

NATIONAL

Yangon (Pansodan-Dala) ferry route to increase for convenience of commuters

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin attends and co-chairs 6th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting

PAGE-3

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Yangon Water Bus strives for resumption of ferry between Lanthit terminal and Sapachaung terminal in Dala

THE Yangon Water Bus was launched in Hline and Yangon rivers to ensure smooth transport of passengers and ease traffic congestion. Moreover, the ferry service was performed between Lanthit terminal on Strand Road in Yangon City and Sapachaung terminal in Dala Township. Now, efforts are made to resume the suspended ferry service in coming July.

“I think the ferry service between Sapachaung and Lanthit terminals may be resumed at the end of this month or early next month. There is no plan to resume the cruise trip in Yangon River. It is because these services depend on travels of people and price of fuel,” said Daw Khin Khin Pyone of Yangon Water Bus Company.

Sapachaung-Lanthit route run for the smooth transport of service personnel and workers leading to Yangon in the second wave of COVID-19

SEE PAGE-3



The Yangon Water Bus was launched in Hline and Yangon rivers to ensure smooth transport of passengers and ease traffic congestion.

Coriander seeds price hits five-year high amid strong demand from Bangladesh



THE price of coriander seeds has risen sharply in five years due to the sudden increase in demand from Bangladesh at the Mandalay market this year crop season.

“The price of coriander seeds has risen sharply in recent days due to a sudden increase in demand from neighbouring Bangladesh. In short, of all the crops produced in 2021, it is arguably the one whose price becomes high so fast,” said U Soe Win Myint (Soe Win Myint shop) from Mandalay.

The price of coriander seeds has reportedly reached a record high within five years, from 2016 to 2021. The price becomes K15,000 from K10,000 for a bushel, and the demand is still high in the market.

Coriander seeds are used as spices and transported from Sagaing, Shwebo, Wetlet, Myinmu, Thetaw, Myingyan, Mahlaing and Taungtha townships to the Mandalay market. In contrast, the coriander leaves in Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region are sold as leaves to be used in Mohinga and other dishes instead of waiting for the seeds to sprout.

“At this time, coriander growers should wait until the seeds come out rather than selling them as leaves,” he added.

In addition to the coriander seeds, the prices of the fennel seeds and aniseeds used both as spices and traditional medicines are also higher in the market. – Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-printing House)/GNLM

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs meets with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

Banana business highly profitable for Kyaukse residents

PAGE-4

LOCAL BUSINESS

CBM sells \$3 million for first time in June

PAGE-5

LOCAL BUSINESS

Imports down by \$3.3 bln as of 28 May, MoC reports

PAGE-5



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Yangon (Pansodan-Dala) ferry route to increase for convenience of commuters

FOR the convenience of the commuters, Yangon (Pansodan-Dala) ferry has increased its routes starting from 7 June.

The Pansodan-Dala ferry is an only transport option for local people from southern Yangon — Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships to link with the commercial hub Yangon.

The water ferry service will run 36 routes on weekdays and 30 routes on weekends. The ferry will depart from Dala jetty and it will run between 5:30 am and 8:00 pm while Pansodan side will run between 6 am and 8:30 pm.

The ferry schedules were amended and the ferry crossings



The water ferry service will run 36 routes on weekdays and 30 routes on weekends. The ferry will depart from Dala jetty and it will run between 5:30 am and 8:00 pm while Pansodan side will run between 6 am and 8:30 pm.

were increased for the accessibility of the passengers, according to the Inland Water Transport (Delta Division).

The Pansodan-Dala ferries

transported 10,000 commuters on 1 June, 10,200 commuters on 2 June, 10,300 commuters on 3 June, 10,390 commuters on 4 June, 6,500 commuters on 5

June, 6,680 commuters on 6 June and 10,540 commuters on 7 June, respectively.

The commuters are traveling, using the Pansodan-Dala

ferry peacefully and regularly, according to the Pansodan-Dala manager office. — Naing Lin Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM

123 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 June, total figure rises to 144,579

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 144,579 after 123 new cases were reported on 8 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 132,615 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 3,228 after one died. — MNA

Decrease foreign exchange spending.

LIKEWISE, domestic pharmaceutical industries need to produce a sufficient volume of common medicines to reduce imported medicines and decrease foreign exchange spending. Relevant ministries, as well as other ministries, are to strive for the improvement of domestic industries.

(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)

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin attends and co-chairs 6th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting

THE visiting Myanmar delegation in Chongqing, the People's Republic of China, led by U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the 6th Mekong-Lancang Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in the afternoon yesterday.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr Wang Yi, the State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China and Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, and attended by the Foreign Ministers of the members of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam.

During the Meeting, the Union Ministers reviewed the implementation status of the directives of the 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting and the progress of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund projects, and exchanged view on the future work of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. The Ministers also reaffirmed their commitments to step up cooperation to achieve regional sustainable development.

At the Meeting, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin stated that MLC member countries have to overcome global challenges such as climate change, pandemic, natural disasters and non-traditional challenges by means of mutual trust, mutual confidence and solidarity based



on Mekong-Lancang family spirit. He added that MLC had achieved recognition in terms of practical benefit, speed and efficiency from its own peoples and also from the international community throughout its five years journey of cooperation. He thanked China for the establishment of the "Mekong-Lancang Special Fund for Public Health" to support the prevention, control and treatment of infectious diseases in the Mekong-Lancang region. He also highlighted the needs to intensify future course of cooperation on suppression of transnational crimes such as human trafficking, illicit drug production and trafficking, illegal weapon trafficking and illegal

forest product trafficking.

Moreover, the Union Minister touched upon promoting people-to-people exchange and the youth sector under the framework of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, the importance of coordination among the MLC National Secretariats/ National Coordination Units of member countries and synergizing between the MLC Economic Development Belt and New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor.

In the statement, Mr Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, stressed that the future cooperation of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation would be guided by the doctrine

of Development First, and vowed to enhance cooperation on the matters of COVID-19 response, access to COVID-19 vaccine and post COVID-19 economic recovery. He also stated that countries have to effectively utilize MLC Funds to uplift the livelihoods of peoples of Mekong-Lancang region. People-to-people contact, including education and youth cooperation, will also be strengthened under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation framework, he added.

The Meeting approved a list of projects to be implemented by the "Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund 2021", which includes (22) projects, worth of over (8) million USD for Myanmar.

In this regard, Myanmar will receive fund from Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund to implement those projects which cover the areas of health, non-traditional security, vocational education, human resources, natural disaster prevention, vaccine production for animal diseases, culture, agriculture, environmental conservation, forestry, border trade, tourism and finance.

The Meeting adopted the three Thematic Joint Statements in the areas of cooperation among local governments, sustainable development cooperation and cooperation on traditional medicine.

Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was established in 2016 with an aim to assist regional efforts to achieve sustainable, inclusive development and narrowing development gaps in the region while promoting peace and prosperity. Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam are the members of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

Before the Meeting, Foreign Ministers of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation visited the MLC Exhibition, and attended the opening ceremonies of the launching of the MLC website with six languages of member states and English, MLC Design Contest and MLC Youth Online Platform.—MNA

Yangon Water Bus strives for resumption of ferry between Lanthit terminal and Sapachaung terminal in Dala

FROM PAGE-1

was suspended in February. Within a decade, traffic congestion has been rising in Yangon City as a terrible problem. Hence, the Yangon Water Bus gives transport services to service personnel and people from the Aungzeya suspension

bridge in Insein Township to Botahtaung Port. Moreover, river cruise trips were arranged for people in order to relax in Yangon River, enjoy scenic beauties of Yangon City and pleasant views of Yangon River and create excursions to Twantay and Thanlyin during

official holidays.

Jetties were kept in the far distance from the port of Cherry ferries for running the ferry boats to transport teachers and students who attend the schools from Dala Township to Yangon in monsoon. Thanks to ferry boats, people can travel

between Dala and Yangon City safely. Hence, the company arranged a new route for the service personnel and people between Sapachaung and Lanthit terminals.

The ferry boats were run from Sapachaung to Lanthit from 6 am to 9:30 am and from

Lanthit terminal to Sapachaung between 3:30 pm and 7 pm daily. Currently, efforts are being made to resume the Yangon Water Bus service from Sapachaung of Dala to Lanthit in Yangon City.—Nyein Thu (Yangon)/GNLM

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs meets with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister

ON the sidelines of the ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Special Meeting and 6th Lancang-Mekong Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Chongqing, China, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, met with Mr Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at 11:45 am on 8-6-2021, at the Sunac Centro Hall of Wanda Realm Chongqing Hotel.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further

advancement of the existing Pauk Phaw relations, the continued implementation of Myanmar-China bilateral projects, strengthening of cooperation in the fight against the Covid-19 and access to the Covid-19 vaccines for the people of Myanmar, the continued cooperation for the maintenance of peace and stability along the border between Myanmar and China. They also discussed for closer collaboration between the two countries in both regional and multilateral contexts, particularly the ASEAN and the United

Nations. The two Foreign Ministers touched on China's continued constructive assistance for the political developments of Myanmar on the basis of ASEAN's non-interference policy and ASEAN Way.

The Union Minister also apprised on the latest developments of Myanmar and the achievements made on the implementation of the Five-Point Road Map and the Nine political, economic and social objectives of the State Administration Council for all-round development of Myanmar.—MNA



Banana business highly profitable for Kyaukse residents



RESIDENTS of Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Region usually grow paddy, onion, chilli, peanut, sesame, cotton, chickpea and bananas. Now, they are cultivating marketable bananas.

The onion and chilli farmers faced losses due to worker shortage problems and higher labour costs in previous years. Therefore, they start to grow other marketable crops like

bananas now, according to the banana farmers.

Bananas are planted in a single row or two rows. The distance between each plant is 8 feet for a single row and about 10 feet for two rows plantation system.

The banana bulb appears in the eighth month, and fruits can be sold in 12 months. About 800 banana plants can be grown

in one acre of two lines cultivation system. It costs nearly K800,000 for a banana plantation, including production costs. An bullock-cart containing 40 bunches of banana fetches K150,000. One acre of banana plantation produces about 13 or 15 banana carts, explained farmer U Hla Myo from Hsegon Village of Kyaukse Township. —Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM

50,000 seedlings of various trees to be distributed free of charge in Maukmai

MORE than 50,000 local seedlings have been planted to distribute free of charge in Maukmai Township nursery and Honang Station nursery.

The Department of Forest in Maukmai Township, Langkho District, Shan State (South) is implementing the project to educate people to protect the environment in the township and cultivate forest resources.

In addition to various big trees such as teak and gold mohur flower trees, perennial trees such as mangoes, jackfruit, and avocado have been planted in nurseries. According to an official from the Township Forest Department, the saplings will be distributed to grow in schools, villages, departments and battalions, and along the roadsides. —IPRD/GNLM



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CBM sells \$3 million for first time in June

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$3 million on 7 June for the first time this month at an auction market rate of K1,590.

The CBM reportedly sold \$24 million at an auction rate in May. The CBM's move aims at governing the market volatility, the CBM stated.

The bullish hard currency gained in the local forex market, reaching the peak of K1,730 on 12 May from K1,330 in January-end. In a bid to control the sharp daily gains of the US dollar, the CBM reportedly sold about 6.8 million dollars on 3 February 2021, 6 million dollars each on 22 and 27 April and \$24 million in May in the auction market. Consequently, the exchange rate dips to K1,590 at present.

The CBM trades the foreign currency with the authorized



The CBM reportedly sold \$24 million at an auction rate in May. The CBM's move aims at governing the market volatility, the CBM stated.

private banks under the rules and regulations of the FX auction market.

The local forex market's

data showed that the dollar exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021.

The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March.

The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April. Last month, the rate fluctuated between K1,585 and K1,730.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market. — NN/GNLM

2021 monsoon agricultural loans disbursed in Salin

MONSOON agricultural loans for 2021 are paid to the farmers from Tamar Chaung Ywar Thit village in Salin Township, Magway Region.

The Salin Township Myanma Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance dispenses monsoon agricultural loans to farmers at the bank starting from 8 June 2021.

The agricultural loans are provided according to the COVID-19 prevention and control procedures of the Ministry of Health and Sports. It is also reported that hand-washing basins are set up, and hand sanitizers kept. People are wearing masks before they get into the bank.

MADB will disburse a total of agricultural loans amounting to K21 million to 50 farmers of 134 acres of paddy and nine acres of other crops to develop the agricultural sector, ensure food security in the country and support agricultural production. The bank set up agricultural loans of K150,000 for paddy and K100,000 for

other crops.

The bank has also notified the farmers to the relevant bank branches to submit their loan proposals in time.

The Myanma Agricultural Development Bank of the Ministry of Planning and Finance has been providing agricultural loans annually to farmers across the country since 1954. The bank offers loans for farmers based on the three main cultivating season monsoon, pre-monsoon and winter.

MADB (Salin branch) will provide 2021 monsoon agricultural loans to farmers who have already paid off the 2020 monsoon paddy loan. The bank will also accept the loans and continue to provide 2021 loans to those farmers who came to pay off early loans during the loans disbursement period, said Daw Win Win Htoo, the bank manager of Salin township,

Myanmar's annual paddy growing area is about 17.9 million acres, and the yearly paddy production is about 25.6 million tonnes. — Maung Lwin (Salin)/GNLM

Imports down by \$3.3 bln as of 28 May, MoC reports

THE value of Myanmar's imports between 1 October and 28 May in the current financial year 2020-2021 stood at US\$10 billion, a sharp drop of \$3.338 billion from \$13.397 billion registered in the year-ago period, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of imports in the consumer, capital, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses groups declined in the current FY. The drop in foreign direct investment this year negatively affected the trade.

In nearly eight months of the current FY, capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and aeroplane parts, were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$3.6 billion. The figure was over

\$1.556 billion lower than those registered in the same period of the previous FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products worth \$2.08 billion, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed a slight decrease of \$189 million compared with the same period in the previous FY.

Intermediate goods make up the second-largest share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. This year, imports of raw materials plunged to \$3.34 billion from \$4.45 billion registered during the year-ago period.

During the same period, \$989 million worth of raw mate-

rials were also imported for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector. It showed a decrease of \$488 million compared with the last budget year.

At present, the CMP garment sector, which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector, is struggling due to the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid COVID-19. Therefore, import values of raw materials by CMP businesses have been dropping.

The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce. — GNLM



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Announcement of Union Election Commission

7 June 2021



1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in 37 townships of the Sagaing Region.
2. There were 4,305,403 eligible voters at 4,107 polling stations in 37 townships of the Sagaing Region. Of them, 3,383,183 voters cast their vote that showed 78.58 per cent. The following 16 parties' candidates and independent candidates have run in the 2020 multiparty general election.
 - (a) National League for Democracy
 - (b) Union Solidarity and Development Party
 - (c) Union Betterment Party
 - (d) National Unity Party
 - (e) Chin National League for Democracy
 - (f) United Nationalities Democracy Party
 - (g) People's Pioneer Party
 - (h) Tai-Leng (Red Shan) Nationalities Development Party
 - (i) Shan-ni (Tai-Leng) Solidarity party
 - (j) Myanmar Farmers Development Party
 - (k) National Democratic Party for Development
 - (l) Naga National Party
 - (m) Zomi Congress for Democracy
 - (n) Yeomanry Development Party

- (o) National Development Party
 - (p) People's Party
 - (q) Independent
3. The Union Election Commission has conducted inspection together with the respective township election sub-commissions, head of police force, Immigration and Population, administrators and representatives of parties under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
4. According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 4,305,403 eligible voters in these 37 townships of the Sagaing Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 3,456,429 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 337,484 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 39,220 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 460,916 persons repeated on the voter lists for two times.
5. According to the inspection, a total of 4,107 polling stations in these 37 townships took out 4,834,052 ballots and used 3,358,659. It left 1,410,220 ballots instead of 1,475,393. The difference was 129,545 ballots, and it found 64,372 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective townships.
6. Findings on voter lists and ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw election 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 CSC
1	Pale	161	126,740	77,443	5,796	837	13,050
2	Kani	121	117,221	84,048	8,548	638	10,974
3	ChaungU	86	89,225	75,680	8,415	635	9,616
4	Salingyi	96	109,219	80,865	6,728	469	9,630
5	Ayadaw	123	142,366	111,812	17,082	1,046	15,656
6	Budalin	100	118,336	76,240	8,229	876	12,730
7	Monywa	191	293,176	199,791	26,168	2,988	34,100
8	Yinmabin	100	123,606	100,191	4,459	621	12,456
9	Sagaing	163	247,998	201,136	4,179	4,042	35,568
10	Myinmu	66	95,805	60,243	4,285	755	10,290
11	Myaung	76	89,841	66,811	4,205	712	9,474
12	YeU	90	104,684	86,007	2,613	654	11,212
13	Taze	116	146,498	141,729	4,463	382	10,314
14	Kyunhla	91	77,164	51,059	4,317	323	6,404
15	Kanbalu	204	238,039	281,962	31,646	2,493	29,140

16	Wetlet	134	173,574	128,755	18,701	1,226	16,176
17	Shwebo	171	224,563	165,854	28,035	1,897	24,172
18	KhinU	112	123,148	130,079	10,042	673	11,948
19	Dabayin	125	122,975	92,797	9,178	839	13,810
20	Tamu	76	84,384	67,059	4,833	521	8,036
21	Kawlin	133	114,817	107,035	6,047	446	9,840
22	Kalewa	69	44,058	42,737	10,645	111	2,608
23	Minkin	133	88,120	75,914	5,610	413	7,568
24	Kalay	195	285,409	182,500	21,579	3,361	36,980
25	Htigyaing	92	95,768	78,431	7,444	893	11,258
26	Wuntho	53	55,821	40,095	1,658	189	4,452
27	Banmauk	111	71,664	57,452	729	33	1,904
28	Pinlebu	128	84,266	66,143	5,181	783	9,902
29	Katha	110	122,527	111,555	13,549	1,170	13,738
30	Indaw	84	92,473	93,659	1,659	354	8,978
31	Hkamti	34	31,384	20,149	2,840	168	2,948
32	Homalin	183	167,703	121,406	29,455	1,600	17,158
33	Leshi	55	10,919	9,262	307	70	1,108
34	Lahe	105	33,713	30,995	2,211	2,126	8,904
35	Nanyun	82	31,744	30,205	882	4,230	7,898
36	Mawlaik	52	40,348	36,764	2,085	291	4,244
37	Phaung-byin	86	86,107	72,566	13,681	355	6,672
	Total	4,107	4305,403	3456,429	337,484	39,220	460,916

FROM PAGE-6

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Pale	161	144,870	101,114	43,756	41,928	2,515	687
2	Kani	121	134,477	88,146	46,331	44,894	1,447	10
3	ChaungU	86	100,249	74,507	25,742	24,200	1,755	213
4	Salingyi	96	121,389	89,585	31,804	30,782	1,421	399
5	Ayadaw	123	159,834	113,489	46,345	40,552	6,012	219
6	Budalin	100	135,372	84,589	50,783	45,519	5,984	720
7	Monywa	191	319,972	237,178	82,794	74,214	11,918	3,338
8	Yinmabin	100	138,558	96,479	42,079	39,813	3,547	1,281
9	Sagaing	163	272,576	199,460	73,116	70,846	2,950	680
10	Myinmu	66	106,916	78,872	28,044	27,619	477	52
11	Myaung	76	102,352	74,586	27,766	27,274	520	28
12	YeU	90	118,546	83,614	34,932	34,519	997	584
13	Taze	116	163,282	114,933	48,349	47,726	1,628	1,005
14	Kyunhla	91	88,427	59,681	28,746	27,243	1,979	476
15	Kanbalu	204	264,200	180,226	83,974	80,737	4,792	1,555
16	Wetlet	134	193,443	145,910	47,533	46,478	7,842	6,787
17	Shwebo	171	246,045	178,885	67,160	61,035	7,026	901
18	KhinU	112	139,146	99,832	39,314	36,507	9798	6991
19	Dabayin	125	138,993	97,596	41,397	40,730	1,527	860
20	Tamu	76	92,698	59,727	32,971	31,278	3,377	1,684
21	Kawlin	133	131,540	95,543	35,997	35,683	763	449
22	Kalewa	69	52,193	35,779	16,414	15,105	1,634	325
23	Minkin	133	102,379	71,416	30,963	30,849	2,483	2,369
24	Kalay	195	319,256	196,478	122,778	123,584	2,936	3,742
25	Htigyaing	92	105,724	71,802	33,922	30,879	7,915	4,872
26	Wuntho	53	63,648	44,684	18,964	18,862	1,360	1,258
27	Banmauk	111	82,250	59,881	22,369	21,932	2,918	2,481
28	Pinlebu	128	98,552	68,360	30,192	28,643	2,969	1,420
29	Katha	110	137,455	89,241	48,214	46,107	13,558	11,451
30	Indaw	84	105,840	70,634	35,206	34,146	1,722	662
31	Hkamti	34	34,373	22,230	12,143	11,454	729	40
32	Homalin	183	179,347	116,163	63,184	59,219	7,822	3,857
33	Leshi	55	14,668	9,220	5,448	5,300	1,036	888
34	Lahe	105	41,823	27,976	13,847	12,309	1,722	184
35	Nanyun	82	38,666	24,836	13,830	13,203	703	76
36	Mawlaik	52	46,390	31,175	15,215	15,218	195	198
37	Phaung-byin	86	98,603	64,832	33,771	33,833	1,568	1,630
	Total	4,107	4,834,052	3,358,659	1,475,393	1,410,220	129,545	64,372

7. Findings in 37 townships of Sagaing Region were as follows;
- According to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 6 (a), any citizen, associate citizen, naturalized citizen or holder of a temporary certificate who has completed the age of 18 years on the day of commencement of election and who does not contravene the provisions of this Law. There are 337,484 non-identity voters. There were 39,220 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 460,916 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these 37 townships of the Sagaing Region.
 - A total of 4,107 polling stations withdrew 4,834,052 ballots and used 3,358,659 ballots. It left 1,410,220 ballots instead of 1,475,393. The difference was 129,545, and the extra ballot was 64,372. The missing/ extra ballots were found at some polling stations. The exact numbers of ballots were granted to the polling stations. Such extra and missing ballots were found due to illegal activities.
 - There were 3,383,183 people who cast votes for Pyithu Hluttaw in 37 townships of the Sagaing Region in the 8 November election. They used 3,358,659 ballots, and 24,524 ballots were lesser than the numbers.
 - Of 3,383,183 voters in 37 townships of the Sagaing Region, 2,650,094 people cast votes at the polling stations, while there were 733,089 advance voters. The percentage for casting votes at the polling station was 78.33 per cent and 21.67 per cent for the advance vote.

- Some bags containing ballot receipts were found missing, and the respective poll heads returned them during the inspection period.
 - The ballots were granted only just with a tick in Form (1) books without the signatures or fingerprint of voters.
 - The additional voter lists were not submitted to township election sub-commission and were allowed to cast votes by registering with handwriting in Form (1).
 - On every Form (1) page, the ward/village-tract election sub-commission Chairman and Secretary did not sign according to Hluttaw Election Rules 15 (a).
 - The ward/village-tract election sub-commissions failed to return the advance ballot receipts and the remaining ballots to the officials under the law.
 - It did not find voters' names, voting numbers, polling station numbers, ward/village-tracts, signatures or fingerprint of voters on the ballot receipts used at some polling stations.
 - The non-identity voters were found in the voter lists, and they were allowed to cast votes just with voter certificates without ID cards.
 - They conducted measures that violate the law when they started collecting advance ballot.
 - They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.
8. The frauds conducted in the 8 November election were found as follows;
- The ward/village-tract administrators served as chairpersons in collecting the numbers of the population to compile the voter lists. In this process, the ward/village-tract administrators appointed by the NLD government and some NLD members jointly collected the numbers of the population. They did not inspect whether the people live in their ward/village-tract, whether they have national or whether they are eligible voters in accordance with Hluttaw Election Law. Therefore, there were many non-identity voters on the voter lists and some repeated on the voter lists two times or over three times with just one NRC card. 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." And it found activities that violate the law. According to Section 19 (b), the names not eligible are included in the voting roll; delete such names from the voting roll. But they did not remove the names.
 - The former UEC also released instructions that the advance voting process for people over 60 can be conducted starting 29-10-2020 before the election day. But some NLD members conducted door-to-door service in collecting advance votes in some places, and it caused voting frauds. According to COVID-19 health rules, the announcement and instruction for voters who were unable to return to their constituencies were released on 8-10-2020 and 11-10-2020, respectively, by the former UEC. Due to such directives, the voters were found repeated on the voter lists, and non-identity voters were also on the lists and were allowed to cast votes.
 - The former UEC also released a statement for voters without ID cards to vote on 19-8-2020. The non-identity voters cast votes with voter certificates at the polling stations. Therefore, the non-identity voters, those who repeated on voter lists for two times or over three times, were allowed to cast votes without complying with the Hluttaw Election Law section 59. Regarding the voting stamps, the instruction that the ballots with a tick without a UEC label will be recognized as valid votes also caused a complicated situation in counting the votes.
 - Former Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing instructed the relevant district and townships administration departments to nominate their Hluttaw candidates in reorganizing the election sub-commissions by the UEC. Moreover, there were none of the NLD supporters in forming Katha District and Indaw Township election sub-commissions. So the respective Hluttaw representatives interfere in such case. The former Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing put pressure on former UEC in forming the sub-commissions.
9. The voting frauds were supposed to be intentionally committed. Moreover, they also interfere in collecting voter lists, election campaign, advance voting process and voting processes even on election day with their power. Then, the former UEC also misused their authorities and violated the law and rules.
10. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the officials inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in 37 townships of the Sagaing Region. The NLD party misused the COVID-19 restrictions and State Power in election processes, including election campaigns of rival parties and Hluttaw MPs, to win the election and form a government. The party also arranged to seize power in advance. According to the above analysis, it was found that the election was not in conformity with the relevant Hluttaw Election laws/rules, so the election was not free and fair.

Avoid invasion of public residences into cultivable lands

AS nature, rural and urban areas of the country are the habitation of humans, whereas cultivable lands are located outside the society.

Population blast of countries searches for the residences for the people, moving towards the cultivable lands where public housing buildings are constructed.

It is necessary to give priority to the creation of accommodation for the people. Every government is responsible for creating accommodations for the people who cannot own housings and apartments. Only when the people can be accommodated at residences will the country be prosperous.

It is because accommodation is one of three basic needs for humans. People are solving daily problems related to food, clothing and shelter as the most important issues.

Regrettably, public housings are leading to pasturelands as well as farmlands. When areas of pastures and farmlands are gradually declining, it is necessary to consider how can they cultivate and produce foods. In fact, expansion and extension of public housings are a root cause to lose the cultivable lands.

Consequently, farmers face loss of farmlands. Even if they produce foods from the cultivation of crops, it is sure that food will not be sufficient for all. As such, the people may face famine. That is why they all need to consider how to solve the problem of invading public residence in the pastureland and farmlands in time.

Construction entrepreneurs need to build the housings as moderate high-rise buildings for public residences without harming the farmlands. Those buildings should not be higher than the limited. In various areas of Myanmar, a lot of vacant and fallow lands can be seen. So, public residences should be established near the cities, not far from farmlands, to enjoy the scenes of greening and get fresh air passing through the farmlands. Due to the closing to the cities, new satellite towns can rely on them for supplies of foods and water easily.

Whatever it may be, every citizen needs to consider that they should avoid invasion of public residences into the cultivable lands so as to halt the decline of food production for all.

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Foreign interference and R

By Kyaw Myint

ON a recent visit to Rwanda, the President of the French Republic asked Rwandans for “forgiveness” for France’s role in the 1994 Rwanda genocide, in which about 800,000 Tutsis died. 800,000! The genocide happened 27 years ago. Was he asking for an apology now? Have there been any attempts to compensate families and survivors of those who perished in the genocide? Will it take another 100 years for matters of compensation to discuss? How about those world’s brightest people in the United Nations? The genocide Happened Under the UN’s watch. Please talk about the UN. Let us also remember Srebrenica. That safe haven in Srebrenica was not safe at all.

Shall we recall the comments of former American Secretary of State Madeline Albright, then American Ambassador to the United Nations, who said “worth it” when asked about the death of 500,000 Iraqi children due to the American led international

sanctions.

Does anyone know how many Iraqis have actually perished due to the actions of the United States?

Such is the reality when big powers carry out heinous acts with total disregard for human life. The media, the United Nations, and all those so-called human rights “advocates” worldwide get steamrolled and are nowhere to be heard or found.

Throughout the last 50 years, let us remember how many strongmen or dictators the western powers supported when it served their interest. Saddam Hussein, Mobutu Sese Seko, for example? The list goes on and on.

In recent days, the front-page headline in a western newspaper read, “Afghan Bases fall to Taliban as US. Head Out”. Another country was paying the price in perpetuity as a result of western interference.

Then turn to the recent failed efforts by the western powers to push for a vote in the United Na-

tions general assembly in connexion with Myanmar. Facing embarrassing defeat, the west “postponed” the vote. Out of 193 countries in the United Nations, preliminary informal polls showed the overwhelming number of countries decided not to support the west’s ill-conceived attempt. It was not even close!

The world is waking up to the realities of Western interferences in third world countries that Western interference under the slogan of “democracy”, which is not based on principle but rather to serve their own purpose, usually leaves the countries in the long term ruins.

When the colonial powers leave the occupied land, they either leave the country in a state of perpetual turmoil or divide the land into more than one country. Anyone who doubts this can watch a movie called “Queen of Desert”, a biopic of the famed British explorer Gertrude Bell. She was instrumental in dividing Arabia into several countries, Di-

WHO warns of ‘two-track pandemic’ as ca

Even though COVID-19 cases and deaths have “two-track pandemic”, the UN’s top health officer get more vaccines to

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director—General of the World Health Organization (WHO), said unequal distribution of vaccines has allowed the virus to continue spreading, thus increasing odds of a variant emerging that could render these treatments ineffective.

“Inequitable vaccination is a threat to all nations, not just those with the fewest vaccines”, he warned in his latest media briefing from WHO headquarters in Geneva.

‘A mixed picture’

As of Monday, there were more than 173 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including 3.7 million deaths. Tedros reported that new cases have dropped for six weeks, and deaths for five weeks. Despite these “encouraging signs”, he said progress remains “a mixed picture” as last week, deaths rose in Africa, the Americas and the Western Pacific.



ManausMaria Ferreira, 74, gets an AstraZeneca vaccine on February 9, 2021 in
MICHAEL DANTAS

“Increasingly, we see a two-track pandemic: many countries still face an extremely dangerous situation, while some of those with

the highest vaccination rates are starting to talk about ending restrictions”, he told journalists.

Tedros advised caution in

Rambo sighting in Myanmar

U Htun (PARIS)

divide and Conquer, a well-known British method. Please pay attention to the movie's end to realize who Gertrude Bell actually was and to whom she was reporting.

Myanmar has been fertile ground for Western interference. British colonial legacy is alive and well in Myanmar with a continuous insurgency by armed ethnic groups since independence.

Interferences come in different forms.

Recently, there is a Rambo sighting in the jungles of Myanmar. Apparently, American Rambo and his Caucasian brigade have been living and supporting Myanmar's ethnic armed insurgence group for 25 years, crossing back and forth between Thailand and Myanmar. Acts like these involve costs/expenses, and in the case of "Rambo" arms, munitions! Who has been funding/providing him? By whom is he really employed?

Then, an American couple descended from the United States in a golden parachute to Thailand

and founded something called "Fortify Rights", supposedly in order to "investigate" human rights violations in Southeast Asian countries, but mainly focused on Myanmar. Again, to whom do they really report? Who's funding them?

Interference reached the highest levels of the Myanmar government in 2016. Reports have emerged that Aung San Suu Kyi has some foreigners as her top advisers, including one who is an employee of the British government. Imagine what it would be if American President or British Prime Minister or French President or Canadian Prime Minister or Australian Prime Minister or New Zealand Prime Minister was found to have foreigners or any foreign citizens amongst their top advisers. These leaders would be impeached or removed immediately, maybe tried of treason.

The divide and conquer strategy may be working in Myanmar. Sadly, During the protests in 1988, Myanmar citizens of every back-

ground do not target one another whether one was involved in the protests or not. There was respect for one's point of view, no matter how differing the views may be. But in the recent developments, there is no longer any tolerance among Myanmar citizen for differing opinions. That is the very unfortunate truth about how foreign penetration has divided Myanmar people.

There are highly skilled and capable journalists in Asia and South-East Asia. They should investigate these people from the western countries who drop from the sky to establish bases in Asian countries, hide behind the veil of slogans like human rights and operate without checks and balances and with total impunity regardless of who actually they are and report to or whether they are doing what they claim they do in all actuality.

(The views and opinions are only those of the author)

Doses decline but vaccine inequity persists

declined in recent weeks, the world is facing a crisis said on Monday in his ongoing campaign to vaccinate developing countries.



near Manaus, Brazil. PHOTO: AFP/

yet inoculated.

Meanwhile, many countries still lack sufficient vaccines. So far, nearly 44 per cent of doses have been administered in richer countries. In poorer nations, the figure is just 0.4 per cent. The United Nations has been pressing governments to share their excess doses to the global vaccine equity initiative, COVAX. Several countries have pledged donations, which Tedros hoped will soon be fulfilled.

Appeal to G7 leaders

The WHO chief recently called for a global push to vaccinate at least 10 per cent of the world's population by September, and 30 per cent by December. Reaching the September target will require an additional 250 million doses, with 100 million needed in June and July alone. With the G7 summit taking place this weekend, Tedros issued an appeal to leaders.

"These seven nations have


the power to meet these targets. I am calling on the G7 not just to commit to sharing doses, but to commit to sharing them in June and July", he said.

"I also call on all manufacturers to give COVAX first right of refusal on new volume of vaccines, or to commit 50% of their volumes to COVAX this year."

Invest in production

Tedros also highlighted the importance of investing in vaccine production in low income countries, including for routine immunizations. He noted that several nations are making progress in this area, following the launch of an African Union partnership for vaccine manufacturing. Relatedly, several companies and countries have expressed interest in participating in a WHO plan to establish a technology transfer hub to facilitate global production of mRNA vaccines. A technical review is underway. SOURCE: UN

lifting restrictions, given the increased global transmission of variants of concern, as consequences could be disastrous for those not



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 8 June 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is generally strong over the Andaman and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 9 June 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Kayin, and Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Wave height will be about (7 -10)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayin regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 June 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 June 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 June 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Announcement of Union Election Commission

8 June 2021



- The Union Election Commission (UEC) has examined the voter lists and voting conditions in 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region regarding the multiparty democratic general election held on 8 November 2020.
- Of 4,781,152 eligible voters in 26 townships of Ayeyawady Region, 3,541,933 voters, 75.66 per cent, cast their ballots. The candidates representing the following 21 political parties and the independent parliamentary candidates have run in the general election.
 - National League for Democracy
 - Union Solidarity and Development Party
 - Union Betterment Party
 - National Unity Party
 - Kayin People's Party
 - People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers
 - People's Pioneer Party
 - National Democratic Force
 - People's Party
 - Rakhine National Party
 - Women Party (Mon)
 - United Nationalities Democracy Party
 - United Democratic Party
 - Democratic Party for a New Society
 - Kayin National Party
 - Myanmar Farmers Development Party
 - Democratic Party (Myanmar)
 - New Society Party
 - Public Contribute Students Democracy Party
 - National Democratic Party
 - National Development Party
 - Independent candidate
- The Union Election Commission has conducted an inspection with the respective township election sub-commissions, head of police force, heads of township immigration and population departments, township administrators and representatives of parties under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.
- According to the inspection, the previous election commission released 4,681,152 eligible voters in these 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population list in November 2020 showed 4,416,766 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned 706,984 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters. 54,285 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times, and 567,300 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- According to the inspection, a total of 5,748 polling stations took out 5,238,205 ballots and used 3,479,869. It left 1,641,341 ballots instead of 1,758,336. The difference was 182,719 ballots, and it found 65,724 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations.
- Findings on voter lists and ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw election 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 CSC
1	Myanaung	211	170,887	182,306	13,645	1,569	20,432
2	Kyangin	94	75,640	76,856	3,215	623	8,966
3	Maubin	311	247,844	235,169	37,154	4,854	37,402
4	Pantanaw	217	201,655	212,391	34,626	2,686	25,872
5	Nyaungdon	244	170,168	135,376	12,056	3,499	28,214
6	Kyaiklat	260	129,165	128,578	7,493	1,056	14,006
7	Dedaye	181	155,685	155,958	22,632	2,298	22,048
8	Myaungmya	300	225,903	206,712	31,753	2,158	26,336
9	Einme	162	151,592	141,208	21,148	1,293	17,656
10	Wakema	333	227,946	214,337	34,835	3,148	29,108

11	Labutta	263	226,750	221,962	67,475	1,846	21,158
12	Mawlamyinegyun	322	219,638	206,975	44,642	1,834	23,340
13	Pathein	200	277,964	224,148	30,473	5,012	38,406
14	Kangyidaunt	139	135,757	133,206	17,958	995	13,186
15	Ngapudaw	252	235,428	214,636	55,987	2,885	26,306
16	Thabaung	203	116,758	110,914	8,987	1,784	17,110
17	Kyaunggon	125	128,273	119,131	11,659	1,296	16,856
18	Yekyi	119	157,765	140,274	19,165	1,261	16,684
19	Kyonpyaw	233	190,203	171,458	18,081	1,806	23,768
20	Pyapon	249	211,639	188,447	46,544	2,039	21,494
21	Bogale	361	224,417	214,737	63,162	1,870	20,656
22	Hinthada	282	272,502	267,978	40,671	2,932	32,592
23	Danubyu	164	145,685	141,656	15,055	1,220	17,222
24	Laymyethna	188	83,457	71,996	8,543	810	10,678
25	Ingapu	169	164,855	189,444	19,214	1,603	20,066
26	Zalun	166	133,576	110,913	20,811	1,908	17,738
	Total	5,748	4,681,152	4,416,766	706,984	54,285	567,300

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myanaung	211	192,298	130,372	61,926	57,342	6,195	1,611
2	Kyangin	94	85,566	60,640	24,926	24,244	2,051	1,369
3	Maubin	311	277,897	178,685	99,212	89,434	10,527	749
4	Pantanaw	217	223,306	159,654	63,652	60,992	3,025	365
5	Nyaungdon	244	193,994	135,607	58,387	55,220	4,841	1,674
6	Kyaiklat	260	150,714	104,025	46,689	45,748	2,444	1,503
7	Dedaye	181	173,355	105,429	67,926	64,917	3,258	249
8	Myaungmya	300	248,994	169,667	79,327	73,759	11,080	5,512
9	Einme	162	167,514	114,529	52,985	50,642	3,851	1,508
10	Wakema	333	261,413	165,799	95,614	85,715	14,295	4,396
11	Labutta	263	251,223	145,210	106,013	94,096	18,355	6,438
12	Mawlamyinegyun	322	249,771	163,384	86,387	80,763	8,156	2,532

13	Pathein	200	292,158	204,426	87,732	82,817	14,198	9,283
14	Kangyidaunt	139	148,127	109,467	38,660	37,926	941	207
15	Ngapudaw	252	256,063	166,486	89,577	87,853	3,909	2,185
16	Thabaung	203	136,303	89,908	46,395	45,473	2,113	1,191
17	Kyaunggon	125	145,919	102,823	43,096	40,923	3,885	1,712
18	Yekyi	119	174,789	118,290	56,499	53,105	3,537	143
19	Kyonpyaw	233	219,013	143,618	75,395	72,132	4,525	1,262
20	Pyapon	249	227,396	149,233	78,163	71,856	6,381	74
21	Bogale	361	255,134	156,539	98,595	94,002	6,599	2,006
22	Hinthada	282	305,207	201,290	103,917	87,571	22,093	5,747
23	Danubyu	164	167,340	111,219	56,121	55,935	647	461
24	Laymyethna	188	100,273	63,202	37,071	35,321	4,450	2,700
25	Ingapu	169	184,761	129,320	55,441	51,595	5,454	1,608
26	Zalun	166	149,677	101,047	48,630	41,960	15,909	9,239
	Total	5,748	5,238,205	3,479,869	1,758,336	1,641,341	182,719	65,724

FROM PAGE-10

7. Findings in the 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region are as follows:

- (a) According to Section 6 (a) of the Hluttaw Election Law, any citizen, associate citizen, naturalized citizen or holder of a temporary certificate who has completed the age of 18 years on the day of commencement of the election, and those who do not contravene the provisions of this law. There are 706,984 non-identity voters. There were 54,285 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 567,300 persons repeated on the voter lists two times in these 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region.
- (b) A total of 5,748 polling stations withdrew 5,238,205 ballots and used 3,479,869 ballots. It left 1,641,341 ballots instead of 1,758,336. The difference was 182,719, and the extra ballot was 65,724. The missing/ extra ballots were found at some polling stations. The exact numbers of ballots were granted to the polling stations, and such extra and missing ballots were found due to illegal activities.
- (c) There are 3,541,933 people who cast votes for Pyithu Hluttaw in 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region in the 8 November election. They used 3,479,869 ballots, and 62,064 ballots were lesser than the numbers.
- (d) Of 3,541,933 voters in 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,740,581 people cast votes at the polling stations, while there were 801,352 advance voters. The percentage for casting votes at the polling station was 77.38 per cent and 22.62 per cent for the advance votes.
- (e) Some polling station bags included receipt ballot papers, which were found missing. The relevant polling station chief returned them only when the inspection was conducted.
- (f) Without following the Hluttaw Election Rules 66 (h), receipt ballot papers and reserved ballot papers were returned to the respective township election sub-commission only after the election period.
- (g) Subsequent voters were allowed to vote by filling the voter list Form (1) without submitting to the relevant township election sub-commissions. In some village-tracts, the original voter's name was erased, and other voter's names and profiles were filled to vote.
- (h) People under 18 were allowed to vote.
- (i) The ward/village-tract election sub-commissions failed to return the advance ballots and remaining ballots to the officials under the law.
- (j) The name of the voter, voter list number, polling station number, ward/village name, signature or fingerprint were not filled in the receipt ballot papers, and they were allowed to vote.
- (k) Junior Assistant Teacher Daw Moe Myat Thuzar (polling station member), assigned in Yedwingone village-tract, Mawlamyinegyun Township, was found to vote two times in two villages: one was at her parents' village, and another at her husband's village. A case was filed against her under Hluttaw Election Law Section 59 (f). Some voters were on the voter lists and voted two or three times, and they will be taken action according to the law.
- (l) The non-identity voters were found in the voter lists, and they were allowed to cast votes just with voter certificates without ID cards.
- (m) Illegal advance voting was conducted.
- (n) They released the COVID-19 related instructions, which were not in conformity with the law, to collect voter lists and advance votes when the election drew near.

8. The frauds committed in the 8 November election were found as follows:

- (a) The ward/village-tract administrators served as chairpersons to collect the population's numbers to compile the voter lists. In this process, the ward/

village-tract administrators appointed by the NLD government and some NLD members jointly collected the numbers of the population. They did not inspect whether the people live in their ward/village-tracts and whether they are eligible voters under Hluttaw Election Law. Therefore, there were many non-identity voters on the voter lists and some repeated on the voter lists two times or over three times with just one NRC card. Section (15) (c) of the Hluttaw Election Law, Chapter VI mentioned "Preparation of Voting Roll", and 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." And it found activities that violate the law. According to Section 19 (b), the names not eligible are included in the voting roll; delete such names from the voting roll. But they did not remove the names.

- (b) The former UEC also released instructions that the advance voting process for people over 60 can be conducted starting 29-10-2020 before the election day. But some NLD members carried out door-to-door service in collecting advance votes in some places, and it caused voting frauds. According to COVID-19 health rules, the announcement and instruction for voters who could not return to their constituencies were released on 8-10-2020 and 11-10-2020, respectively, by the former UEC. Due to such directives, the voters were found repeated on the voter lists, and non-identity voters were also on the lists and were allowed to cast votes.
 - (c) The former UEC also released a statement for voters without ID cards to cast their vote on 19-8-2020. The non-identity voters cast votes with voter certificates at the polling stations. Therefore, the non-identity voters, those who repeated on voter lists two times or over three times, were allowed to cast votes without complying with Section 59 of the Hluttaw Election Law. Regarding the voting stamps, the instruction that the ballots with a tick without a UEC label will be recognized as valid votes also caused a complicated situation in counting the votes.
 - (d) The former Ayeyawady Region government had made arrangements to submit the name lists when the Union Election Commission (UEC) reformed the election sub-commissions, and it was found that only the names of those who had the approval of the Union Minister of the regional government were submitted to the former Union Election Commission. By forming the election sub-commissions, the relevant NLD MPs also interfered in it. It was found that there was open bias by the members of the NLD ward/village tract election sub-commissions in campaigning, advance voting and voting at the polling stations.
9. The voting frauds were supposed to be intentionally committed. Moreover, they also interfere in collecting voter lists, election campaign, advance voting process and voting processes even on election day with their power. Then, the former UEC also misused their authorities and violated the law and rules.
10. Regarding the multiparty general election held on 8 November 2020, the officials inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes in 26 townships in the Ayeyawady Region. The NLD misused the COVID-19 restrictions and State Power in election processes, including election campaigns of rival parties and Hluttaw MPs, to win the election and form a government. The party also arranged to seize power in advance. According to the above analysis, it was found that the election was not in conformity with the relevant Hluttaw Election laws/rules, so the election was not free and fair.

Union Election Commission



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Anti-Terrorism Central Committee Declaration of Terrorist Groups Notification No 2/2021

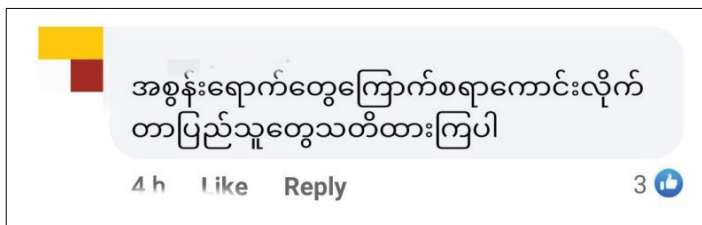
12th Waning of Tagu 1383 ME
8 May 2021

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 Counter-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

Medical expert U Zaw Wai Soe illegally appointed as minister by himself raises anxieties among people living in peace via online intimidating speech



THE people living in peace are working for the uplift of their living standards on a daily basis while striving for improvement of all sectors such as health, education and economy.

Intimidation talks spread on social networks by medical expert U Zaw Wai Soe, who did not perform medical treatment and was illegally appointed as minister by himself, to attempt to cause public panic with anxieties in daily life.

Despite focusing on the lives of the people by applying his medical knowledge, medical expert U Zaw Wai Soe committed the following acts to deteriorate the country similar to that of terrorists.

U Zaw Wai Soe committed intimidation acts against public service personnel who did not join the CDM activity. So he persuaded them to join CDM without fail on one hand. As good public service personnel are con-

scientiously serving the duties without accepting his incentives and intimidation, he talked about threats to the people's lives.

The people are requested to collectively denounce terror acts, including threats of politically extremist NLD members and supporters, inform the relevant security organizations about the news of terrorists and participate in arresting those terrorists in order to ensure peace and stability of the State. — MNA

Man wearing school uniform arrested for sound bomb blast in school compound

A man wearing a school uniform was arrested for the explosion of a sound bomb in the school compound in Htigyaing of the Sagaing Region.

As security forces inspected the blast at Basic Education High School in No 2 Ward of Htigyaing at about 8:35 am yesterday, a man wearing a school uniform climbed on the western wall of the school fence. He was arrested by security forces on the road in front of Township Hospital and seized a gas lighter from his hand. He wore a black T-shirt with short sleeve and black trousers under the school uniform.

After investigation, he was Sai Nyi (a) Shan Lay, aged 16, an odd-job worker from No 1 Sanpya Ward. An unknown woman gave him K100,000 and ordered him to explode a sound bomb in the school compound. He took a sound bomb made of a plastic bottle from the woman into the school compound. He detonated the sound bomb on the vacant plot between Letwe Thondra Hall and Manle Hall.

Security forces are striving for arresting the woman who ordered Sai Nyi (a) Shan Lay with cash payment under the law. — MNA



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US recovers over half of ransom paid to pipeline hackers

THE US Justice Department announced Monday that it had recovered more than half of the \$4.4 million paid by Colonial Pipeline to Russia-based ransomware extortionists Darkside, who had forced the shutdown of a major fuel network. "Today, we turned the tables on Darkside by going after the entire ecosystem that fuels ransomware and digital extortion attacks, including criminal proceeds in the form of digital currency," said Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco.

The seizure came one month after the group gave the US government a security scare by breaking into the computer systems of Colonial and forcing the shutdown of its 5,500 mile (8,850 kilometres) pipeline serving much of the eastern United States.

The cyberattack caused short-term fuel shortages and drew attention to the broader threat that the burgeoning ransomware "industry" posed to essential infrastructure and services. The Justice Department said the US Federal Bureau of Investigation was able to track the 75 bitcoin Colonial paid in ransom -- \$4.4 million at the time -- as it moved through multiple anonymous transfers. Eventually it was able to seize from a cryptocurrency wallet 63.7 bitcoin, which due to the digital currency's fall over the past month, was only worth \$2.3 million on Monday. Colonial boss Joseph Blount thanked the FBI for its "swift work and professionalism," saying the company had "quietly and quickly" contacted its agents when the attack was detected on May 7. — AFP ■



Russia-based ransomware hackers forced the shutdown of the largest fuel network in the eastern United States, run by Colonial Pipeline. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Apple doubles down on privacy in new iPhone software

APPLE on Monday said it is ramping up privacy and expanding features in new iPhone operating software to be released later this year. The Silicon Valley technology colossus opened its annual developers conference by teasing improvements to security, privacy and interoperability of its devices, even as the company remains under fire for its tight control of its App Store.

"All of this incredible software will be available to all of our users this fall," Apple chief execu-

tive Tim Cook said during the Worldwide Developers Conference opening presentation.

"I am so excited for these new releases and how they will make our products even more powerful and more capable."

The next version of iPhone operating software, called iOS 15, will have improved privacy features including overviews of how apps access smartphone cameras or microphones as well as data such as location or contacts. — AFP ■

Japan's April current account surplus grows six-fold as trade improves



An international cargo ship arrives at the Port of Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP

JAPAN posted a more than six-fold increase in its current account surplus in April to 1.32 trillion yen (\$12 billion) as the trade balance swung back into the black due to a surge in exports from a year earlier when the coronavirus pandemic stalled economic activity, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.

The current account,

one of the widest gauges of international trade, remained in the black for the 82nd month in April, helped by a rise in investment returns, according to the ministry's preliminary report.

A year-on-year increase of 1.12 trillion yen in the current account surplus is the largest since August 2015, a ministry of-

ficial said.

April saw a larger rise in exports than in imports in terms of value, translating into a trade surplus of 289.5 billion yen. That is a reversal from a deficit of 926.9 billion yen a year earlier when shipments from Japan slumped amid the spread of the coronavirus that led to a state of emergency in the country and

lockdown measures overseas. Among items that pushed up the country's exports by 38.0 per cent from a year ago to 6.83 trillion yen were cars and auto parts, apparently reflecting a recovery in auto demand in key markets such as the United States and China. Amid a global shortage of chips, shipments of semiconductor-making equipment increased.

Imports jumped 11.3 per cent to 6.54 trillion yen, getting a lift from a rise in crude oil and petroleum products.

Another key component of the current account, primary income, gained 7.3 per cent to 2.18 trillion yen, lifted by Japanese companies receiving dividend payments from their overseas subsidiaries, according to the Finance Ministry. — Kyodo News ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1102)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1102)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0176N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0176N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VASI STAR VOY.NO. (150E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VASI STAR VOY.NO. (150E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 VASI SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IMKE SCHEPERS VOY.NO. (09W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IMKE SCHEPERS VOY.NO. (09W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 GOLD STAR SHIPPING LINES

Chinese exports up 28% as imports hit decade-long high

CHINA'S exports rose 27.9 per cent in May while imports grew at the fastest pace in more than a decade as the global economy powers back from the pandemic crisis, official data showed on Monday.

Demand for China's goods has bounced after economically painful lockdowns last year due to the COVID-19 crisis, and as vaccines are rolled out across much of the world. The figures are also boosted by last year's low base of comparison when the coronavirus was spreading rapidly.

Exports from the



A cargo ship loaded with containers leaving a port in Haikou, in China's southern Hainan province. **PHOTO: AFP**

world's second largest economy posted strong growth but came in lower than expectations of

32 per cent. "To be honest, that is a cracking number by anybody's standard and shows that

global demand remains robust," said OANDA's Jeffrey Halley.

In May, import

growth hit its highest rate since January 2011, coming in at 51.1 per cent on-year, also slightly below expectations of a Bloomberg poll of analysts.

But still, imports and exports to China's major trade partners, including southeast Asia's ASEAN bloc, the European Union and the United States, have risen in the first five months this year, said customs authorities.

"It's still a fairly healthy set of numbers," Jonathan Cavenagh, senior market strategist at Informa Global Markets, told Bloomberg TV. "We know that global de-

mand is still recovering and that trend is likely to continue towards the end of the second quarter and into the third quarter as the major developed economies open up."

The lower-than-expected export figure was likely due to port disruptions due to tighter COVID-19 control measures in late May after the coronavirus was detected among staff.

"I think there was some disruption in May from ports," ING chief economist for Greater China Iris Pang said, referring to recent congestion at southern China's Yantian port. — AFP ■

Chinese Taipei tech sector hit by coronavirus outbreak

A LEADING Chinese Taipei chip testing and packaging company said on Monday that all its migrant employees have been suspended from working for around two weeks to contain a coronavirus outbreak.

At least 206 employees, mostly migrant

workers, at facilities run by King Yuan Electronics Company (KYECC) in northern Miaoli county have tested positive, according to the government.

The cluster is the first major outbreak in Chinese Taipei's semiconductor industry, which is operating at full capacity to meet a

worldwide shortage.

KYECC employs more than 7,000 people, including around 2,100 migrants, and counts some top international tech firms as clients, such as Intel, Qualcomm and Nvidia. KYECC said in a filing to the Chinese Taipei Stock Exchange that its June output and revenue are expected to drop 30 to 35 per cent due to the suspension of work. Local media raised concerns that the suspension could impact the global chip shortage as KYECC's business is a key final step in the semiconductor supply chain. Two other tech firms in Miaoli have also reported infection clusters and suspended migrant workers. — AFP ■



Employees at a semiconductor manufacturing company. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan's 1st qtr GDP fall upgraded to 3.9% on more medical costs

JAPAN'S economy in the January-March period shrank an annualized 3.9 per cent, upgraded from a preliminary 5.1 per cent contraction, as more-than-expected health care costs pushed up government spending, the government said Tuesday.

Real gross domestic product, the total value of goods and services produced in the country adjusted for inflation, contracted 1.0 per cent from

the previous quarter on a seasonally adjusted basis for the first shrinkage in three quarters amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Cabinet Office. During the reporting period, the government declared a state of emergency in 11 of Japan's prefectures including the Tokyo metropolitan area, requesting people to stay at home and restaurants and bars to close earlier.— Kyodo News ■

Saudi Aramco in debut Islamic bond sale

SAUDI Aramco on Monday began its first dollar-denominated Islamic bond sale, state media said, as the energy giant seeks to raise cash to fund its hefty dividend payments.

The sale of sukuk, or Islamic bonds compliant with the Muslim faith, will end on June 17, the official Saudi Press Agency said, without specifying how much cash Aramco is seeking to raise.

The sale comes after two previous bond offerings that were not compliant with Islamic law – a debut \$12 billion sale in 2019 and an \$8 billion offering in November last year.

The company is raising money to help pay an annual dividend of \$75 billion, a key revenue.

Aramco, the king-



Saudi Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser (left) ringing the bell at the official ceremony launching the debut of Saudi Aramco's initial public offering (IPO) on the Riyadh's stock market in 2019. Photo: Saudi Aramco. **PHOTO: AFP**

dom's cash cow, pledged to pay the dividend when it sought to generate interest in its debut initial public offering on the Saudi bourse in December 2019. But company finances came under pressure last year, when crude prices tanked as the coronavirus pandemic sapped global demand.

Last month, Aramco declared a 30 per cent

jump in first quarter profit, thanks to a recovery in oil prices, but the company's free cash flow fell short of the \$18.75 billion dividend obligation for that period.

Aramco is pushing to raise cash as Riyadh faces a ballooning budget deficit and pursues multi-billion dollar projects to diversify its oil-reliant economy. — AFP ■

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Anhui Guangxin Agrochemical Co., Ltd** and **Lier Chemical Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**AGRO GREEN LAND CHEMICAL CO.,LTD**", to new distributor name "**THU KHA MAHAR AGROCHMICAL CO.,LTD**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Agro Green Land Chemical Co.,Ltd.** Ph- Ph-09797915818.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Xin Carb	Propamocarb Hydrochloride 66.5% SL	P2020-4698
2.	Foison Clear	Fomesafen 250 g/l SL	P2019-4728

Biden invites Ukraine's president to White House

NEWS
IN BRIEF

PRESIDENT Joe Biden reaffirmed US support for Ukraine's territorial integrity Monday after Russian troop movements on its border, and invited President Volodymyr Zelensky to the White House.

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters that Biden talked by phone with Zelensky, telling him "he will stand up firmly for Ukraine's sovereignty" and "looks forward to welcoming him to the White House this summer."

The invitation to visit in July marked a show of support for Ukraine ahead of Biden's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva next week.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (L) has accepted an invitation to the White House by US President Joe Biden. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the leaders had discussed the countries' "shared democratic values and Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations."

She said Biden "affirmed the United States' unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of ongoing Russian ag-

gression in Donbas and Crimea."

In a statement Zelensky accepted the invitation.

He said that in their phone call Biden had reaffirmed support for providing a pathway for Ukraine to join NATO, and Zelensky "also expressed gratitude" for a US plan to supply 900,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses to Ukraine.

The Biden administration has expressed strong support for Kiev as it faces Russia-allied separatists and saw a strong buildup in April of Russian troops along its eastern border and in Crimea, the Ukraine territory seized seven years ago by Moscow. — AFP ■

Haiti postpones June 27 referendum, citing Covid

HAITI on Monday postponed a constitutional referendum scheduled for June 27 citing the coronavirus pandemic, but did not give a new date for the vote in the latest twist in its political crisis. President Jovenel Moise has been ruling Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, by decree after legislative elections due in 2018 were delayed and following disputes on when his own term ends.

In addition to presidential, legislative and local elections set for September, Moise had wanted to submit a new draft of the island nation's constitution to a popular vote on June 27.

Last month he had vowed to go ahead despite international criticism that the process is not "inclusive, participatory or transparent" enough in a country plagued by political insecurity and criminal gangs. — AFP ■

Mali strongman stands by February elections, names civilian PM



Colonel Assimi Goita, centre, is sworn in as Mali's transitional president after leading two coups in the Western African country. PHOTO: AFP

MALIAN strongman Colonel Assimi Goita stood by the goal of staging elections next February as he was sworn in as tran-

sitional president on Monday, also naming a civilian premier after international outrage over the country's second coup in nine months.

Goita, who had already headed a coup that toppled the West African country's democratically elected leader last August, ousted the civilian president and prime minister of a transitional government on May 24.

In doing so, he sparked diplomatic uproar and deepened fears of chaos in a country key to efforts to stem the jihadist

insurgency sweeping the Sahel.

"I swear before God and the Malian people to preserve the republican regime... to preserve democratic gains," said Goita during the swearing-in ceremony in the capital Bamako.

The colonel, dressed in full military regalia, added that Mali would stick to its commitments, pledging "fair and transparent" elections by February next year.

It is unclear how Mali's partners and neighbours, who have condemned the second coup, will respond. — AFP ■

UN calls on CAfrica to guarantee peacekeeper safety

THE UN Security Council on Monday called on the Central African Republic and "all forces present" in the conflict-racked country to ensure the safety of its peacekeepers -- likely an implicit rebuke of Russian soldiers there as "instructors."

In a statement approved unanimously during a closed-door meeting spearheaded by France, the Council's 15 members also called for CAR forces, the Blue Helmets and others to coordinate their efforts. The Council did not identify the other "forces" but seemed to be referring to a large contingent of Russian soldiers acting as unarmed "instructors" in the country. Numerous witnesses and NGOs say the instructors are in fact paramilitaries from the Wagner Group, a shadowy private military company that is actively participating in the fight against CAR rebels, alongside Rwandan special forces and UN peacekeepers. The Security Council also did not say what prompted their sudden meeting on the issue, simply saying that "attacks against United Nations peacekeepers may constitute war crimes." — AFP ■

Leftist Castillo edges ahead in Peru vote count as rival alleges fraud

FAR-LEFT trade unionist Pedro Castillo took a narrow lead on Monday in Peru's presidential run-off election against right-wing populist Keiko Fujimori, who alleged fraud in the vote count.

With 94.8 per cent of ballots counted after Sunday's vote, Castillo was ahead of Fujimori with 50.2 per cent compared with her 49.7 per cent, though there could be a prolonged wait for the final outcome.

Fujimori raised allegations of "irregularities" and "signs of fraud" at a press conference on Monday evening, claiming she had evidence of "a clear intention to boycott the popular will" in the election.

Fujimori, 46, had led in early

counting, but school teacher Castillo, 51, gained ground as votes from Peru's rural areas -- his stronghold -- came in from across a country battered by years of political turmoil.

Castillo's Free Peru party called on election authorities to "protect the vote" as ballots are counted and published, which may take days with more than a million expat votes being processed. "Only the people are going to save the people," Castillo said, as he asked his followers to show restraint.

Election observers from the Organization of American States (OAS) said the candidates' "conduct in these crucial hours is decisive to maintain calm." — AFP ■



Peruvian presidential candidate Pedro Castillo at his party's headquarters in Lima after taking a razor-thin lead as the final votes are tallied in the run-off election. Right-wing populist Keiko Fujimori and hardline leftist Pedro Castillo were neck-and-neck in a battle for Peru's presidency Monday as the crisis-hit nation's election looked set to go down to the wire. PHOTO: AFP

Two ASEAN women footballers to join Japanese Women's League



Japanese and Korean Leagues eye ASEAN women players as the women football industry in the ASEAN region is increasing. **PHOTO: PFF**

TWO ASEAN women footballers: Quinley Quezada and Sarina Bolden, have been chosen for the professional women's football league in Japan, named WE (Women Empowerment) League, said ASEAN football officials.

The Philippine Football Federation (PFF) announced their national team star players Quinley Quezada and Sarina Bolden would join the Japanese women's league to be launched this year September.

Bolden will play for Chifure AS Elfen Saitama, while Quezada will join JEF United Ichihara Chiba Ladies, said ASEAN football authorities.

"When I found out, I felt overjoyed," said Quezada. "I

can't thank the people who've helped and supported me throughout this process enough. I'm immensely grateful, excited for this opportunity, and I can't wait to get started."

"I am so thankful and blessed to be still able to play the game, especially after a challenging past year that was filled with much uncertainty," said Bolden.

"I thank the PFF for helping and supporting me throughout this process and the WE League for cultivating diversity, empowering women, and making it bigger than just soccer. I am absolutely thrilled and honoured to be a part of the WE League's historic first season this year," Bolden added.—GNLM

Medvedev, Tsitsipas face off as outsiders sniff French Open chance

STEFANOS Tsitsipas hopes to stay on course for a first Grand Slam final when he meets rival Daniil Medvedev at the French Open on Tuesday, while the impressive Elena Rybakina is aiming to back up her win over Serena Williams.

Greek fifth seed Tsitsipas is trying to reach a third successive major semi-final, having lost a thrilling a five-setter to Novak Djokovic at Roland Garros last year.

Blocking his path is second seed Medvedev, the Russian who hadn't won a match in four previous visits to the French Open but has looked increasingly assured on clay over the past week.

Medvedev, a runner-up at the 2019 US Open and

this year's Australian Open finalist, holds a 6-1 head-to-head advantage over Tsitsipas.

He beat the Greek in straight sets in the last four in Melbourne in their most recent meeting.

"He does serve extremely well, I have to say. He has improved over the years with his serve. This is going to be something that I will have to face," said Tsitsipas, who compared Medvedev's serve to that of John Isner.

"Of course, myself playing well, I feel like I don't have to think against who I'm facing or not, I just have to play my game, let the rest be witnessed."

Medvedev could take over the number one ranking if he reaches the final and Djokovic does not. — AFP ■



Daniil Medvedev had not won a match at the French Open before this year's tournament. **PHOTO: AFP**

Foreign reporters to be tracked by GPS at Tokyo Olympics



Olympic organizers want to keep visitors under close supervision in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KAZUHIRO NOG/ AFP/FILE**

OVERSEAS journalists covering the Tokyo Olympics will have their movements tracked by GPS, the Games president said Tuesday, and could have their passes revoked if they break the rules.

Organizers of the pandemic-postponed 2020 Games, which

open in just over six weeks, are trying to reassure a sceptical public that the mega-event can be held safely under strict virus rules. The about 6,000 reporters visiting Japan for the Olympics must provide a detailed list of areas they will visit for their first

two weeks in Japan, such as sports venues and hotels. And Tokyo 2020 chief Seiko Hashimoto said tracking technology would be used to make sure they only go where they are supposed to.

"To make sure that people don't go to places other than the places where they are registered to go, we will use GPS to strictly manage their behaviour," Hashimoto said before a Tokyo 2020 executive board meeting.

Reporters will be urged to stay in designated hotels rather than private lodgings, she added.

The number of hotels will be reduced from an originally planned 350 to around 150, she said, as organizers try to keep visitors under close supervision. — AFP ■

'Why not us?' Schmeichel dreams of Denmark 1992 Euro repeat

KASPER Schmeichel has his boots planted firmly on the ground but the 34-year-old Denmark goalkeeper dreams of repeating his father's sensational Euro 1992 title.

"You've got to dream big ... and the question we've got to ask ourselves is 'Why not us?'" the keeper recently told Danish TV2.

His father Peter was the hero of Denmark's unexpected European championship victory in Sweden almost 30 years ago. With his 129 caps from 1987 to 2001 and long career with Manchester United, Peter Schmeichel is a living legend.

Kasper Schmeichel – tall, blond and strapping like his father – has made a name for himself as well.

Since 2011 he has played for Leicester, the surprise 2016 Premier League champions, and registered 60 caps for Denmark, including a brilliant performance at the 2018 World Cup.

As he approaches the end of his career, he hopes to fulfil his boyhood dream of winning the Euro, after Denmark, currently ranked 10th in the FIFA standings, failed to qualify in 2016.

"When you're little and you play football, what do you dream of, playing or winning? Obviously you dream of winning!" he said with a smile. "We've got a good team, I think. And we've racked up some good results and good showings in the past few years," he added. — AFP ■