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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Press Statement

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to refer to the G-7 Summit Communiqué issued on 13 June 2021, where Myanmar’s domestic political developments were mentioned based on fabricated and biased information emanating from unverifiable sources.

The Communiqué erroneously mentioned the event of 1 February 2021 as a military coup. In contrast, the Tatmadaw has assumed the State responsibilities as per Section 418 (a) of the State Constitution (2008) of Myanmar. The Tatmadaw and law enforcement personnel are strictly performing their respective duties within the frameworks of existing laws and regulations. On occasions when the use of force is necessary, the security forces only exercise the minimum use of force and maximum restraint on controlling violence in ensuring public safety.

SEE PAGE-3

## Mya Nandar civil-servant housing units to become available next month

The Urban and Housing Development Department (UHDD) of the Ministry of Construction implemented the Mya Nandar civil-servant housing project in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township of Yangon Region. The housing aimed at helping government employees working in Yangon, and now the ministry staff concerned to apply for the apartments. Therefore, the officials arrange to grant a stay permit at the rental housing starting early July, according to region UHDD.

**First priority**

“We will rent out the apartments on a group basis. The applicants need the special recommendation letters of their respective department heads like the township officers. We will prioritize those who do not have a house with a big family. Depending on the applications of various ministries, we will allocate the units on a ratio. We will make the decision with our groups. We will submit our decisions to the regional government, and they will make a final decision for their stay. We will prioritize the in-service government employees who do not have



Mya Nandar government employee rental housing in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township of Yangon Region. PHOTO: MIN HTET

a house in Yangon at all. If they get permission, they can move to the apartments on 1 July,” said Director U Yu Khine of the region department.

**For government staff**

The government will allocate 448 rooms of 14 five-storey buildings with eight rooms on each floor. Each apartment

measures 436 square feet, and they will be rented to non-gazette officers. Twenty-eight apartments measuring 940 square feet each will be for the ones ranked at or above the deputy director level. The rents for the housing unit are expected to be 5 per cent of the monthly salary for those with higher ranks and 3 per cent for those in the lower ranks of the

civil service. The housing repairs will be conducted by the respective townships Urban and Housing Development Department.

**Rules and regulations**

The Yangon Region Administration Council sent letters to the relevant departments that the employees who do not have a house in the region can apply for

the rental housing units in May. Therefore, the government employees of relevant departments apply for the units currently at UHDD of Yangon Region as per the fixed terms and conditions. The opening ceremony of Mya Nandar government employee rental housing was organized on 28 January 2021.—Mg Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)/GNLM

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## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

### 1. Political affairs

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

### 2. Economic affairs

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

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

### 3. Social affairs

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

## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

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

12<sup>th</sup> 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*

## They need to carry out politics in unison without diverse concepts

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

*(Excerpt from the speech to the State Administration Council meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 25 May 2021)*

## Defence Minister and officials attend 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers meeting

DIRECTOR-GENERAL Col Nyein Chan of the Department of International and Internal Affairs and officials, led by State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, attended the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting chaired by Brunei Darussalam through videoconferencing yesterday.

In addition, the ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASEAN-China Partnership was



held in conjunction with the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting.

During the meetings, the Defence Ministers from ASEAN member countries agreed

to issue a joint statement online on defence cooperation to build an ASEAN community

that we care, we prepare, we prosper.—MNA

## Press release on finding of variant COVID-19 viruses (15-6-2021)

WHILE constantly monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health and Sports is especially performing the monitoring of variant COVID-19 viruses. On 3 June 2021, the Defence Services Medical Research Centre of the Ministry of Defence issued the laboratory results for 11 persons with variant COVID-19 — one in Kalay, three in Myeik, four in Mandalay, two in Tamu and one foreign returnee in Yangon.

Variant strains were found as two Alpha and five Delta on variants of concern and four Kappa on variants of interest. These viruses were found in India, the USA, France, Germany, Spain, Ireland and Switzerland. The World Health organization stated Alpha and Delta strains of the variant virus have high speed of further infection and reviewed that it will raise the number of patients to be charged at hospitals and the possibility of increasing the death rate due to severe virus. Moreover, some vaccines will be weaker than the impact of the virus.

As such, it is essential that people strictly abide by the notifications, directives, and work guidelines for prevention and control of COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports to ensure disinfection of the pandemic against themselves, their families and environs.

*Ministry of Health and Sports*

## Cases of ex-president U Win Myint, ex-state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and ex-chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council heard at special court in Zabuthiri Township

THE special court in Zabuthiri Township heard the cases against ex-president U Win Myint, ex-state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and ex-chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung on 15 June. The special court started hearing the trials for the case prosecuted against U Win

Myint, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Dr Myo Aung under the Penal Code section 505(b) and another case against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under the Natural Disaster Management Law. Before the trials, they were allowed to meet their lawyers freely. —MNA

**225 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 June, total figure rises to 146,051**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **146,051** after **225 new cases** were reported on 15 June 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **133,104** have been discharged from hospitals. —MNA

## Press Statement

### FROM PAGE-1

The Information Team of the State Administration Council and the Ministry of Information have been disseminating actual on-ground situations and true facts and news on daily basis. As such, whenever remarks or statements are to be made related to the situation in Myanmar, facts or information should be based on those true facts rather than referring to unreliable and unverifiable sources.

The Ministry wishes to highlight the member states of the United Nations of the need to adhere to the Charter of the United Nations, particularly Article 2, paragraph 7, that prohibits the member states not to interfere in the internal affairs of others.

The Ministry strongly objects to the inaccurate and one-sided views regarding the situation of Myanmar expressed in paragraph 59 of the Carbis Bay G-7 Summit Communiqué as it tends towards meddling internal affairs of Myanmar.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nay Pyi Taw  
Dated, 15 June 2021*

## Ceremony held to set ashes of late Presiding Nayaka of Maha Withutarama Zaygon Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara adrift into water



CEREMONY to set the ashes of late Presiding Nayaka of Maha Withutarama Zaygon Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre of Pynmana in Nay Pyi Taw State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Kavisara (Sasanadhaja Siripavara

Dhammacariya) adrift into the water took place at Paunglaung River near Kyitaung Village of Zeyathiri Township.

Sayadaws, monks, Deputy Ministers U Aye Tun and U Tun Ohn for Religious Affairs and Culture, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Myint Soe and devotees recited the sermons in

order to open the ceremony in the ground of the Uppatasanti Pagoda, where the crematorium was built.

Then, the golden and silver urns of Sayadaw were conveyed onto the Karaweik decorated float and to the Paunglaung river bank.

Sayadaws, monks, rela-

tives and devotees carried the urns onto the vessel docked at Paunglaung river bank.

They recited the sermons at the designated place of the river to adrift the ashes of Sayadaw into the water and shared merit. They paid respects to Sayadaw, apologizing for any sins on their part, and concluded the ceremony.

The late Sayadaw served the duty of State Ovadacariya. He established Maha Withutarama Zaygon Monastery in

Pynmana as a Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre for giving lectures on Pariyatti literature to some 300 student monks up to his final days. The Sayadaw established Ubuddho Tawya Yeiktha, where he himself took meditation as well as gave ways of meditations to his disciples.

The Sayadaw opened many branches of the monastery. The Sayadaw passed away at the age of 95 with 75 vasa. — MNA



## Village roads, bridges construction completed in Putao Township

THE Rural Development Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Putao Township of Putao District in Kachin State completes village roads and bridges in three villages of Putao Township using 2020-2021FY state government funds.

The state government used K83.250 million for the earthen road, gravel road and three Box Culverts in Win Lone Village of Putao Township, K36.875 million for the earthen road, gravel road

and one Box Culvert in War Sar Village and K46.375 million for the earthen road, gravel road and two Box Culvert in Mar Main Shee Di Village. The operations were conducted by Shwe Yoke Hlwar Construction, the tender-winning company. The construction works were begun in December 2020 and completed in June 2021. U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Chairman of township QA/QC committee, and committee members inspected the completion on 12 June. — District IPRD/ GNLM



## Tax clearance for purchase/sale of vehicle

1. If anyone wishes to clear tax issues related to the purchase and sale of automobiles, it will need the processes of setting automobile standards, submitting the income declaration and paying tax.
2. With regard to setting the automobile standards and levying taxes,
  - (a) registration of local-made automobiles and changing ownership for a car purchased via others need to contact respective township Internal Revenue Departments of taxpayers.
  - (b) import of automobiles to Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw must contact respective income tax offices.
3. Taxpayer people must carry out payment of tax for purchase and sale of automobiles as follows: -
  - (a) If they want to purchase an automobile/change ownership, they must submit the income declaration to respective township IRDs. They have to submit evidence of income for the purchase of an automobile. Otherwise, they have to pay the income tax in line with the tax rate of Section 25 of the Union Tax Law 2020.
  - (b) They have to abide by the following points for sales of automobiles.
    - (1) They have to submit the income declaration and estimated tax calculation to respective Internal Revenue Departments within 30 days, starting from the handover of the stock.
    - (2) In handing over or selling the stock at original value, additional costs are allowed to be abstracted, and 10 per cent income tax must be paid over the profit in accord with the 2020 Union Tax Law.
    - (3) If the total value obtained from the sales of more than one stock or changing or hand-over in any way does not exceed K10 million within one year, profit from the stock is not needed to pay income tax.

Internal Revenue Department  
Ministry of Planning and Finance

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

## Nawngkhio Cloudy Villa to welcome back customers in November

PLANS are underway to open the Nawngkhio Cloudy Villa following the COVID-19 guidelines on 1 November. People living in urban areas annually visit the villa situated near Nawngkhio Gyi village in northern Shan State.

The villa has been famous since the Tazaungdine festival month in 2019, and five villas were opened on 1 November 2020. Currently, there are eight villas for nature lovers who come and enjoy the mixed beauty of the sky and the ground.

“There are eight villas. Cloudy Villa always opens monthly, but there are challenges to open in the rainy season,” said CEO Daw Yu Nandar Hmine of the Cloudy Villa.

“Last year, people enjoyed the background beauty of sea cloud, birds’ nest and cane chair, and early this year, visitors liked the heaven bridge and cane swing,” she added.

There are seven photo shooting places, and it changed



The beauty of sea cloud is formed when the stream of water from the Duttawadi river flows over 20,000 feet of mountains, transformed into clouds. With the combination of the sky, ground and weather, the most beautiful time of the Nawngkhio Cloudy Villa is between November and January.

once a year.

“With the conservation to the natural environment, efforts are being made to be better year after year,” she said.

During the rainy season, visitors can stay in the house built by Eucalyptus trunks instead

of a tent for K10,000 per person.

In the tourist season, cold season, a tent for two persons is K25,000, K45,000 for four persons and K50,000 for six persons. The service includes a hot/cold water showers, and the prices are the same in the summer and rainy

seasons.

The beauty of sea cloud is formed when the stream of water from the Dokhtawady river flows over 20,000 feet of mountains, transformed into clouds. With the combination of the sky, ground and weather, the most beautiful time of the Nawngkhio Cloudy Villa is between November and January. By the time the villa will be open this winter, it plans to host two concerts a month. The villa is reportedly crowded on Friday and Saturday when the working people come and relax from their suffocating urban areas. — Nyein Thu/GNLM



## Kyaukse detour, Zawgyi River bridge almost complete

THE Yangon-Mandalay detour and Zawgyi River bridge were constructed to reduce the traffic jam in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region. The construction was developed by Thaw Tar Win Company starting January 2018.

The company constructed the 7.82-mile-long Kyauske detour with 72 feet in width, including 35 Box Culverts under Department of Highway supervision using K14,200 million fund. K1860 million funds were expended for the six-lane Zawgyi bridge with 210 feet in length and 80 feet in width. Currently, the operations are nearly completed, according to the officials.

As the trucks, trailers and ferries of factories in Kyaukse Township use the roads of downtown areas, it often causes traffic jam and some road accidents. Therefore, the officials arranged to construct a bypass to reduce such difficulties and streamline the logistic processes.—Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM

## Invitation for 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China “Friendship and Cooperation” short video contest

IT is announced that video producers, social media anchors and vloggers from ASEAN member countries and China are invited to participate in the Second ASEAN-China “Friendship and Cooperation” short video contest in order to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of dialogue relations between ASEAN and China this year.

Entries should present ASEAN-China friendly cooperation on themes such as

- (a) Battling COVID-19
- (b) ASEAN-China Pragmatic Cooperation
- (c) Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges
- (d) My Favorite City

### Participation

- (a) (Professional or amateur) video producers, social media anchors and vloggers from ASEAN member countries and China could participate in the contest.
- (b) Either individual or team, each should not submit more than three entries.
- (c) The format of the entries, such as documentary, interview, and talk show, is unlimited.
- (d) Video can be made in any language and should include English or Chinese subtitles.
- (e) The running time of each video must be between 5 and 8 minutes.
- (f) Video resolution must be 1,280 by 720 pixels in MPG, MPEG, AVI, MOV, WMV and MP4 formats and landscape mode.

Among the submitted entries, USD18,000 will be awarded as Gold Award, USD12,000 as Silver Award, and USD6,000 as Bronze Award.

The videos can be sent to ACvideocontest@qq.com or asean\_video@migu.cn not later than 31 August 2021. For further information, please visit <https://chinareportasean.com/friendship-and-cooperation>.—MNA

## Salt price likely to continue upward trend in Mon State

SALT is fetching a good price in Mon State, and the price is expected to remain high, salt producers said.

The raw salt stood at K55-70 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) at the depot in Mawlamyine, Mon State. On 14 June, the price increased to K120-150 per viss.

Nevertheless, the salt production businesses in Mon State are facing challenging situations during difficult times, according to National Enlightenment Institute (NEI).

The main burdens for the businesses are low production, hidebound attitude in manufacturing and limits of industrialization in the underdeveloped areas. This being so, some businesses are hard to survive from failing the needs.

Additionally, locally produced salt cannot compete against the imported salt in qual-



The raw salt stood at K55-70 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) at the depot in Mawlamyine, Mon State. On 14 June, the price increased to K120-150 per viss.

ity. The local products are still far away from exports as well.

The COVID-19 pandemic shut down the schools, restaurants and other events in 2019. Consequently, the salt demand

significantly dropped, and salt is stored — the stockpiling caused financial loss for the businesses.

This year, the salt production businesses face challenges due to political development,

banking restriction and transport problems, as per the NEI.

Mon State yearly produces 40,000 tonnes of sun-dried salt beyond magnesium chloride (MgCl<sub>2</sub>), iodized salt (I<sub>2</sub>) and

table salt (NaCl).

The 2019-2020 statistics showed 14 iodine salt processing plants and one factory each for magnesium chloride (MgCl<sub>2</sub>) and table salt (NaCl) production, with the production capacity of 60 tonnes of magnesium chloride, 204 tonnes of table salt and 12,132 tonnes of iodized salt.

In a bid to boost production quality, driers, labs and product packaging techniques are still required. Furthermore, there is raw material shortage problem due to the low production of plain sundried salt, as per the NEI.

National Enlightenment Institute has been actively building capacity of local communities and institutions to strengthen governance structures through public policy research, training and advocacy, based in Mon State. — NN/GNLM

## Maritime trade drops by \$4.77 bln as of 4 June

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade over the past eight months (1 Oct-4 June) of the current financial year 2020-2021 sank to US\$13.275 billion, a drastic drop of over \$4.77 billion as against the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at \$4.45 billion, imports were registered at \$7.82 billion. Compared to the same period in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, imports fell by \$3.49 billion, while exports reported a decrease of \$1.28 billion. Meanwhile, the value of trade through the border this FY was estimated at \$7.18 billion, a decrease of \$842.5 million as against a year-ago period.

Myanmar witnessed a slump in exports and imports triggered

by the coronavirus pandemic. Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts and the political changes. The neighbouring countries tightened the border security and limited the trading time to contain the spread of the virus. For maritime trade, disruption in the logistic sector; the suspension of some ocean liners and the pandemic-induced container shortage somehow scaled-down the maritime trade.

Additionally, the lack of money in circulation due to the closure of private banks decreases economic efficiency," an exporter stressed.

Over the past eight months, the country's total external trade touched a low of \$20.46 billion,

which plunged from \$26.08 billion recorded in a year-ago period.

Myanmar's sea trade generated \$26 billion out of an overall trade value of \$36 billion in the last FY2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products. On the other hand, it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials. The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade. It includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — MM/GNLM



Over the past eight months, the country's total external trade touched a low of \$20.46 billion, which plunged from \$26.08 billion recorded in a year-ago period.

## Growers prepping for GAP certificate to penetrate more markets

THE growers of chilli, banana, mango and watermelon from Mandalay are preparing to seek Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certificates to improve market access opportunities.

At present, the COVID-related problems hinder certificate-seeking growers. The growers are prepping for necessary measures to earn the certificate, said a grower from Mandalay. The GAP adoption and certificate are required to penetrate more external markets. The international markets prefer the fruits produced under the GAP system.

It would promote food products, reduce the risks of contaminating products and fetch a higher price, the growers said. According to the agriculture department, the GAP ensures food safety. The GAP growers can get more market access locally and internationally.

In addition to food safety, GAP also ensures worker safety, health and welfare, and environmental conservation.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has encouraged farmers to use its GAP protocol in a bid to boost productivity, profitability, market access, and competitiveness in the agricultural sector.

The Agriculture Department raised awareness of GAP among growers by providing courses. The GAP protocol and guidelines include the most consumed and major export items — mango, pomelo, honeydew, watermelon, avocado, chilli, tomato, onion, cabbage, corn, sesame, various beans, rice, and coffee.

The number of acreages cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP) increased year over year on account of the benefits of GAP — KH/GNLM

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09 454 237 515

## Inwa museum features models of ancient city Inwa

THE models of Myanmar's most famous old capital Inwa are showcased at the Inwa museum in TadaU Township, Mandalay Region, in a bid to locate the ancient imperial capital of Myanmar's kingdoms and provide the data of cultural heritages for the visitors, said Daw Khin Swe Win, an officer of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Inwa and Pinya archaeological zone).

The museum was opened in April 2003. It exhibits five display rooms for models of Inwa city, Buddha statues and scriptures, photos of ancient buildings, the gallery for cultural heritage, handicrafts and personal belongings of ancient people, arts and architecture. The arts and architecture of old



The museum is open between 9 am and 4:30 pm every day except the public holidays and Monday for the visitors with free admission.

cities like Inwa, Amarapura, Konbaung and Yadanabon and

Bagan are showcased, with a total of 409 items.

"The local travellers and tourists like to visit Inwa cul-

tural heritage zone. However, the Inwa museum is less famous. So, I like to invite them to visit the museum. It is easier to look around the Inwa area after observing the models," she said.

The museum is open between 9 am and 4:30 pm every day except the public holidays and Monday for the visitors with free admission.

During the 2019-2020 financial year, Inwa Museum was renovated with a budget of K20 million. Furthermore, the department will spend more than K17 million on the maintenance facilities such as roof repair and electrical work in the current 2020-2021 budget year. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

## Kyaukse sesame growers happy with fair price, bumper yield



There are two types of sesame called Talin sesame and Htaung sesame. At present, a basket of sesame is fetching K 4,700. Now, the sesame growers from Kyaukse township are happy with making a good profit from sesame.

SESAME growers from Kyaukse township, Mandalay region, are glad to get bumper yield and a good price.

The sesame growers need to compact the soil to grow the sesame. Concerning cultivation, there are many methods of cul-

tivation, such as sowing or rowing methods. After growing for 18 days, the growers need to conduct subtraction and separation steps. If it is necessary, the growers should spray the pesticide and add fertilizers. The harvest of sesame is about 14 or 20 baskets

per acre depending upon the land and weather condition, said U Khin Maung Aye, a grower from Kula village.

There are two types of sesame called Talin sesame and Htaung sesame. At present, a basket of sesame is fetching K 4,700. Now, the sesame growers from Kyaukse township are happy with making a good profit from sesame.

Sesame seeds are mainly used as a garnish, ingredient in some foods, and a snack on their own.

A popular sesame product is sesame oil, which is an edible vegetable oil derived from sesame seeds.

Because of its health benefits, sesame oil is also used in making traditional medicines. — Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM

## Experimental cultivation of long bean succeeds

THE local villagers from Letkhipin village near Natmauk township in the Magway region grew long bean on a trial basis in April, and their cultivation has succeeded.

"We have grown the long bean on a trial basis for 50 days. We have never grown the long bean before April. But this year, we have prepared the land systematically because we cannot predict the weather and grown the long bean in April on a trial basis using the underground water. From the time of cultivating, the underground water needs to be added every three or five days. Now, it started raining, and the cultivation of the crops has succeeded because of sufficient

rainfall," said Ma Nwe Nwe, a local grower from Letkhipin village.

The newly planted bean seeds are currently distributed in the market from Thailand. Each pack of long bean seeds is sold for K4,500. Each pack contains 500 seeds of long beans. The long beans are grown in the boundary line.

The long bean plant is growing well in loamy soil, and it would heavily yield after cultivating for 70 days, said Ko Htet Htet Aung, a local grower from Kyuaik village.

The long bean price ranged between K800 and K1,200 per viss in the market last year. — Mu Mu San (Natmauk)/GNLM



The long beans are grown in the boundary line. The long bean plant is growing well in loamy soil, and it would heavily yield after cultivating for 70 days.

## Nearly 200 people taking treatment for DHF in Mon state

ACCORDING to the Mon State's Public Health Department, nearly 200 people are taking medical treatment for dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) in Mon State.

"The township of Mawlamyine registered the highest number of dengue cases with over 100 people, followed by Ye township.

Public participation is important for preventing the illness that appears during the rainy season of June and July. It is transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitos," said an official from the State Public Health Department.

The signs and symptoms of dengue hemorrhagic fever are high fever, headache, joint

and muscle pain, vomiting and rashes.

Last year, the health-related authorities conducted effective preventive and control measures against DHF using abate larvicide that kills disease-carrying insects in the townships. Now, the authorities are providing the abate larvicide to the ward author-

ities to carry out those activities. If they find DHF cases, the health staff will rush to the scene to conduct case-based control in cooperation with the volunteer staff and charity staff.

The health volunteers are also carrying out preventive measures against DHF under covering, emptying and clean-

ing water storage containers and spraying mosquito repellent.

The DHF outbreak significantly increased for some years in Mon State -- 3,422 cases with 57 deaths in 2001, 3,028 patients with two deaths in 2003 and 5,000 with four deaths in 2015. — Aye Maung/GNLM

# Build prosperous ecosystem for living creatures and plants

**E**COSYLOGY is the relations of plants and living creatures to each other and their environment, according to the definition of Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary.

Whenever living creatures and plants are in compatibility, the ecosystem based on both sides is on the regular trend. Otherwise, the ecosystem would be in deterioration.

On the other hand, participants on the list of living creatures, especially humans and wildlife, need to build harmonious environs in their respective habitations. The harmonized habitation between

Peaceful co-existence can shape a peaceful society not only for humans but also for wildlife animals. If those from the list of living creatures can build unity, the ecosystem inclusive of living creatures and plants will be prosperous in the future.

creation of pleasure environments. If so, wildlife creatures don't have any reason to invade the area of humans and destroy any property. If the dream comes true, the compatibility for harmonized environs can be built between humans and wildlife creatures.

In the future, humans are responsible for the creation of pasturelands and forests for wildlife animals whenever they have expanded the reclamation of residences or farmlands by cutting trees from jungles. Peaceful co-existence can shape a peaceful society not only for humans but also for wildlife animals. If those from the list of living creatures can build unity, the ecosystem inclusive of living creatures and plants will be prosperous in the future.



# 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Daw Kyi Kyi v Mrs Mary Mary Wain case and extended thoughts

By Dr Myint Zan

## PART I BRIEF FACTS, DECISION OF THE CASE AND COMMENTS CONCERNING TERMINOLOGIES

On 15 June 1971, the then Chief Court of the Union of Burma (as the terms were formally used at that time) delivered its judgment in the case of ဒေါ်ကြည်ကြည်နှင့် မစ္စ(စ်)မေရီပီနီ (တရားရုံးချုပ်) ဝှ့ *Daw Kyi Kyi v Mrs Mary Wain*, 1971 *Burma Law Reports* (BLR) Chief Court (CC) 52. The Chief Court bench consists of then the late Chief Justice (as he then was) Dr Maung Maung (31 January 1925-2 July 1994), the late Justice U Kyaw Zan Oo and Justice U Thet Pe. On 16 June 1971, 50 years to the day before this article appears, there was a front-page news item in *The Working People's Daily*, predecessor of *The Global New Light of Myanmar* and in other Burmese and English newspapers as well. The judgment was written in Burmese by Dr Maung Maung. Yours truly has written about this case in an academic journal article Myint Zan, 'Of Consummation, Matrimonial Promises Fault and Parallel Wives: The Role of Original Texts, Interpretation, Ideology and Policy in Pre and Post-1962 Burmese Case Law' in 14 (1) (Spring 2000) of the *Columbia Journal of Asian Law*, pages 153, at 198-208. He will not rehash or summarise the points that he had made in the journal article. Only a brief encapsulation of the bare facts and decision of the case and additional commentary as 'extended thoughts', on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is made here.

However, humans are gradually expanding the farmlands and croplands as well as public residences into the forestry areas by logging trees. In consequence, the habitation of wildlife is narrower and narrower with deforestation. Wildlife animals are facing the loss of pasturelands due to the invasion of humans into their areas. So, wildlife, particularly wild elephants, derail from their routes into human society. They intentionally or unintentionally destroy the property of humans along their route while searching for feedstuffs.

### Brief Facts and Decision of the Case

A Burmese Christian U Htin Wain had married according to *Christian Marriages Act*, Mrs Mary Wain and apparently later cohabited with Daw Kyi Kyi, a Burmese Buddhist woman. When U Htin Wain passed away in 1962, litigation between Mrs Mary Wain and Daw Kyi Kyi (and *vice versa*) took place regarding the estate of U Htin Wain. In effect, Mrs Mary Wain claimed that under the *Christian Marriages Act* polygamous marriages are not recognized, and Daw Kyi Kyi was not entitled to any part of the estate of

U Htin Wain. Daw Kyi Kyi relying on, among others, the *Burmese Buddhist Women Special Marriage and Succession Act 1954* ၁၉၅၄ ခုနှစ် ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင် မိန်းမများ အထူးထိမ်းမြားမှုနှင့် အမွေခံကိစ္စ အက်ဥပဒေ (this Act was repealed on 26 August 2015 by the *Myanmar Buddhist Women Special Marriage Act* မြန်မာ့ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင် မိန်းမများ အထူးထိမ်းမြားခြင်းဆိုင်ရာ ဥပဒေ claimed that she was legally married to U Htin Wain and was entitled to half of the estate. A lower court judge ruled that Mrs Mary Wain was the 'bigger wife' ဝယားကြီး *Mayagyi* and Daw Kyi Kyi was the 'lesser wife' ဝယားငယ် *Mayange*, and therefore Mrs Mary Wain was entitled to 3/5 of U Htin Wain's estate and Daw Kyi Kyi to 2/5 of it. Both parties (Daw Kyi Kyi and Mrs Mary Wain) appealed the lower court's decision, and the Chief Court reversed the lower court's judgment and held that the estate was to be equally shared between Mrs Mary Wain and Daw Kyi Kyi.

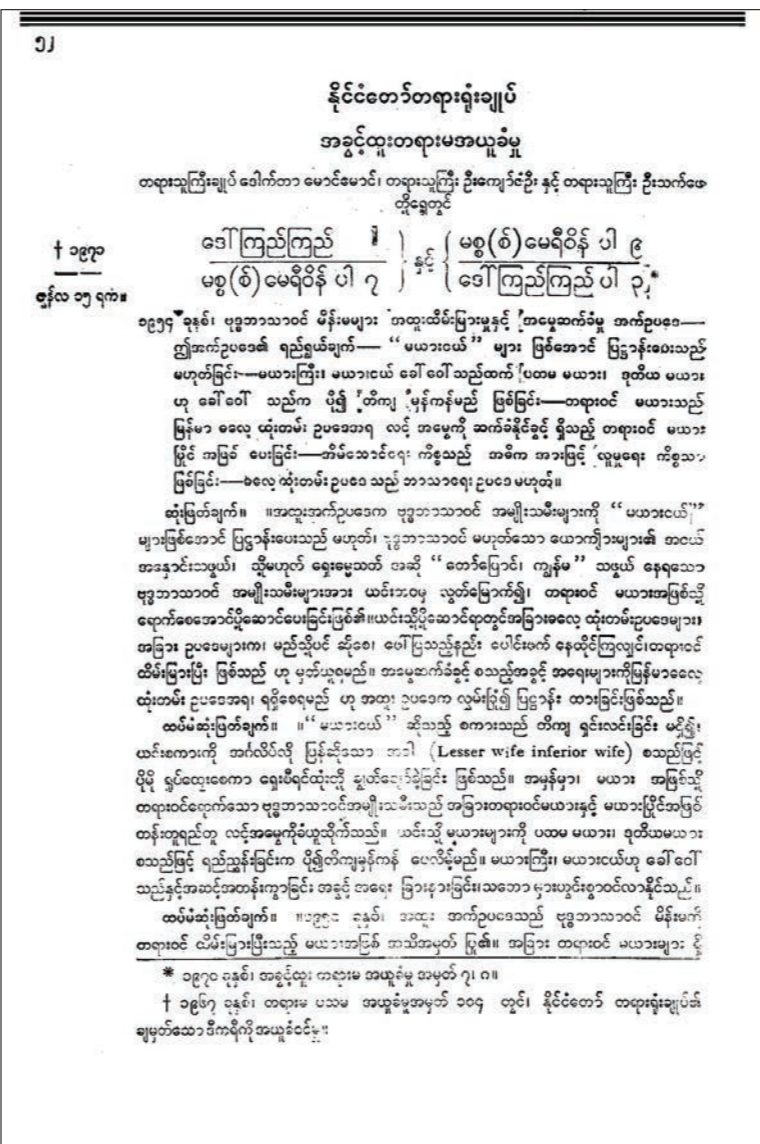
### Usage Concerning 'Terminology' of 'Bigger Wife', 'Lesser Wife'

In his book, *Law and Custom in Burma and the Burmese Family* (The Hague, Martinus Nijhoff, 1963), Dr Maung Maung affirmed (among others in pages 57,78 and 85 of the book) that polygamous marriages were (as it then was and as had been for centuries) 'recognized' or 'honoured' in Burmese customary law. And Dr Maung Maung stated (at page 86): When there are more wives than one, every wife -*maya*-wishes to describe herself as the *maya gyi*, and call the others *maya nge*, the "little or small" and in Burma, as elsewhere, women do not regard the entry of other women into their men's lives, in ways big or small with any enthusiasm. The name-calling sometimes gets confused with the names. A second wife, even if taken after the death of the first, may sometimes be called the *maya nge*, just to identify her as the one who comes after in point of time, but that again is obviously an inexact and misleading usage. Around eight years after that statement, Dr Maung Maung, as Chief Justice, had the chance to 'rectify' this misnomer or usage.

In his ruling in *Daw Kyi Kyi v Mrs Mary Wain* decided 50 years ago, Chief Justice Dr Maung Maung stated (the translation is by this writer) the phrases *maya gyi*, *maya nge* is no longer appropriate. The preferred term is ဝယားပြိုင် *maya pyine* in order to reflect the equal status of the wives (at page 59 of the judgment). In his ruling, Dr Maung Maung mentioned the phrase 'co-wife' in English.

In 1978, seven years after the decision in the *Daw Kyi Kyi* case, at a hearing in a case in Mandalay (before a bench of the Central Court of Justice) in a case that was not related directly to Burmese customary law, a lawyer used the phrase *maya gyi maya nge* in his oral submission. None of the three judges from the Central Court of Justice deemed it fit to correct the lawyer's use of the (arguably) outdated terms, but in response, the opposing lawyer, the late Advocate and notary public U Htun Way chided the other lawyer that the now politically and judicially correct term is *maya pyine*.

Fast forward ten years from June 1971 when the *Daw Kyi Kyi* (co-wife) case was decided to around August 1981. At the fourth Burma Socialist Programme Party Congress Party, Chairman U Ne Win (6 July 1910-5 December 2002) gave a speech. Chairman U Ne Win stated that the Burmese phrase လူတော်လူတော် *ludaw lugaung* (roughly 'a brilliant person, a good person') should be changed into လူကောင်းလူတော် *lugaung ludaw* ('a good person, a brilliant person'). Chairman Ne Win claimed that 'brilliant persons' could, using their brilliance, cause trouble to the then sole ruling Party so that it is preferable to reverse the usage *ludaw lugaung* to *lugaung ludaw*. Toeing the Chairman's line or stipulated/commanded usage, I have personally heard the phrase or revised expression *lugaung ludaw* been used by a speaker at a teacher homage ceremony and in news items and articles. One does not know for certain whether or not the usage has 'reverted' back to *ludaw lugaung* but it can perhaps be stated that the phrase *mayapyine* is established in the legal lexicon and perhaps to a lesser extent in general usage (albeit there could post -August 2015 be no *maya pyine*; see below).



Late Chief Justice Dr Maung Maung's obiter ruling.

### 'Co-wife' v 'Parallel Wife/Wives'

When writing my article around 1999/2000, I somewhat 'mischievously' 'deployed' or used the phrases 'parallel' or 'competing' wives, making a literal translation of the word ပြိုင် *pyine* which, in certain contexts, can mean 'parallel' or 'compete/competing'. As far as I know, before the publication of my article in the *Columbia Journal of Asian Law*, no one else has used the term 'parallel (or) competing wives' in academic publications. My article was published around 2001. Fast forward to October 2012. In a paper reading session of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sciences held at the Institute of Economics in Yangon, an academic had used the term 'parallel wives' in 'their' presentation or 'reading' in English. When I pointed out during the discussion session that I had first used the term, the paper presenter was unaware of my *Columbia Journal of Asian Law* article. As per the regulations or stipulations, all papers (except dealing with Myanmar language and literature) have to be written and 'read' (in most

no longer in accord with the times ခေတ်နှင့် မလျော်ပြီ to decide cases according to the personal law of the citizens based on the religious laws. The legislative authorities should seriously consider လေးနက်စွာ စဉ်းစား whether or not they should enact legislation that would have legal effect that would be applicable to all those who reside in the Union.

The Chief Justice mentioned the word 'personal law' in English (in brackets), which he translated (in Burmese), which he translated as ကိုယ်ရေးဥပဒေ (at page 61 of the ruling).

Around a month or a year after the 15 June 1971 judgement in the *Daw Kyi Kyi* case, the late Dr Maung Maung himself, either in July 1971 or July 1972, became a member of the then legislative body, the Revolutionary Council. Dr Maung Maung was also a member of the (in one sense) highest legislative body, the Council of State, from 4 March 1974 to July 1988. (Under the provisions of the 1974 *Constitution*, when the then *Pyithu Hluttaw* was not in session, the Council of State may issue 'orders having the effect of laws' which a subsequent session of the then *Pyithu Hluttaw* had to approve). Fifty long years after Dr Maung Maung's suggestion in the *Daw Kyi Kyi* case in early June 2021, uniform legislation that applies to all those who reside in the country နိုင်ငံတိုင်း အိုးအိမ်စိုက်ထူနေသူများ in family matters have not been fully implemented.

### Professor U Hla Aung's proposal of 1965 to adopt a monogamous marriage system was implemented in 2015

In an article 'Some Aspects of Burmese Buddhist Law and Malayan Muslim Law' published in Volume 48 (1965) of the *Journal of Burma Research Society*, page 1 at 14 Professor and Head of the Department of Law at Rangoon Arts and Science University (as he then was) U Hla Aung (1923-2020) stated:

polygamy, which is the ugliest spot in Burmese family law, should be abolished altogether. It is a legacy of the feudalistic and colonial past and is no longer consonant with the present Burmese way to socialism.

SEE PAGE-10

## Facts about tax clearance for purchase, construction and sales of real estate property

- If one wishes to clear tax in purchase, construction and sales of real estate property, it is necessary to assess the current value, submit income declaration and pay tax.
- Regarding scrutiny and set of current value, if the property is located in municipal areas of townships in Yangon and Mandalay regions, it is necessary to contact the respective region's present value assessment bodies. If the property is located in the townships outside the municipal areas of Yangon and Mandalay regions and townships in other regions and states, it is necessary to contact respective township current value assessment bodies to accept the assessment.
- One must accept the levying of tax within one year after receiving the current value assessment. If one fails to acknowledge tax levying within one year after receiving the assessment, the current value assessment will automatically annul. However, if one accepts tax levying after one year, the value will be reset in line with the current value standards.
- Taxpayer people need to perform purchase, construction and sales of the real estate property as follows:-
  - If they wish to purchase and construct real estate property, they have to submit the income declaration to the respective Internal Revenue Department. If possible, they have to submit the evidence of income for the purchase of the property. Otherwise, they have to pay tax at the tax rate according to Section 25 of the Union Tax Law 2020 and pay stamp tax for the set values of the property.
  - Those wishing to sell real estate property must carry out the process as follows:-
    - They have to submit the income declaration and estimated tax amount to the respective Internal Revenue Department where the property or taxpayer is located within 30 days after handover or property sales.
    - Original purchase value and additional cost for handover or sales of property are allowed to be abstracted, and 10 per cent over the profit as income tax must be paid in accord with the Union Tax Law 2020.
    - If the total value obtained from the sales of more than one property or changing or handover in any way does not exceed K10 million within one year, profit from the stock is not needed to pay income tax.
- For further information, browse www.ird.gov.mm of the Internal Revenue Department.

Internal Revenue Department Ministry of Planning and Finance

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်စီ ပုံနှိပ်ဖြန့်ဖြူး ချက်ထုတ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

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## 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Daw Kyi Kyi v Mrs Mary Wain ...

### FROM PAGE-9

Professor U Hla Aung (who also served as Attorney-General from mid-September 1971 to 3 March 1974) lived to see his 1965 proposal that recognition of polygamous marriages be ‘abolished altogether’ being put into legal effect when the then *Pyidaungsu Hluttaw* (‘Union Legislature’) enacted, (signed by then-President U Thein Sein) on 31 August 2015, တစ်လင် တစ်မယားစနစ်ကျင့်သုံးခြင်းဆိုင်ရာ ဥပဒေ *Monogamous Marriage Law* which, in effect, (and in part) states that persons who reside within Myanmar regardless of what their personal or religious law states can only be monogamous. Among Burmese Buddhists and as observed and commented by both local and foreign scholars, although polygamous marriages are quite rare and to a certain extent socially frowned upon, for centuries, until August 2015, polygamous marriages were recognized.

At the very least (and to repeat) until the monogamous law came into effect, polygamous marriages were **not** prohibited in Burmese customary law. The 2015 *Monogamous Marriage Law* is, if not significant, then quite notable in that centuries of custom among the Burmese /Myanmar Buddhists recognizing polygamous marriages were, to quote, Professor Hla Aung’s phrase ‘abolished altogether’ by legislation.

### Non-recognition of personal law only regarding polygamous marriages but not in other family law matters

In the previous section, this writer stated that as per Chief Justice Dr Maung Maung’s suggestion in 1971, ‘uniform legislation’ regarding family matters (such as marriage, inheritance, divorce, adoption etc.) has not been implemented **fully**. In a certain sense, it can be stated that it was implemented in 2015 through the *Monogamous Marriage Law* only **partly**. But apart from this particular aspect of marriage, other aspects such as (say) inheritance, adoption, divorce etc., are not necessarily governed by uniform legislation shorn of or divorced from the ‘personal laws’.

It took 50 years (from 1965 to 2015) for Professor U Hla Aung’s proposal to ‘abolish altogether’ by legislation the polygamous system among Burmese Buddhists.

### The allowance of the writing of Wills by Myanmar Buddhists: A Legislative Reform Proposal?

The polygamous marriage system, as stated above, was recognized for centuries under Burmese /Myanmar customary law until its abolition by legislation on 31 August 2015.

Although the existence, so to speak, of the polygamous marriage system was a clear fact, the issue as to whether Burmese or Burman (Myanmar/Bamar) Bud-

dhists can write Wills သေတမ်းစာ (to dispose of their property after death) according to their own wishes came to the fore sometime in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Burmese and colonial scholars researched on this issue and their finding or stipulation was that Burmese Buddhists, according to Burmese customary law, could not dispose of their estate by writing Wills. After a Myanmar Buddhist dies, succession or inheritance is to be determined by the hierarchy or ‘interconnections’, so to speak, among the relatives of the deceased, including but by no means limited to the principle or stipulation that အမွေသည် အောက်သို့ စုန်နိုင်လျှင် အထက်သို့ မဆန်ခြင်း ‘if the deceased estate can “flow downwards” it cannot “flow upwards”’.

The statement by this writer that Chief Justice Dr Maung Maung’s proposal of 1971 to have ‘uniform legislation’ for all family matters has not been fully implemented can be discerned since (as of May 2021), Myanmar Buddhists cannot, as per Myanmar customary law, write Wills but Myanmar Christians can dispose of their estate through the writing of Wills. Myanmar Muslims subject to the provisions of the *Sharia* can dispose of part of their property through the writing of Wills. Perhaps Myanmar nationals who practise the Hindu religion can also write Wills, which could be recognized.

Hence at least in this aspect

of Myanmar family law, in a certain sense, ‘personal law’ seems to be the main determinant as far as the allowance or non-allowance of the writing of Wills is concerned.

This writer is well aware that to change perhaps a century-plus stipulation that Myanmar Buddhists cannot write Wills is by no means an easy task and the issues and intricacies are quite ‘complicated’. This writer has seen throughout the decades advertisements in Myanmar newspapers of parents disinheriting their children, and he is not aware whether such announcements are upheld (throughout the decades) in Burmese /Myanmar courts. After all, disinheriting children can, in a certain sense, be considered tantamount to writing a ‘Will’ in that one bars one’s own children from one’s property after one’s death.

Is this writer naïve, unrealistic or whimsical when he mentions that perhaps just as legislation which ‘altogether abolished’ the customary law of polygamy among Myanmar Buddhists perhaps the allowance of distributing one’s estate by Myanmar Buddhists, at least parts of it, by the writing of Wills be recognized by legislation?

The essential part of Chief Justice Dr Maung Maung’s ruling in the *Daw Kyi Kyi* case has been superseded by, among others, the *Monogamous Marriage Law*. His suggestion that

in issues regarding family laws, all those residing in the country should be governed by uniform civil legislation has, after 50 years, not being fully implemented.

*Dr Myint Zan, a retired Professor of Law, has established the Myint Zan LLM (Master of Laws) prize, in perpetuity, at one of his alma maters The University of Michigan Law School for ‘exemplary [LLM] graduates with interdisciplinary interests and awareness of how the law should play a role in uplifting disadvantaged members of the society’. Four LLM graduates from New Zealand, Ghana, Indonesia and Austria have been awarded the Myint Zan LLM prize at their graduations from 2018 to 2021.*

*He had also established ‘Myint Zan Prize in Law Studies’ in perpetuity for Bachelor of Laws (LLB) students at another of his alma maters, The Australian National University (ANU) and in 2020, the inaugural ‘Myint Zan Prize in Law Studies’ was awarded to a student for his paper in the course ‘Law, Literature and Human Rights’. With the funds he had gifted to the ANU, two seminars have been held in December 2018 and August 2019 at the ANU Law Faculty attended mainly by early career researchers, and two early career researchers are scheduled to visit the Law Faculty at ANU in late 2021.*

## State Administration Council Press Release

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

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team  
State Administration Council

**The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**

# Ex-Bago region chief minister, ex-minister for immigration and human resources of Yangon region government charged under Anti-Corruption Law

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) set up an investigation team regarding the complaint of the former Bago Region Chief Minister's engagements in corruption.

According to the investigation team, former Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein did not open any account of the donations received between 2016 and 2019.

During the period from October 2019 to January 2021, without carrying out Notification No 58/2019 issued by the Union Government, he kept over K239 million donated by businessmen and companies to the State in two safes in his office. He used them for personal gain and supported

the NLD, violating the financial procedures in the process of managing public finances.

The former Bago Region Chief Minister received K10 million from a company doing business on abandoned land of the military in Bago Region in order to facilitate business operations. He also received K20 million donation for COVID-19 prevention activities from a private company's chairman, including in the donation account, and K5 million from a businessman in early September 2020. Receiving bribes from companies and businesses is an act of corruption by abusing one's position.

A businessman applied for a permit to use 400 acres of land for

another use. He was permitted to operate more than 200 acres of land after bribing the former Chief Minister with a vehicle in October 2020.

Despite the objections of the Union Government, relevant Ministry of Construction and Regional Hluttaw, he formed the Bago Region Construction Control Authority (BRCCA) on 22 June 2017 by his only approval. The BRCCA was allowed to use the land, building, office furniture, electricity/water and vehicle for free. More than K1,136 million, or 2% of the work permit, a quality inspection fee for local construction projects, was received from its bank account. He indirectly managed to gain

an undue advantage by failing to monitor the deduction of 0.3% of the 2% quality inspection fee after misusing the position and authority to form the BRCCA.

Regarding the lamp-post project with surplus funds during the four financial years from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019, Former Prime Minister U Win Thein allowed 15 projects worth about 2,000 million kyats to be implemented by a single company without calling for auction under the President's Office Directive No. 1/2017.

As he was found guilty of corruption by misusing his position and violating financial procedures in managing public finances, a case was filed against

him under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law at Bago Township Police Station.

Similarly, a case has been filed against Daw Moe Moe Su Kyi, the former Minister for Immigration and Human Resource in the Yangon regional government, under section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law. According to the investigation, she used K8 million out of over K14.7 million donated for the 2020 General Election and misappropriated the rest K6.6 million. She permitted a friend of her the catering service (K90 million) to two COVID-19 centres in Hlegu between 8 April and 23 November 2020 after receiving a mobile phone worth K1.6 million. - MNA

## One terrorist arrested with guns, bombs and swords in Dabayin, Sagaing



A 21-year-old terrorist named Aung Zaw Myint was arrested with three homemade guns, two homemade mines, 17 bullets, one fuse and two swords in Dabayin Township, Sagaing Region, on 14 June.

About 60 terrorists attacked the security forces patrolling the township with firearms at

around 3 pm on 14 June and retreated when the security forces counter-attacked.

Aung Zaw Myint was a fourth-year student at Bhamo Technological University. He has been under investigation to arrest and take action against those involved in the attack. — MNA

## Weapons to be used in terror acts confiscated in Dabayin and Muse



SECURITY forces seized weapons to be used in terrorist acts, including one rifle, pistol and cartridges, in Dabayin and Muse on 14 June.

According to reports, security forces searched the house of Zaw Min Tun, who lived in Yadin village, Inpin village-tract, Dabayin township in Sagaing Region.

They found equipment used in terrorist acts, including .303 rifle and 15 bullets. On the way back from confiscating the equipment, 150 armed terrorists attacked the security forces, although no one was harmed.

Similarly, according to the confession of the arrested suspect from the motorcycle theft in Muse, security forces searched

the house rented by the other five perpetrators of the motorcycle theft in Muse. Although the perpetrators were not found, one pistol, six 9mm bullets and one sword were confiscated from the house.

It is reported that those who keep the weapons to be used in acts of violence will be taken action under the law. — MNA

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# Naftali Bennett: hard-right tech millionaire and Israel's new PM



Naftali Bennett, a multi-millionaire former tech entrepreneur who made his political name with hardline religious-nationalist rhetoric, will be Israel's new prime minister after parliament approved a new government on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**

NAFTALI Bennett, a multi-millionaire former tech entrepreneur who made his political name with hardline religious-nationalist rhetoric, will be Israel's

new prime minister after parliament approved a new government on Sunday.

The 120-member Knesset voted in favour of an improbable coalition put together by centrist Yair Lapid, with a razor-thin majority but enough to end veteran Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's 12 unbroken years at the helm.

The coalition deal sees Bennett, an estranged former protege of Netanyahu, serve first as prime minister in a rotation deal, before Lapid takes over after two years.

A 49-year-old former defence minister and one-time special forces commando, Bennett leads the right-wing Yamina party, which has called for Israel to annex parts of the occupied West Bank.

He will be Israel's first premier to lead an openly religious lifestyle, and the first to sport the kippa, the small skullcap worn by religious Jewish men. The son of American-born parents who speaks perfect English, he is ultra-liberal on the economy and takes a hard line against Israel's arch-foe, Iran. — AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Biden seeks EU support on China, but trade battles persist

US President Joe Biden will seek the EU's backing on Tuesday to face the rise of China, but Brussels wants a swift end to lingering trade rows and a clean break from Donald Trump.

After the European enthusiasm that followed Biden's election, the president of the European Council Charles Michel, representing the 27 EU leaders, and the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will sound out Biden for more detail on his "America is back" pledge.

Biden's two-hour stopover at EU headquarters, tucked between a NATO summit and his sitdown with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva, "is not going to settle everything but diplomacy is back", a senior EU official said on Monday.

After the crisis in the transatlantic relationship under Trump, who considered the EU a bitter economic rival, Biden wants to "defuse the disputes ... in order to focus on his priority, China", said Eric Maurice of the Schuman Foundation.

A senior US official travelling with Biden told reporters: "This speaks to President Biden's fundamental strategy of managing competition with China by coordinating closely with and developing common approaches with like-minded democratic partners and allies." — AFP ■

## ECB confirms supportive monetary policy stance

On June 10, the Governing Council of the European Central Bank decided to confirm its very accommodative monetary policy stance.

The interest rate on the main refinancing operations (MRO) and the interest rates on the marginal lending facility and the deposit facility will remain unchanged at zero, 0.25 per cent and -0.50 per cent respectively.

The Governing Council expects the key ECB interest rates to remain at their present or lower levels until it has seen the inflation outlook robustly converge to a level sufficiently close to, but below, two per cent within its projection horizon, and such



The European Central Bank headquarters in Frankfurt am Mein. **PHOTO: AFP**

convergence has been consistently reflected in underlying inflation dynamics.

The Governing Council will continue to con-

duct net asset purchases under the pandemic emergency purchase programme (PEPP) with a total envelope of €1,850

billion until at least the end of March 2022 and, in any case, until it judges that the coronavirus crisis phase is over. — AFP ■

### Lebanon pound hits a new low

Lebanon's currency hit a new low against the dollar on the black market on Monday, continuing its freefall in a country gripped by political deadlock, an economic crisis and increasing shortages.

The pound, officially pegged at 1,507 to the US dollar since 1997, was selling for 15,400 to 15,500 to the greenback on the black market, several money changers said.

After hovering around 15,000 to the dollar in mid-March, the unofficial exchange rate dropped to between 12,000 and 13,000 later that month before soaring back up in recent days.

The latest plunge means the pound has lost more than 90 per cent of its value on the informal market since October 2019, in what the World Bank has called one of the worst financial crunches worldwide since the mid-19th century. — AFP ■

### Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.05 feet to 20.44 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of June 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDMAAS VOY.NO. (112W/124N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDMAAS VOY.NO. (112W/124N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-6-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MERATUS GORONTALO VOY.NO. (123N/124S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MERATUS GORONTALO VOY.NO. (123N/124S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-6-2021** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

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## Yakult to build new plant in Philippines to boost output by 70%

YAKULT Honsha Co., a major food and beverage firm popularly known for its probiotic drink, will aim to meet brisk demand by building a new factory in the southern Philippines island of Mindanao, raising local output capacity by about 70 per cent.

The Tokyo-based firm announced Monday that the new factory, to be constructed by its Manila-based equity-method affiliate, Yakult Philippines, Inc., in El Salvador in the province of Misamis Oriental, will start operations in January 2023 with a maximum daily production capacity of 3.2 million bottles of

its mainstay Yakult and low-calorie Yakult Light.

The new plant, Yakult's second in the Philippines, will sit on a plot of about 42,000 square metres, some 40 per cent larger than its first plant in Calamba in Laguna Province near the capital Manila.

Yakult did not publicly disclose the amount it will spend to build the plant which will have a total floor space of about 26,000 square metres.

It will initially produce 1.6 million bottles of Yakult and Yakult Light daily, and the company plans to expand its facilities depending on demand. — Kyodo News ■

## Ikea France faces verdict over employee spying claims

A French court is to rule Tuesday on claims Swedish furniture giant Ikea set up an elaborate system to illegally spy on hundreds of employees and job applicants from 2009 to 2012, using private detectives as well as police.

Prosecutors asked for a fine of two million euros (\$2.4 million) to make an example of Ikea France and a three-year prison sentence for its former chief executive Jean-Louis Baillot, two of them suspended.

Baillot has denied any wrongdoing, pinning the blame on the group's former head of risk management Jean-Francois Paris, who has admitted sending



Ikea says it has 'already been punished very severely in terms of its reputation' in France. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

lists of names of people "to be tested" to a private security firm, Eirpace.

Fifteen people have been charged in the case alongside Ikea France, including former store managers, police officials and

the head of Eirpace.

They largely refused any responsibility for the illicit surveillance during a two-week trial in March in the Paris suburb of Versailles.

But state prosecutor

Pamela Tabardel said some 400 people had been illegally targeted by a programme of "mass surveillance," and urged judges to send a "strong message" on the threat of illegal spying by employers.— AFP ■

## Panel concludes Mizuho's poor system operation caused ATM failures



A series of system failures that hit Japanese megabank Mizuho Bank earlier this year, including many of its automated teller machines, were due to poor operation and management rather than system defects, a third-party panel concluded Tuesday. PHOTO: KYODO

A series of system failures that hit Japanese megabank Mizuho Bank earlier this year, including many of its automated teller machines, were due to poor operation and management rather than system defects, a third-party panel concluded Tuesday.

The panel consisting of lawyers and system management experts said in a report that human errors such as in the placement of technology-related staff and the company culture of

hesitating to speak up during contingencies to avoid liability issues caused the problem.

No common system defects were found in the four failures that occurred in about two weeks from Feb. 28, when over 4,300, or about 80 percent, of Mizuho's ATMs operating nationwide were temporarily suspended and more than 5,000 bank cards and books were stuck inside them, the report said.

Mizuho Financial

Group Inc. is expected to announce its response to the panel's conclusion at a press conference later in the day. Prior to the first breakdown in February, when most of the bank cards and books became unreturnable, the report said the bank failed to identify the risk of running out of memory in the system as personnel rotation had prevented staff knowledgeable about the system from being involved closely in its operation.— Kyodo News ■

### TRADEMARK CAUTION

**Bumrungrad Hospital Public Company Limited** a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Thailand and having its registered office at No. 33 Soi 3 (Nana Nua), Sukhumvit Road, Khlong Toei Nua, Vadhana, Bangkok 10110, Thailand, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:



The above Trademarks are used in respect of "Physical therapy; midwife services; medical examination and healthcare services; health risk assessment for medical purpose; Optometry services; Advisory services relating to the treatment of degenerative eye diseases; blood bank services; medical treatment; hospital services; medical clinic services; Medical assistance services; Nursing services; Medical assistance consultancy provided by doctors and other specialized medical personnel; medical services; medical, medicinal and pharmaceutical consultancy; dispensing of pharmaceuticals; preparation of prescriptions by pharmacists; pharmaceutical consultancy services; dentistry services; cosmetic and plastic surgery; beauty care services; cosmetic services, namely, hair, skin, face and body care services; medical skin care services; physical rehabilitation services; healthcare services for elderly patients; sanitarium; providing information in the field of cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment; radiation oncology services; chemotherapy services; dietary and nutritional advice; consultancy services relating to health care; medical laboratory services for the analysis of blood samples taken from patients; pathology services; medical analysis services for diagnostic and treatment purposes provided by medical laboratories; laboratory analysis services relating to the treatment of persons; Providing an internet-based database of patient medical information where patients can inquire about medical issues and procedures from other patients and can relay information about their medical experiences for support and community; Maintaining patient medical records and files" in Class 44.

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Daw Kyi Nyein Chan, (H.G.P)  
For Bumrungrad Hospital Public Company Limited  
c/o Baker & McKenzie Limited  
Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square,  
221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township,  
Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021

NEWS  
IN BRIEF

## Executive offices in Costa Rica searched, several arrests in corruption probe

COSTA Rican investigators on Monday carried out 57 raids, including on the building housing the country's top executive offices, in a sweeping bid to dismantle an alleged bribery and kickback scheme involving construction companies and public works.

Twenty-eight people were detained, including the owners of at least two major construction firms.

At the executive building - known as the Casa Presidencial - agents focused on the office of Camilo Saldarriaga, a top aide President Carlos Alvarado.

Saldarriaga's job included supervising the national budget and coordinating transfers from the Treasury Department to agencies such as the office in charge of highway construction, also linked to the probe. — AFP ■

## Nicaragua defends arrests of opposition 'usurpers'

NICARAGUA'S government on Monday defended the arrests of 13 opposition figures, including four presidential hopefuls, claiming they are "usurpers" funded by the United States to topple President Daniel Ortega.

Five more opposition figures were detained on Sunday, including four from the Unamos opposition party.

The government said they had been detained on charges of "inciting foreign intervention" by the US.

Unamos, formerly known as the Sandinista Renewal Movement (MRS), is made up largely of dissidents who split from Ortega's Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) because they disagreed with his leadership.

The opposition figures received "millions of dollars in cash from the American public through USAID," the government said in a document. — AFP ■

## Iran's Rouhani years: from euphoria to disappointment



'The educated middle class of the big cities is overall very disappointed in Rouhani,' says analyst Thierry Coville. PHOTO: AFP

PROMISING greater openness at home and outreach abroad when he was elected in 2013, Iran's outgoing moderate President Hassan Rouhani comfortably won a second term but leaves office as a deeply unpopular fig-

ure.

Ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi is widely expected to win the presidency on record-low turnout this coming Friday - an outcome that would set in stone the disappointment of the Rou-

hani years, marked by crushing economic woes.

Rouhani "wanted above all to liberalise the Iranian economy and develop the private sector's role... by attracting foreign investment," said Thierry Coville,

a researcher at the Institute for International and Strategic Relations (IRIS) in Paris.

But that strategy was "totally trampled" by former US president Donald Trump.

Three years ago, Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from a landmark 2015 nuclear accord agreed between Iran and world powers, a deal that had promised sanctions relief in exchange for limits on Tehran's nuclear programme and a promise never to acquire the bomb. Trump then slapped sanctions on Iran that choked the economy to an unprecedented degree, including by seeking to stop all the country's oil exports.

Iran's economy contracted by more than six percent in both 2018 and 2019, according to the IMF, leaving a bitter taste for the crowds who had swelled into the streets in jubilation when the nuclear accord was first agreed.

— AFP ■

## Iraqi Kurd woman speaker battles a man's world

REWAZ Faiq is just one of two women serving as parliament speaker in the Middle East, where politics is a man's world, but the Iraqi Kurdish mother of two is unfazed.

Known for her straight talk, Faiq knew she would face challenges when she was elected in 2019 to the post in the autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq.

"In Kurdistan, entering politics is not easy for women," Faiq, 43, told AFP, citing "male domination, discrimination and sexual abuse" as the main hurdles.

"If a woman is not strong and does not shield herself, she will be entrapped by the personal and political gains of male politicians," she said.

Men backed by powerful

tribes play an influential role both in public and private life in the region, where more than eight out of 10 women are housewives.

Male politicians are seen as more influential than women in Kurdish society because they have armed bodyguards, plenty of money and the support of the media, said Faiq.

And they are in the pub-

lic eye, unlike women who are banned from taking part in tribal councils where key decisions affecting the Muslim-majority, conservative society are taken.

Avan Jaff, a women's rights activist, said Faiq reminds her of Pakistan's late Benazir Bhutto, the first woman to head a government in a Muslim-majority country. — AFP ■

## Australia releases Tamil asylum-seeking family from island detention

AUSTRALIA'S conservative government bowed to public pressure and announced the release of a Tamil asylum-seeking family from island detention Tuesday, after the youngest daughter fell ill.

The Murugappan family of four have been held at the remote Christmas Island immigration detention centre since August 2019, as they fight deportation to Sri Lanka.

The family's neighbours in the small, rural Queensland town of Biloela have been waging a vocal campaign for them to remain in Australia, giving their case national prominence.

Amid growing support for their case, Priya and Nades Murugappan along with their Australian-born daughters Kopika and Tharunicaa will now be allowed to live temporarily in Perth, Western Australia.

It comes after four-year-old Tharunicaa was airlifted to a hospital in Perth last week to receive treatment for a blood infection.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke announced Monday the family would stay in Perth while they exhaust their legal options, as the government faced a backlash within its own political ranks over its handling of the case.



The family were sent to the Christmas Island detention centre in 2019, sparking protests calling for them to be allowed to stay. PHOTO: AFP

"In making this determination I am balancing the government's ongoing commitment to strong border protection policies

with appropriate compassion in circumstances involving children in detention," he said in a statement. — AFP ■

# Putin backs prisoner swap with US ahead of Biden summit

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin has renewed an offer to swap prisoners ahead of his first summit Wednesday with Joe Biden, who has come under growing pressure to win the release of Americans from Russian jails.

Biden, who has vowed a clear-eyed, tougher approach with Putin than his predecessors at the start of their terms, has already made clear that he will raise the fate of jailed Americans when he meets the Russian leader in Geneva.

The most prominent US citizens in Russian custody are Paul Whelan, a former security official

at an auto parts company who was arrested in December 2018 on charges of espionage, and Trevor Reed, who was arrested in 2019 for a drunken brawl in which he punched two Russian police officers.

Asked in an interview with NBC News broadcast Monday if he was willing to negotiate with Biden on a prisoner swap, Putin said, "Yes, of course" and called for a broader extradition agreement.

Putin said that some cases were "matters of a humanitarian nature."

"Why not discuss them



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks with journalists in Moscow June 7 following his annual televised call-in programme. PHOTO: AFP

as long as they pertain to the health and life of specific individuals and of their families? Of course. Sure thing," he said.

Putin hinted that Reed's case could be resolved quickly, calling him a "drunk and a troublemaker." — AFP ■

## Opposition parties table no-confidence motion against Suga Cabinet



Jun Azumi (right), Diet affairs chief of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, talks with his Liberal Democratic Party counterpart Hiroshi Moriyama last month in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

THE Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and three other opposition parties jointly submitted a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Yoshi-

hide Suga's Cabinet on Tuesday, criticizing the government's COVID-19 response and plans to push ahead with the Tokyo Olympics.

The ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner Komeito are set to reject the motion in a plenary session of the House of Representatives in the afternoon.

The opposition parties submitted the motion after the ruling coalition rejected their demand to extend the current parliamentary session beyond its scheduled end on Wednesday.

A three-month extension, they said, is necessary to continue debate on whether the Tokyo Olympics, set to begin July 23, and Paralympics can be held safely while the coronavirus pandemic continues.

CDPJ leader Yukio Edano

accused Suga of "stopping the highest institution of the state from functioning for an extended period during the worst crisis since the end of the war."

"On that point alone, he is unfit to be a leader during an emergency," Edano said during the lower house plenary session.

The no-confidence motion is the first since June 2019 against Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet.

On Sunday, Suga did not rule out dissolving the lower house for a general election in response to a no-confidence motion, while maintaining that bringing the pandemic under control is his top priority. — Kyodo News ■

## Beijing accuses NATO of exaggerating 'China threat theory'

BEIJING on Tuesday accused NATO of exaggerating the threat from China and "creating confrontation", after a vow from the Western allies to work together to counter the "systemic challenges" posed by its policies.

NATO leaders made the commitment on Monday, as US President Joe Biden renewed Washington's transatlantic ties at his first summit with the allies.

In a broad statement of intent, the leaders said China's increasingly assertive actions in building a nuclear arsenal and space and cyber warfare capabilities threatened the international order.

In an angry response, a statement from the Chinese mission to the European Union called for NATO to "view China's development rationally, stop exaggerating various forms of



Chinese soldiers participate in a military parade at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 1 Oct, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

'China threat theory' and not to use China's legitimate interests and legal rights as excuses for manipulating group politics (while) artificially creating confrontations".

It added that NATO's ac-

cusations were a "slander of China's peaceful development, a misjudgement of the international situation and its own role, and it is the continuation of a Cold War mentality and the group's political psychology at work".

Military tensions have increased over the past year between China and rival powers including the United States and India, with flashpoints like the Himalayan border, Chinese Taipei and the South China Sea. — AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Philippines' Duterte will not cooperate with ICC probe: spokesman

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte will "never cooperate" with an International Criminal Court probe into the country's deadly drug war, his spokesman said Tuesday, branding the process "legally erroneous".

Outgoing ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda on Monday asked judges at the world's only permanent war crimes court to authorize an investigation into allegations that Philippine police unlawfully killed as many as tens of thousands of civilians between 2016 and 2019.

Duterte was elected in 2016 on a campaign promise to get rid of the country's drug problem, and he openly ordered police to kill drug suspects if their lives were in danger. — AFP ■

#### Protests in Hungary over ban on 'promoting' homosexuality

THOUSANDS of Hungarians protested in Budapest on Monday against a law expected to be approved by parliament Tuesday that would ban the "promotion" or "portrayal" of homosexuality or sex reassignment surgery.

The bill would effectively ban educational programmes and publicity of LGBT groups, who have compared it to similar legislation in Russia.

Over 5,000 people rallied outside the Hungarian parliament in a demonstration which one of the organizers, Amnesty International, said "showed that many people in Hungary reject homophobia and transphobia and the government's attempt to spread hatred".

"Tomorrow, when MPs are casting their vote, they should remember that they are risking people's lives for their cruel political campaign," they said in a statement. Most opposition parties said they will boycott the vote, but parliament -- dominated by Prime Minister Viktor Orban's ruling right-wing Fidesz party which drafted the law -- is expected to approve it. — AFP ■



Myanmar team players (red) try to block the attack of Tajikistan team striker Samiev Shahom (white) during their Group F World Cup Qualifier at Yanmar Stadium in Osaka on 15 June 2021. **PHOTO: JFA**

## FIFA World Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar face 0-4 loss to Tajikistan

MYANMAR national football team suffered a 0-4 loss to Tajikistan football team in the World Cup Qualifiers Group F match, played yesterday at Yanmar Stadium in Nagai, Osaka, Japan.

Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Sann Sat Naing, Zaw Ye Tun, David Htan, Thein Than Win, Hlaing Bo Bo, Lwin Moe Aung, Maung Maung Win,

Win Naing Tun, Captain Maung Maung Lwin, Ye Min Thu and Suan Lam Mang.

Myanmar played tough in the kick-off, but the team players could not change their opportunities into goals.

Over a free-kick, Komoro Tursunov scored an icebreaker for Tajikistan at 34 minute-mark. The goal pushed team Myanmar to play quick-

er and harsher, but Tajikistan stayed in the defence line to maintain the 1-0 win in the first half.

The second half saw a better play of Tajikistan.

Manuchekr Dzhililov scored the second goal for Tajikistan at 54 minute-mark.

After 2-0, the team spirit was increased and that made team Myanmar play harder.

At 78 minute-mark, Sheriddin Boboev scored the third goal for Tajikistan, and the fourth goal came up with the fast action of Shahrom Samiev at 87 minute-mark.

The 4-0 win was enough for the team Tajikistan to win a chance of advancing to the final round of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Qualifiers. — GNLM

## Murray eases through on comeback at Queen's

ANDY MURRAY made a winning return to action on Tuesday, easing into the second round of Queen's with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over France's Benoit Paire.

The five-time former champion took a wild card into the ATP 500 event in London, his first singles tournament since March, but needed just 64 minutes to seal the victory.



Murray did not face a breakpoint in two sets against Paire in his first grass-court singles match since 2018 -- he won the doubles title at Queen's in 2019 with Feliciano Lopez.

The 34-year-old Scot, who has been suffering from a groin injury, had a nervous moment when he went down on all fours early in the match.

However, the former world number one picked himself up and easily dealt with anything thrown at him by Paire.

Murray, who has been dogged by injuries in recent years, admitted afterwards that his groin had given him some discomfort but said it did not affect his performance.

"I love playing tennis," he said, with tears of emotion welling in his eyes during an on-court interview. "Obviously competing is why you put in all the hard work."

"In the last few years I didn't get to do that as much as I would have liked, so it's great that I'm out here and able to compete again."

"The body is old, but I did quite well today in terms of my movement and stuff." — AFP



Hungarian supporters gesture as Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the UEFA EURO 2020 Group F football match between Hungary and Portugal at the Puskas Arena in Budapest on 15 June 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Ronaldo breaks Euro goalscoring record as Portugal beat Hungary

CRISTIANO RONALDO netted a double to become the European Championship's all-time leading scorer as Portugal struck three times late on to beat a stubborn Hungary 3-0 in their Euro 2020 opener at a packed Puskas Arena on Tuesday.

The holders, who appear to have a much stronger squad than when they won their first major title five years ago, laboured for long periods in Budapest.

But Raphael Guerreiro made the vital breakthrough in the 84th minute and Ronaldo slammed in a penalty shortly afterwards before tapping

home in injury time.

The Juventus striker has now scored 11 goals in the tournament, two more than French great Michel Platini, who netted nine times when he led France to glory in 1984.

The 36-year-old is also just three goals away from matching Iranian Ali Daei's all-time international scoring record of 109.

Ronaldo chose by far the biggest crowd of the tournament to break the record in front of, with Budapest the only Euro 2020 venue not to limit fan capacity due to Covid-19.

The Puskas Arena has a

capacity of almost 68,000 fans.

World Cup winners France and three-time European champions Germany meet in the other Group F game later in the day at Munich's Allianz Arena.

Portugal coach Fernando Santos opted to play Liverpool forward Diogo Jota and Bernardo Silva alongside Ronaldo ahead of Joao Felix.

It almost paid instant dividends, as Jota forced Hungary goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi into a smart save with a left-footed drive in the fourth minute, although he perhaps should have squared the ball for an unmarked Ronaldo.—AFP

## Spain held by Sweden in Euro 2020 opener as Schick stunner downs Scots

SPAIN opened their Euro 2020 campaign with a goalless draw against Sweden in Seville on Monday after their preparations were badly affected by Covid-19, while Patrik Schick scored one of the championship's great goals in the Czech Republic's 2-0 win over Scotland.

Elsewhere on day four of

the tournament, Slovakia edged out 10-man Poland 2-1 in Saint Petersburg.

They lead the early Group E table ahead of Spain and Sweden, after the Scandinavians held on for a point at La Cartuja, with Alvaro Morata wasting the hosts' best opportunity.

"There are no doubts about a striker like Morata," Aymeric

Laporte said of his teammate.

"We know what he can do, it didn't go in for him today it's true, but in the next game he can score three and shut everyone's mouth."

Jordi Alba captained Spain in the absence of Sergio Busquets, who is still self-isolating at home after testing positive for the coronavirus.

Defender Diego Llorente was only allowed to rejoin the group on Saturday after giving a fourth consecutive negative test and was an unused substitute against the Swedes.

The squad was forced to train individually and their last friendly against Lithuania was passed over to the under-21s. — AFP ■