person of Supreme Saintliness (arahant ā)

Police arrest insurgents, associates in bomb attacks in Mandalay



THE police arrested the people who committed the handmade bomb attacks on public roads of Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region and other suspects together with the explosive materials yesterday.

Two men riding a motorcycle threw a handmade bomb into a shop called ‘RD Mobile’ at the corner of 59th street and Manawhari street of Kanthayar Ward of Chanmyathazi Township yesterday. Furniture of mobile phone shop and a light truck were damaged in

the explosion. The security forces conducted an investigation and arrested Pyae Phyo and Wai Yan (aka) Shan Lay, who live in Thinpankone Ward of Pyigyitagon Township, at the corner of 59th and 108th streets of Kanthayar Ward. They testified to the officials that Nga Pyae (aka) Myo Hlaing Win from Pyigyitagon Township gave them K50,000 per bomb to explode, so they committed such bomb attacks.

Then, the police raided the house of Nga Pyae (aka) Myo

Hlaing Win and only found the materials used in riots.

According to the words of other detainees, the security forces raided the low-cost housing in Myayi Nandar Ward of Chanmyathazi Township. They arrested six men and three women, including Arkar, together with explosive and anti-government materials.

The officials will take actions against those who committed the bomb attacks and other participants – eight men and three women, including Pyae Pyo under the law. — MNA

Woman arrested with explosives in Monywa, security forces continue seizing illegal weapons

SECURITY forces arrested a woman suspect together with a box in which 80 cartridges of NEOGLE-90 brand, 390 detonators and one 25-metre-long detonating fuse in Monywa, Sagaing Region, on 23 May.

The box was found in the “Aung Mingala” bus while the bus was under search, and according to the driver, it belonged to a woman named Sein Le Ye, 29, who later was arrested when she came to pick it up near Aung Mahar road, Htan Taw ward,

Monywa. Similarly, two guerilla clothes, two homemade bombs, six plastic shields, five fibre helmets and other related items were confiscated from the basement and hut in the west of Sin Oh Bo monastery in the 9th street, Shwe Chi ward in Pinyinna Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

It is reported that plans are underway to take actions against the perpetrators of the crimes. — MNA

Security measures conducted to ensure community peace

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

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

Muse border market sees a dip in rice export price

THE prices of rice and broken rice exported to China via the Muse land border are falling, said Vice-Chair U Min Thein of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

In early April, the broken rice fetched 120 Yuan per bag. The low-quality rice was priced 137-142 Yuan per bag depending on varieties (Ngasein, Thukha and Shintong). Over one month later, the price dipped to 117 Yuan for broken rice and 128-137 Yuan for other rice varieties in May, according to Muse Rice Wholesale Centre. China Customs granted licences to 47 Myanmar companies on 26 February 2021 to legally export the rice to China through Muse land border this year.

The authorized companies for rice export to China increased this year as against last year. However, the permitted volume of rice for exports has not been confirmed yet, he added.

Myanmar traders are deliv-



Photo shows workers carrying bags of rice at the Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM / FILE

ering rice to China through the Muse border under new permits at present. Nevertheless, limited money withdrawal permitted by the private banks is disrupting the rice exports.

Myanmar shipped more than 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign countries over Q1 (1 October and 15 January) of the current financial year 2020-2021 and earned over

US\$275 million, Myanmar Rice Federation stated.

The border trade handled over 308,000 tonnes of rice, while maritime trade covered over 418,000 tonnes in Q1.

This year, Myanmar has shipped rice to 31 foreign markets so far. China is the leading buyer of Myanmar rice (with 340,000 tonnes), followed by the Philippines (36,000 tonnes) and Poland (14,000).

Meanwhile, Myanmar exported broken rice mainly to China (210,000 tonnes), followed by Belgium (46,000 tonnes) and Thailand (6,300 tonnes). Broken rice was placed in 16 foreign markets. Weather changes affected irrigation water resource availability in agriculture. Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) Chair U Ye Min Aung said that as a result, Myanmar set rice export target at only 2 million tonnes in the current FY as summer paddy growing acreage drops.

Myanmar generated over \$800 million from rice exports in the previous FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, with an estimated export volume of over 2.5 million tonnes. — NN/GNLM

False earthstar sellers get high price this year

THE false earthstar, commonly known as the hygroscopic earthstar, and the barometer earthstar sellers are earning high prices this year compared to last year.

The natural false earthstar from Pinlebu, Wuntho and Kawlin towns from the Sagaing region started entering the Kawlin town market.

The false earthstar is grown annually in mushroom nests. This season sees the wholesale traders and retail sellers earning good extra income from selling false earthstars.

The wholesale traders sell the earthstars by baskets, while the retail sellers sell them by milk cans.

Last year, the seekers of the false earthstar found two or three baskets per day in the forest, and they are selling them for K3,500 or K4,000 per basket. Now, the false earthstars are not growing well like last year. So, the three seekers found only three baskets one morning. They are selling them for K900 per one can and K7,000 per basket. The seekers are selling them in the Kawlin

market.

The false earthstar (natural mushroom) is becoming a more popular fruit. Thus, some wholesale traders are selling them in Shwebo, Monywa and Mandalay brokerages, said Ma Hnin Wai Phyo, a false earthstar seeker from Shansu village.

The false earthstars entering the Kawlin market are bought and eaten as a seasonal crop.

They are also cooked and eaten by mixing with watercress and pork, it is learnt. — Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)/GNLM



The false earthstar is grown annually in mushroom nests. This season sees the wholesale traders and retail sellers earning good extra income from selling false earthstars.

Sesame seeds export tops US\$272.79 mln in five months

MYANMAR'S sesame seeds export has earned US\$272.79 million in five months (Oct-Feb) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to data released by Myanmar Customs Department.

The price of sesame seeds is rising a bit for now owing to the appreciation of the dollar.

At present, the black sesame seeds (Samone variety) fetched K120,000-148,000 per bag, and white sesame seeds were priced at K115,000-120,000 per bag, Mandalay depot stated.

Last year, the sesame prices dropped by over 20 per cent compared with the prices in the previous years due to the COVID-19 negative impacts. Consequently, the growers do not make a large profit this year, said a trader from the Mandalay market. Typically, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is a leading buyer of Myanmar sesame.

It is also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland, among the EU countries. The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Trade Promotion Organization. Japan prefers Myanmar

black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are also exported to South Korea and Japan. Meanwhile, China buys various coloured sesame seeds from the country.

This year, Japan has not purchased Myanmar's sesame yet. Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the primary producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation.

The volume of sesame exports has registered over 96,000 metric tonnes worth \$130 million in the financial year 2015-2016, \$100,000 tonnes worth \$145 million in the FY2016-2017, 120,000 tonnes worth \$147 million in the FY2017-2018, 33,900 tonnes valued at \$43.8 million in the 2018 mini-budget period, 125,800 tonnes worth \$212.5 million in the FY2018-2019 and over 150,000 tonnes of sesame worth \$240 million in the previous FY2019-2020. — KK/GNLM

Markets mixed as inflation fear plays against recovery hope

EQUITY markets were mixed Monday as inflation concerns played off against optimism over the global economic recovery, while spiking infections in parts of the region also kept investors on their toes.

Wall Street provided a tepid lead at the end of last week, though European equities were given a boost by upbeat eurozone economic data and progress in the bloc's vaccination drive after a slow start.

With expectations that the global recovery will pick up pace this year, the main focus is now on the impact that will have on prices, with observers warning a long period of high inflation will force central banks to wind back the ultra-loose monetary policies that have helped fire a long-running market rally.

Adding to the upward pressure on inflation is US President Joe

Biden's massive stimulus package passed earlier this year, while he also has others worth trillions more on infrastructure and help for families.

The Federal Reserve has repeatedly said it will not scale back on its largesse, which includes vast bond-buying and record low interest rates, until unemployment is tamed and inflation is running hot consistently. But investors continue to worry that it might be forced to act sooner than expected.

"It's going to be a very mixed market over the next several months until we get more information on what's really going to happen with inflation and how the stimulus in the US affects spending there, but also how the coronavirus really progresses," JoAnne Feeney of Advisors Capital Management LLC told Bloomberg TV.

Oil prices rise again

A healthy reading on activity in the services industries of the United States, Britain and the eurozone reinforced expectations of a strong rebound.

The reading "should keep inflation fears alive and plays into the view of central banks needing to normalise policy earlier than their official guidance suggests", said National Australia Bank's Tapas Strickland.

He pointed out that Philadelphia Fed president Patrick Harker — who has until recently said it was too early to tighten policy — was in support of having a discussion on tapering "sooner rather than later", adding the turnaround appeared to come after the release of forecast-busting consumer and producer price figures. —AFP ■

Premium Hokkaido melons fetch sharply higher price in 1st auction



Hokkaido Products, a baby food maker, offers the highest price for a pair of Yubari melons in the season's first auction in Sapporo on 24 May 2021. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

A pair of premium melons in Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido fetched a price of 2.7 million yen (\$24,800) in this year's first auction on Monday, about 23 times higher than the winning bid of last year. The highest ever bid for Yubari melons, a signature product of the city of Yubari, was 5 million yen in 2019.

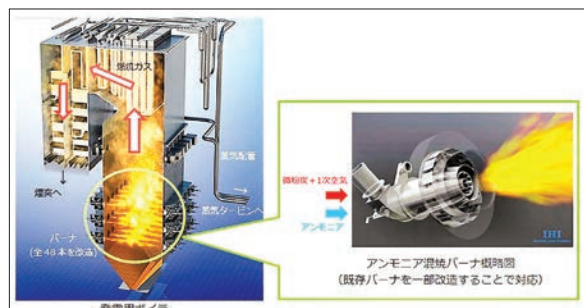
The price in last year's first auction of the fruit grown in the city was a much lower 120,000 yen reflecting subdued economic activity in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

This year's successful bidder was Hokkaido Products Ltd., a local manufacturer of baby food. "I put in a bid hoping to encourage farmers," the president of the company Iori Kage told reporters.

The company plans to offer the purchased melons free through its social media site, doling them out to 10 selected families with children.

According to Yubari's agricultural cooperative, 102 local farmers plan to ship a total of 3,675 tonnes of melons worth around 2.16 billion yen this year. — Kyodo News ■

Power firm JERA to test ammonia fuel at coal-fired plant to cut CO2



Supplied diagram shows the image of using of ammonia as a fuel at a coal-fired power plant. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

POWER generation company JERA Co. said Monday it will start using ammonia as a fuel at a coal-fired power plant in central Japan as part of a four-year test project starting in June toward reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

It is the world's first demonstration project to co-fire a large amount of ammonia at a large-scale commercial coal-fired plant, according to JERA, a joint venture between Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. and Chubu Electric Power Co.

Ammonia, which does not emit CO2 when burned, is seen as a viable alternative fuel in thermal power generation as Japan is ramping up efforts to bring CO2 emissions to net zero by 2050.

Under the project from June to March 2025, JERA will carry out a small-scale experiment with ammonia between August and December this year using burners at Unit 5 of the Hekinan thermal power station in the central Japan prefecture of Aichi.

By the end of the project, JERA and industrial machinery maker IHI Corp. aim to use the mixed fuel with an ammonia content of 20 per cent at the same power station's Unit 4 which has a power generation capacity of 1 gigawatts.

Thermal power generation has played a key role in Japan where most of its nuclear power plants remain offline following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi accident. — Kyodo News ■

Solutions 30 shares plunge as trading resumes

SHARES in Luxembourg-based IT company Solutions 30 plummeted by more than 60 per cent on the Paris stock exchange on Monday after questions were raised about its accounts. The stock had shed 64.47 per cent in value to 3.69 euros (\$4.50) a share in initial trading from its last quote on 7 May. On 10 May, Solutions 30 asked market operator Euronext to suspend trading, which resumed intermittently on Monday.

On Sunday, the company published its latest annual accounts, five days after the French market watchdog AMF ordered it to do so. The accounts were not certified however, as the company's auditor, EY, said it was not in a position to give an opinion. EY said that Solutions 30 "did not provide us with access to certain information necessary to perform our audit." The company replied that it "strongly dis-

agrees" with the auditor's reasoning. Solutions 30 is locked in a struggle with US activist investment fund Muddy Waters, whose director Carson Block has bet that the shares will fall in value via a process known as short-selling. The company's latest troubles began in December when an anonymous 114-page report accused it of money laundering and fraud, accusations that were picked up by Muddy Waters. In April, Solutions 30 published an audit by Deloitte that appeared to clear it of those allegations.

However Block has maintained that Deloitte did not carry out a full audit, and has drawn comparisons between Solutions 30 and Wirecard, a high-profile German digital payments company that collapsed last year after directors acknowledged that 1.9 billion euros in supposed assets did not exist. —AFP ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar
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09 454 237 515

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
Date, 24th May 2021
Invitation to Bid for implementation of Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant Projects on Independent Power Producer and Build-Operate-Own Basis
1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity at Designated Connection Points from the Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant Projects on Independent Power Producer (IPP) and Build Operate Own (BOO) Basis.
2. The Concession Period shall be 20 (twenty) years from Commercial Operation Date (COD).
3. The Tender Form can be purchased within office hour from the tender announced date at following office either;
(1) Procurement Department, Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
(or)
(2) No. 39, Kanner Road, Ahlone Power Station, Ahlone Township, Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
4. The Tender Form fee is Myanmar Kyat three hundred thousand (Kyat 300,000) only.
5. The bid submission date is 11th August 2021 at (10:00) hr, Myanmar Standard Time.
6. Bidders shall prepare the proposals in accordance with the Invitation for Bid and Request for Proposal (RFP). Bidder's Proposals must be submitted on time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.
7. The necessary information of this tender can be inquired within office hour via calling phone numbers or sending Email; Electric Power Generation Enterprise Ministry of Electricity and Energy Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw Ph: +95 9 89330333, + 95 9 420722181 epgesolartender21@gmail.com

Covid shadow hangs over WHO international meet



Swiss Interior and Health Minister Alain Berset (R) and the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (L) speak during a bilateral meeting after signing the BioHub Initiative with a global Covid-19 Pathogen repository in Spiez laboratory on the sideline of the opening of the 74th World Health Assembly at the WHO headquarters in Geneva on 24 May 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

CALLS for World Health Organization reform and steps to avert future pandemics feature high on the agenda as the UN agency kicks off its annual member states' meet-

ing on Monday.

With the Covid-19 crisis still raging and wealthy nations continuing to hoard most doses of life-saving vaccines, the WHO's

main decision-making body has plenty to discuss.

The 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) begins Monday with statements from national leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, health ministers and other high-level representatives of the WHO's 194 member states.

The discussions run until 1 June focusing heavily on efforts to rein in the pandemic and on calls to revamp the entire global health approach to help prevent future Covid-like catastrophes. There is much at stake, but it remains unclear whether countries will step up to the plate. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who will also address the opening of the virtual gathering, said last week that this year's WHA was "arguably one of the most important" ever.

Pushed to the brink

On the agenda is discussion of major proposed reforms of the UN health agency, which has been pushed to the brink by Covid.

"The past year has been the most testing in our organization's history," Tedros acknowledged.

A highlight of this year's WHA will come on Tuesday when ministers and diplomats discuss the findings of three separate independent panels that assessed aspects of the global pandemic response.

Finding that countries and institutions had been woefully unprepared to deal with the crisis, the experts argued for a total overhaul of the global alarm system. They also urged reform of the WHO to boost its independence, transparency

and funding. A draft resolution to strengthen the organization meanwhile does not seem to go as far as many had hoped.

It calls for the creation of a new working group to study and streamline the various recommendations in the reports and create concrete proposals for the 2022 WHA to consider. It also calls on the WHO chief to propose concrete ways of improving the global health alert system, including possibly creating regional alerts.

And it urges the creation of a pilot project, which would be voluntary at first, where countries would submit to regular reviews by other member states of their pandemic preparedness, in the same way they undergo reviews of their rights situations before the UN Human Rights Council. — AFP ■

US says unclear Iran ready for nuclear pact return

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said it remains unclear whether Iran is "ready and willing" to take the necessary steps to return to compliance with the multination nuclear agreement.

Speaking ahead of a fifth round of talks in Vienna on rescuing that deal, Blinken was asked Sunday about Iranian reports that Washington had already agreed to lift some of the sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy.

"We know what sanctions would need to be lifted if they're inconsistent with the nuclear agreement," he said on ABC's "This Week".

He added that more importantly, "Iran, I think, knows what it needs to do to come back into compliance on the nuclear side, and what we haven't yet seen is whether Iran is ready and willing to make a decision.

"That's the test and we don't yet have an answer."

Donald Trump in 2018 walked away from the deal, saying Tehran had violated its "spirit" and remained a regional threat.

His successor Joe Biden wants to revive the

plan, and Blinken has been working with the other parties to the 2015 accord, to that end.

For that to happen, Washington would need to lift the sanctions reinstated by Trump while Tehran would have to re-commit to the terms of the deal, from which it progressively withdrew after Trump's 2018 move.

"The lifting of Trump's sanctions ... is a legal & moral obligation. NOT negotiating leverage," Iran's foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif reacted to Blinken to twitter.

"Didn't work for Trump — won't work for you."

Also addressing Biden, Zarif said: "Trump's legacy is past its expiration date. Drop it".

'Even greater impunity'

Almost a year after Trump walked away from the agreement, the Islamic republic started to gradually abandon most of the essential commitments in the accord.

The Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran, Blinken said, "clearly did not get the result that we all seek". — AFP ■

Afghan war displaced settle in the ruins of a lost city

ONCE the winter residence of sultans from illustrious Islamic dynasties, the ruins of a thousand-year-old royal city in southern Afghanistan have become home to hundreds of people who have fled Taliban clashes.

The astonishing ochre clay complex juts from the cliffs along the Helmand River, threatened by decay and encroaching urban sprawl as well as the makeshift constructions that have grown within it. Thousands of people have been displaced across Helmand since October following a surge in Taliban attacks, and while many have resettled in the capital Lashkar Gah — one of the few areas in the province still under government control — some have joined other refugees in the ruins.

Qala-e-Kohna, as it is known locally, or Lashkari Bazar to archaeologists, has garnered international attention for its scale,



In this photograph taken on 27 March 2021, internally-displaced Afghan men walk along a pathway of an old palace where they live along with other families, at the historic site of Qal-e-Kohna in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province. **PHOTO: AFP**

remarkable architecture and murals. Spread over 10 kilometres (eight miles), the site is the only known winter residence of the Ghaznavid and Ghurid sultans — two dynasties that ruled a region covering present-day Afghanistan between the 10th and 13th centuries and responsible for spreading Islamic art as far as

north India.

"There is no place in the Islamic world where we have something like it — a site as coherent, elaborate, and despite everything still relatively well preserved," said Philippe Marquis, the director of the French Archaeological Delegation in Afghanistan (DAFA). — AFP ■

Turkey detains top IS suspect wanted by US

TURKIS intelligence officers have arrested an Egyptian-born terror suspect wanted by Washington who was a top explosives expert for the Islamic State group, state media reported Monday.

The suspect, identified as Mustafa Abdulwahab Mahmud and born in 1999, was detained with three others on the outskirts of Istanbul after fleeing Syria, the reports said.

The indictment said he joined the IS group

in Syria, where he specialized in making suicide belts and various explosive devices.

The Istanbul prosecutor's office is seeking 22.5 years in prison on charges of membership of a terror group.

He was detained on a tip from US intelligence services, who have been tracking his movements, the media reports said, adding that he is believed to have been plotting attacks inside Turkey, including against US interests. — AFP ■

India passes 300,000 Covid-19 deaths as 'black fungus' spreads

INDIA passed 300,000 confirmed coronavirus deaths on Monday, fatalities remaining high despite the country flattening out the number of new cases in its devastating pandemic wave.

It became the third country — after the United States and Brazil — to cross 300,000 deaths.

For several weeks the country of 1.3 billion has been hitting record daily rises in infections and fatalities, that have overwhelmed its healthcare system.

While the crisis has eased in major cities such as New Delhi and Mumbai, the coronavirus is still spreading in rural areas and southern states.

Another 4,454 deaths in 24 hours — the second-highest daily figure so far — took India's toll

to 303,720. It has added the last 50,000 deaths in under two weeks, according to government figures. Experts said the real numbers of deaths and infections, now 26.7 million, were probably much higher than the official figures.

"Deaths always will lag cases... People who have been diagnosed with infection now will go into hospital, and then a small number of them will die but that will be later," Ashoka University biology professor Gautam Menon told AFP Monday. The brutal wave has been accompanied by the emergence among coronavirus patients of thousands of cases of the usually rare infection mucormycosis, or "black fungus".

The government has given figures between 5,424 and 8,848



A health worker collects a nasal swab for a Covid-19 coronavirus RT-PCR test during a lockdown imposed as preventive measure against the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus, at a government school in Bangalore on 24 May 2021, as India passes more than 300,000 deaths from coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

for the number across India. Normally it records fewer than 20

cases a year. Doctors say one of the reasons behind the explosion

in "black fungus" infections has been excessive use of steroids on virus patients. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said imports of the main anti-fungal drug, amphotericin B, had started to arrive in the country amid a severe shortage.

Death toll 'undercounted'

The coronavirus wave has brought India's hospital system to its knees with severe shortages of oxygen and critical drugs.

The government has been criticized for its response as long queues formed for funerals at crematoriums and cemeteries. Images of suspected Covid-19 dead floating in the holy Ganges river or buried in shallow graves have only added to the controversy. — AFP ■

Japan opens state-run mass COVID vaccination centres in Tokyo, Osaka



Senior citizens wait to receive a coronavirus vaccine shot at a newly opened mass vaccination centre in Osaka on 24 May 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

JAPAN opened state-run mass coronavirus vaccination centres on Monday in Tokyo and Osaka in a bid to accelerate its inoculation programme that has lagged far

behind other developed countries with just two months remaining before staging the Olympics.

The centres, staffed by Self-Defence Forces doctors

and nurses, will operate for three months from 8 am to 8 pm including weekends and national holidays. They will use the vaccine developed by Moderna Inc of the United States, which was approved by the government on Friday.

Japan hopes the venues, aiming to inoculate up to 10,000 people a day in Tokyo and 5,000 in Osaka, will help meet its target to complete vaccinations by the end of July of people aged 65 or older, along with those turning 65 in the current fiscal year.

The two populous areas, hit by a resurgence of infections, have been under a state of emergency since late April with several other prefectures. — Kyodo News ■

China probes deaths of 21 runners after freak weather hits ultramarathon

AN investigation was underway Monday into the deaths of 21 runners during a mountain ultramarathon in northwest China, as harrowing testimony emerged from survivors who battled to safety through freezing temperatures and bone-chilling winds.

The extreme weather struck a high-altitude section of the 100-kilometre (62-mile) race held in the scenic Yellow River Stone Forest in Gansu province Saturday afternoon.

Provincial authorities have set up an investigation team to look into the cause of the incident, state media reported, as questions swirled over why organizers apparently ignored extreme weather warnings from the city's Early Warning Information Centre in the lead up to

the race, which attracted 172 runners.

China's top sports body also vowed to tighten safety rules on holding events across the country. Survivors gave shocking testimony of events on the rugged mountainside, where unconfirmed meteorological reports to local media said temperatures had plunged to as low as minus 24 degrees Celsius (minus 11 degrees Fahrenheit).

"The wind was too strong and I repeatedly fell over," wrote race participant Zhang Xiaotao in a Weibo post.

"My limbs were frozen stiff and I felt like I was slowly losing control of my body... I wrapped my insulation blanket around me, took out my GPS tracker, pressed the SOS button and lost consciousness." — AFP ■



This photo taken on 23 May 2021 shows a runner receiving treatment at a hospital after surviving from extreme weather when competing in a 100-kilometre cross-country mountain race, near the city of Baiyin, in China's northwestern Gansu province. **PHOTO: AFP**

1.7 million affected by hack of top Japan dating app

THE personal data of more than a million users of one of Japan's most popular dating apps may have been exposed by a hack, its operator has warned. Net Marketing Co, which runs the Omiai app, said it detected unauthorized access in April to the server that stores member information.

"We have learnt that it is very likely that some member information was leaked due to unauthorized access," the com-

pany said in a statement.

Images of driving licences and passports that had been submitted for age verification were among the data compromised between 20-26 April, the company added. It said 1.71 million users were affected, including some no longer registered with the service. Credit card information was not affected as it is processed separately through a financial institution.

The news, announced in a statement late Friday, sent Net Marketing's shares plunging on Monday, ending down 19.34 per cent.

Omiai, named for the Japanese word for matchmaking, is among the country's most popular dating apps, with a focus on serious relationships.

It had 6.89 million members, according to data from April. — AFP ■

Monsoon President Cup Golf Tourney to be held on 10, 11 June

THE Monsoon President Cup Golf Tournament, hosted by the Myanmar Golf Federation, will be held on 10 and 11 June at Okkalapa Golf Course in Yangon.

The competition consists of events of one professional player and one amateur player. There will be individual backstroke competitions.

Prizes will be awarded to the first to fifth place winners in the team event. In the individual event for professionals, senior professional and amateur, a total of nine players will be awarded, with three winners

from level one to three each.

The first prize is K2 million, the second prize K1.5 million and the third prize K1 million, respectively, in the team event.

Also, the fourth prize for the team event is K700,000, and the fifth prize is K500,000. The first prize is K1 million, the second prize K700,000, and the third prize K500,000, respectively, in the individual professional event.

In both Senior Professional and Amateur competitions, the first prize is K700,000, the second prize is

K500,000, and the third prize will be K300,000, respectively. Interested golfers can register by calling 09-779846761 by 2:00 pm on 7 June. Due to the limited number of entries, the list will be closed before the deadline.

Competing teams will have to pay for the stadium-related expenses on their own schedule.

“The meeting of the team leaders will be held at 1:00 pm on 8 June 2021 and call 09-779846761 for further information,” said tourney organizers. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Ten events of archery to be included in Viet Nam SEA Games

THE archery event of the 31st SEA Games 2021 to be hosted by Viet Nam will feature ten categories.

The SEA Games organizers will set both Recurve and Compound events, as well as individual events. There will be team competitions also and men and women mixed events will be included. A total of 10 gold medals will be awarded in archery, and the Myanmar archery team is preparing their best to win the SEA Games medals.

Myanmar archery team has had many successes at the SEA Games, most recently winning three silver medals plus two bronze medals at the 2019 Philippine SEA Games.

Htike Lin Oo won the silver medals for the Myanmar archery team in the Recurve Individual National Competition.

Next, Pyae Sone Hnin won the women's competition and team event, and Su Su Hlaing won the Compound women's singles. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Aguero close to Barcelona deal, says Man City boss Guardiola



Players lifted Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero aloft during the trophy award ceremony after the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Everton at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 23 May 2021. PHOTO: AFP

SERGIO Aguero is close to agreeing a move to Barcelona that would unite him with fellow Argentine superstar Lionel Messi, according to Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola.

City's record goalscorer, who has spent a decade at the Etihad, scored a quickfire double in the champions' 5-0 win over Everton in his final Premier League appearance for the club on Sunday.

The goals took his Premier League tally to 184 — the most by any player for a single club.

The 32-year-old forward is set to leave the Etihad as a free agent after Saturday's Champions League final against Chelsea.

“Maybe I reveal a secret,” Guardiola told the BBC. “Maybe he is close to agreeing a deal for the club of my heart — for Barcelona.”

“He is going to be playing alongside the best player of all time, Messi.”

If the move goes ahead it would be Aguero's second spell in Spain — he made his name at Atletico Madrid before the

move to Manchester in 2011.

Aguero's final season at City was dogged by injury and a coronavirus infection but Guardiola believes the striker has a lot to offer the Catalan giants.

Barcelona had a disappointing season, finishing third in La Liga and falling in the last 16 of the Champions League.

“I'm pretty sure he is going to enjoy,” said Guardiola. “And maybe Barcelona are stronger and stronger with him on the pitch.” — AFP ■

Juventus and AC Milan qualify for Champions League, Napoli miss out

JUVENTUS qualified for the Champions League on the final day of the season on Sunday with a 4-1 win at Bologna and were joined by AC Milan who beat Atalanta 2-0.

Napoli had to settle for a Europa League spot, finishing fifth, one point behind Juventus, after a 1-1 draw at home against Hellas Verona.

A pair of Franck Kessie penalties at the end of either half ensured AC Milan finished the season second — 12 points behind city rivals Inter Milan — and return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2013-2014 season.

“We deserved the Champions League as well as second place,” said Milan coach Stefano Pioli whose side had missed the

chance to seal their berth last weekend against Cagliari.

“We went through the whole championship at the top, unfortunately we had thrown away the match point last Sunday.

“I'm really excited, happy, I have to thank the club because they made us work in a spectacular way.”

Atalanta had already ensured a third consecutive season of Champions League football but missed out on a first second-place Serie A finish days after losing out in the Coppa Italia final to Juventus.

Cristiano Ronaldo was left on the bench by Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo who opted for an attacking line-up of Paulo Dybala and Alvaro Morata flanked by Federico Chiesa and Dejan Ku-

lusevski.

“It was a shared choice, Ronaldo was tired after the fatigue on Wednesday,” said Pirlo.

“He made himself available to the team but I chose to have another player named Morata play, who is not the latest arrival. I have a quality team, with many choices available.”

A Morata brace along with goals from Chiesa and Adrien Rabiot prevented Juventus missing out on the elite European competition for the first time since 2012.

In Naples, Amir Rrahmani scored for Napoli after an hour against his former club, which would have been enough to secure a berth at the top table but Davide Faraoni pulled one back for the visitors nine minutes.



Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (R) and Juventus' Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny (C) celebrate after Juventus secured its qualification for the Champions League at the end of the Italian Serie A football match Bologna vs Juventus Turin on 23 May 2021 at the Renato-Dall'Ara stadium in Bologna. PHOTO: AFP

Gennaro Gattuso's side were denied a return to elite European

action after also missing out last season. — AFP ■