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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 6 February 2021

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

### Order No 21/2021

8<sup>th</sup> Wanng of Pyatho 1382 ME

4 February 2021

### Changing names of President's Office and Union Government Office

The name of President's Office is changed into the Office of State Administration Council, and that of the Union Government Office into the Office of State Administration Council Officer, in accordance with Article 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, in order to continue the administrative works of the State Administration Council regularly.

By Order

Sd/ Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dway  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

## Union-level officials, senior government officers get vaccinated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Union-level officials and senior government officers at the ministries' headquarters were vaccinated at the Midwifery Training School in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Health workers gave Covishield vaccine to Acting President U Myint Swe, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, directors-general, managing directors, deputy directors-general and directors.

The vaccine was injected after taking body temperature, blood pressure and oxygen level in the blood, and the second round of vaccination will be given over the next 28 days.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Health workers administer Covishield vaccine to Acting President U Myint Swe on 5 February 2021. PHOTO:MNA



Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
Order No (29/2021)

9<sup>th</sup> waning of Pyatho, 1382 ME  
5 February 2021

### Formation of State Administration Council's Press Team

According to Article 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the State Administration Council has formed its Press Team with the following personnel:

1. Brigadier-General Zaw Min Tun
2. U Thet Swe
3. Spokesperson from the relevant ministry

Team Leader  
Deputy Team Leader  
Member

By Order

Sd/ Aung Lin Dway  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

### Announcement of Union Election Commission

(5 February 2021)

1. The Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued a state of emergency in accordance with Article 417 of the State Constitution for an immediate return to normality, and then transferred the powers of legislation, administration and judiciary sectors to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in line with Article 418 of the State Constitution on 1 February 2021. Commencing this day, the legislative processes of all Hluttaws and related committees have also been suspended.
2. The Union Election Commission has begun its investigation on the voter fraud in the 2020 General Election.
3. Therefore, it is announced that the letters of accreditation issued by the Union Election Commission to the MPs of the respective Hluttaws will have no effects during the investigation period.

Union Election Commission

## MoFA issues 'Press Statement' on current situation of Myanmar

THE Multiparty General Election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held on 8 November 2020 under the supervision of the Union Election Commission (UEC). There were reportedly some irregularities throughout the process of the Election.

In scrutinizing the official voter list issued by the UEC, the findings showed that over 10.4 million votes, about one-fourth of eligible voters, might have caused vote-rigging in the 2020 Multiparty General Election. The Tatmadaw has officially issued figures/tables on those findings for 30 times, statements on its position two times before the Election and four times after the Election. As there were irregularities in the electoral processes, 20 political parties issued 26 statements calling for the postponement of the Third Hluttaw Session until the voter lists in question are properly solved by the UEC. The UEC's failure to address these calls resulted in 124 protests in 99 townships during the period between 10 November 2020 to 29 January 2021.

Furthermore, on 11 January 2021, some 203 Hluttaw Representatives from the Tatmadaw and political parties officially proposed to convene a Special Session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008). The proposal was rejected the next day. With the intention of accepting the credible election results that truly reflect the will of the people, the Tatmadaw and some political parties requested the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw or the Government or the UEC itself to address the voting irregularity issues. The Tatmadaw also called for the meeting of the National Defence and Security Council led by the President. The Tatmadaw undertook the above-mentioned tasks in accord with existing laws and procedures, including the State Constitution 2008, particularly Chapter I, Section 4, Section 6 and Section 7 of the Constitution. Section 4 stipulates that "The Sovereign power of the Union is derived from the citizens and is in force in the entire country". Amongst the six Basic Principles of the Constitution, Section 6 (d) stipulates "flourishing of a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system" and Section 6 (f) mentions "enabling the Defence Services to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State". In addition, Section 7 also stipulates that "The Union practises genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system".

The rejection of the previous Government to take action on repeated calls to address voting irregularities and frauds and to postpone the new Hluttaw meetings clearly violated Section 417 of the State Constitution 2008 that tantamount to the

attempt to take the sovereignty of the Union by wrongful forcible means and to disintegrate national solidarity. Therefore, the Ordinance No. 1/2021 on 1 February 2021 was promulgated in accordance with Section 417 of the State Constitution 2008. The state of emergency was declared in the entire nation for one year with immediate effect and the "legislative, executive and judicial powers" of the State were transferred to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in accord with Section 418 (a) of the State Constitution.

Even in mature democracies, there have been incidents of electoral irregularities which are properly resolved. The negligence to fix the electoral irregularities would set precedence and cause a negative impact on Myanmar's democratic practices in the long term. In light of such circumstances, the Tatmadaw was compelled to take State responsibilities in line with the State Constitution 2008. The Tatmadaw will continue to abide by the provisions of the State Constitution, practise the genuine and discipline-flourishing multiparty democracy which suits the prevailing situations of the country, hold free and fair general election and transfer State responsibilities to the winning political party.

As regards the handling of COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar, like other countries, will continue to exert utmost efforts to overcome the health and socio-economic challenges and to mitigate the negative socio-economic impact on the livelihood of the people for economic recovery. The Government will continue to work on the already-launched COVID-19 vaccination programme with added momentum. It will also continue to procure the vaccines through bilateral commercial arrangements and the COVAX Facility.

The Government will continue to strictly adhere to the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy aimed at world peace and friendly relations with nations and uphold the principles of peaceful co-existence amongst nations. It will continue to maintain friendly relations with countries of the world, particularly with neighbouring countries on the basis of mutual respect and understanding. Myanmar reaffirms to continue to actively participate in the regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations, ASEAN, BIMSTEC and Mekong-related organizations, and facilitate the assistance activities extended to the people of Myanmar. The Government reiterates its commitment to honouring the existing bilateral and multilateral agreements in line with the national interest of Myanmar and international obligations.—MNA

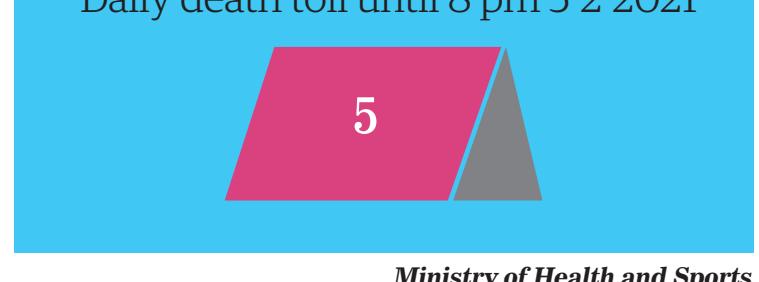
## 200 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 February, total figure rises to 141,304

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 141,304 after 200 new cases were reported on 5 February 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 141,304 confirmed cases, 3,168 died, 127,229 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 5 February 2021



Daily death toll until 8 pm 5-2-2021



## Vice-Chairman of State Administration Council holds videoconferencing with Special Envoy of UNSG for Myanmar

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council, held a videoconference with Ms Christine Schraner Burgen, the Special Envoy of UN Secretary-General for Myanmar yesterday.

At the meeting, the Vice-Senior General talked about the situations of the country before, during and after the elections and announced the state of emergency, the provisions of 2008 Constitution, laws and by-laws relating to Union Election



Vice-Senior General Soe Win holds the videoconference with UNSG Special Envoy for Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Gurgener on 5 February 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commission, press releases and briefings, fraud of voter lists for over 10.4 million of voters, the re-

sponse of UEC, refusal of Hluttaw Speaker to the requests of 25 per cent MPs to convene a special

session of Hluttaw during its second session, President's Office denial for holding the National

Defence and Security Council, and preparations for the Third Hluttaw session.

He also explained the actions of Tatmadaw in line with 2008 Constitution, formation of the State Administration Council, local-level councils, and the different bodies at self-administered division/zones-level and districts/townships-level.

The UNSG's Special Envoy raised queries and the Vice-Senior General discussed them.

The soft copies of announcements, press briefing and some discussions were also sent to the UNSG.—MNA(*Translated by AK*)

## Union Ministers hold diplomatic briefing on recent political developments in Myanmar

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing held a diplomatic briefing via videoconferencing on the recent political developments in Myanmar yesterday.

It was joined by the ambassadors of foreign embassies, diplomats and heads of UN agencies.

In his keynote speech, Union Minister said: After scrutinizing the UEC's official voter list, Tatmadaw found out that over 10.4 million votes might have been rigged in the recent Election. That amount is one-fourth of the eligible voters. On several occasions, the Tatmadaw has officially pointed out those findings. It also officially issued figures/tables on the findings for 30 times, statements on its position two times before the Election and four times after the Election. The voter lists should be based on family household registrations of the 2014 census and 2019 preliminary census.

He added that due to such irregularities in the electoral processes, 20 political parties issued 26 statements calling for the postponement of the Third Hluttaw Session until the voter lists in question are properly solved by the UEC.

The UEC's failure to address to these calls resulted in 124 protests in 99 townships during the period between 10 November 2020 and 29 January 2021.

The Tatmadaw issued the Statements by before and after the Election to address the electoral irregularities.

Instructions and actions of the UEC were not in accord with



Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Ko Ko Hlaing hold the diplomatic briefing via videoconferencing yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and violated the existing laws since the pre and post-election period.

The UEC repeatedly rejected the Tatmadaw's calls for scrutinizing election-related documents in line with the existing laws.

On 11 January 2021, some 203 Hluttaw Representatives from political parties and from the Tatmadaw officially proposed to convene a Special Session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accordance with the State Constitution 2008. However, the proposal was rejected the next day, 12 January 2021.

The Tatmadaw and some political parties requested that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw or the Government or the UEC address the voting irregularity issues. The Tatmadaw's intention was to achieve the credible election results that truly reflect the will of the people. Unfortunately, the requests were denied.

The Tatmadaw also called for the convening of the meeting of the National Defence and Security Council two times, which is led by the President.

The Tatmadaw undertook the above-mentioned tasks in

accord with existing laws and procedures, including the State Constitution 2008, particularly Chapter I, Section 4, Section 6 and Section 7 of the State Constitution.

Section 4 stipulates that "The Sovereign power of the Union is derived from the citizens and is in force in the entire country". Amongst the six Basic Principles of the Constitution, Section 6 (d) stipulates "flourishing of a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system" and Section 6 (f) mentions "enabling the Defence Services to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State". In addition, Section 7 also stipulates that "The Union practises genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system".

The rejection of the previous government to take action on repeated calls to address voting irregularities and holding of Hluttaw meetings which was called by at least 25 % of members of Parliament clearly violated Section 417 of the State Constitution 2008. Their actions were tantamount to the attempt to take the sovereignty of the Union by wrongful forcible means and to disinte-

grate the national unity.

Therefore, the Ordinance No. 1/2021 on 1 February 2021 was promulgated in accordance with Section 417 of the State Constitution 2008. The state of emergency was declared in the entire nation for one year with immediate effect. The legislative, executive and judicial powers of the State were transferred to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in accordance with Section 418 (a) of the State Constitution.

Regarding the peacemaking efforts, the Tatmadaw has already issued a statement related to the further suspension of all military operations with the exception of national defence and administrative measures, effective 1-28 February 2021.

The Peace Dialogue Committee of the Tatmadaw is tasked to continue negotiations with both the NCA signatories and non-signatories of ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) aiming to achieve durable peace in the country.

Recently, the Peace Dialogue Committee has been re-constituted comprising of seven members, led by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

It is expected that peace dialogues with the ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) will lead to the signing of the NCA by EAOs who have yet to sign.

As regards the handling of COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar, like other countries, will continue to exert utmost efforts to overcome the health and socio-economic challenges, and to mitigate the negative socio-economic impact on the livelihoods of the people for economic recovery.

In this respect, the Government will pay great emphasis on agro-industry that is heavily relied by the rural people which is about 70 per cent of the country's population, the creation of employment opportunity, the re-opening of factories, the distribution of protective health items for control of COVID-19.

The Government will also work for the resumption of domestic travels and opening of hotels, beefing up the COVID-19 containment methods and awareness programmes, if necessary, will also ensure the safety of the foreign nationals currently residing in the country including diplomats and the UN personnel, will continue to work on the already-launched COVID-19 vaccination programme with added momentum, and will also continue to procure the vaccine through bilateral commercial arrangements and the COVAX Facility.

The relief flights are resumed, and plans are underway to expand the frequency of relief flights and other means such as sending vessels to repatriate our nationals stranded abroad.

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## Union Ministers hold diplomatic briefing on recent political developments in Myanmar

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On Foreign Policy, the Government will continue to practise the existing policy, that is, independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy, aiming at world peace and friendly relations with nations, and will uphold the principles of peaceful co-existence amongst nations.

The Government will also maintain friendly relations with countries of the world, particularly with neighbouring countries based on mutual respect and understanding.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to the Charter of the United Nations, particularly Article 2, paragraph 7 which clearly stipulates that “Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter”.

Myanmar also reaffirms to continue to actively participate in the regional and multilateral organizations, such as the UN, ASEAN, BIMSTEC and Mekong-related organizations and to facilitate the assistance activities extended to the people of Myanmar.

The Government also reaffirms the commitment to honouring the existing bilateral and multilateral agreements in line with our national interest and international obligations.

In concluding remark, he said that the Tatmadaw had assumed State responsibilities with effect on 1 February 2021 in accordance with the State Constitution 2008 in order to address the electoral irregularities at the General Election held on 8 November 2020.

He added that during this interim period, all the steps taken by the Tatmadaw were strictly in line with existing

laws, the State Constitution 2008 in particular. The previous government and the UEC's refusals to address the electoral issues repeatedly pointed out by the Tatmadaw led to a political impasse. Consequently, the Tatmadaw had no other choice but to invoke Section 418 of the State Constitution 2008 to assume State responsibilities.

The Tatmadaw will assign independent and non-bias personnel to formally scrutinize the electoral irregularities and frauds. Then, Tatmadaw will hold a credible multiparty democracy general election in a free and fair manner and transfer State power to the winning political party.

As a matter of fact, the Tatmadaw has taken necessary steps with an aim to consolidate the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system that suits the prevailing situations of the country as aspired to by the people of Myanmar.

Finally, he talked about peace and the consolidation of democracy in Myanmar, looking forward to receiving understanding, supports and constructive cooperation of the international community.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing said: Myanmar will continue to pursue independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy and upholds the principles of peaceful co-existence as stipulated in the 2008 Constitution.

The Government reaffirms continued cooperation with the United Nations, ASEAN, international and regional organizations in line with the existing laws, national priorities and needs. As a responsible member of the UN and the international community, Myanmar will continue to cooperate with the United Nations and the policy of cooperation will remain unchanged.

Therefore, Myanmar will extend its continuous coopera-

tion with the UN, ASEAN, WFP, ICRC and other developing partners. An MoU signed between the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and UNDP and UNHCR will be implemented.

The Government will also proceed to fulfil the obligations under the United Nations. Such obligations include performing duties as a State Party to international human rights treaties, treaties relating to Labour Rights and etc.

To fulfil the treaties obligations, the process to submit the initial report of ICESCR will be conducted, and the implementation of ratified treaties will be further carried out for the benefits of people.

To perform effectively and efficiently in fulfilling our tasks, the Government look forward to receiving constructive assistance from our friends and international organizations.

Myanmar is now serving as a member of UNESCO Executive Board, for the period of 2019-2023, and that the Government looks forward to enhancing our cooperation with the UNESCO and ECOSOC as well.

As a Member State of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Myanmar will continue to uphold the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC).

He also expressed his congratulations to Brunei Darussalam for assuming the Chairmanship of ASEAN for 2021, and Myanmar will work closely with Brunei Darussalam and with all ASEAN Member States in realizing the Chair's priorities.

The Government is looking forward to actively participate in the planned ASEAN Meetings for this year with a view to continuing to promote ASEAN centrality and unity, to further achieve progress toward

ASEAN Community building efforts, and to further enhance relations with ASEAN's external partners.

Last year was very difficult for all of us due to the unprecedented outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Myanmar acknowledges the collective efforts ASEAN has taken in responding to the challenges in the region and will continue to work with ASEAN and its external partners in the efforts to achieve ASEAN's COVID-19 response initiatives and recovery efforts, including other initiatives which are fundamental to ASEAN.

Myanmar participates in the 13 major Sub-regional cooperation mechanisms such as Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, Mekong-United States Partnerships, ACMECS, CLMV and will continue the active cooperation.

At this moment, Myanmar has been taking the responsibility of the Co-Chair of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation for the tenure of two years (2020-2022) and will discharge duties in a manner of effectively and efficiently in realizing the dream of peaceful, prospered and sustainably developed Mekong Region.

Myanmar has also been serving as Chair of CLMV (Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Cooperation) for two years (2020-2022). With the Chair's responsibility of making CLMV Cooperation dynamic, effective and efficient, we will try to serve uplifting the socioeconomic livelihoods of the peoples of the Mekong Region in coordination with the member states and the partners such as ASEAN.

Myanmar also is an active member of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).

In conclusion, he said that Myanmar is aware that inter-

national community has raised concerns on the current situation of Myanmar.

Being mindful of the negative impacts on the country's democratization process and recognizing the urgent necessity to act it by lawful means, The Tatmadaw has to take necessary measures in line with the constitutional provisions and existing laws during the interim period. In this regard, the Government expects a full understanding of international community on the existing situation and look forward to their cooperation with the Government for the better interest of the people of Myanmar.

Especially, during this time of the global pandemic, the Government needs the constructive cooperation from friendly countries in endeavours to the provision of health care and COVID-19 related assistance for Myanmar people. In addition, Myanmar will fully cooperate with WHO and Gavi to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines to all communities within the country.

The Union Minister said that the Government understand the concerns of the international community on the continuation of Myanmar's democratic transition process, and he reaffirmed that very architect of this process is the Tatmadaw. In fact, the last thing an architect would love to do is to destroy this own structure. He continued to say stability, the rule of law, prosperity and well-being of the people are prerequisites of democratic transition.

He finally said that any reaction from the international and regional organization would take into account of these factors, especially for the well-being of the people and do-no-harm policy under the circumstances of the pandemic.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## CBM issues announcement on public rumours about monetary issue

THE Central Bank of Myanmar released an announcement on 3 February to wipe out rumours among the public about the monetary issue and possible closure of banks.

The announcement said, "There were false rumours that K5,000 and K10,000 banknotes would be demonetized and banks would close in relation to the current situations in the country. It was also learnt that some people were worried because of the rumours and were reportedly withdrawing their money from the banks."

The Central Bank of Myanmar has been working hard to stabilize the financial system, and the banks have been providing proper services in accordance with the rules and regulations.

The general public can continue using the banknotes and banking services without any worries, and all the banks have been instructed to provide regular banking services."—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

6<sup>th</sup> Waning of Pyatho, 1382 ME

(2 February 2021)

1. Myanmar nationals have been brought back as they wanted to return home from abroad via relief flights during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.
2. During the COVID-19 pandemic, as for Myanmar nationals abroad, it is better to return to Myanmar than they are experiencing difficulties abroad.
3. We would like to announce that in accordance with the rules set by relevant ministries, we will timely arrange more relief flights/vessels to bring back Myanmar nationals who are legally or illegally staying abroad.

## Tatmadaw True News Information Team: Healthcare services offered at military hospitals

THE Tatmadaw True News Information Team released a statement on 4 February 2021 that healthcare services are offered to all the national people at the military hospitals.

The statement said that some persons who are creating disturbances, aiming to destabilize the administrative mechanism and stability of the State, have incited Civil Disobedience Campaign through social networks, causing failure to perform duties among the health workers.

Doctors have vowed during their convocation that “ Health and well-being of the patients will be our own issues as the first priority ; I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with a good medical practice; I will serve my medical profession regardless of nationality, race and social status; and I will maintain the utmost respect for human life”.

It is also advised all the health workers not to follow the incitement that can jeopardize the interest of country and people, and keep their professional vows to the public.

The Tatmadaw has received the permission of the State Administration Council to solve the current healthcare problems of people across the nation by the military medics.

Therefore, people can get proper medical treatments at the nearest military hospitals.—MNA

## MoI Union Minister meets heads of IPRD

UNION Minister for Information U Chit Naing met the officers of the Information and Public Relations Department from regions, states and districts via Zoom application yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the duties of staff to serve for the interest of the country and public and ability to conduct the work plans with good morale, discipline and goodwill.

He also said there is no need to believe the rumours and the staff should make efforts to share the accurate information to the public.

He then urged to work in cooperation by submitting the difficulties to respective levels, if necessary.

A total of 129 officers and staff of IPRD joined the Zoom meeting.—MNA

(Translated by KTZH)



Union Minister U Chit Naing meets the Information and Public Relations Department officers via Zoom application on 6 February. PHOTO: MNA

## Military hospitals provide treatments to civilians

TATMADAW medical corps provide healthcare services to all the national people across the nation, and the Tatmadaw True News Information Team has already announced that the public can get proper medical treatments at the nearest military hospitals if they find difficulties during the current political situation.

The military medical specialists, medics and nurses of the military hospital in Kawthoung offered medical services to 2 monks and 33 residents while the temporary treatment centre opened by Aungmyethazan-based command treated 43 locals yesterday and also arranged foods and accommodation for the patients and their

family members.

If the residents face difficulties in healthcare services, they can get proper medical treatment at the nearest military hospitals, according to the statement of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by KTZH)

## Civil services personnel join collective cleaning at famous pagodas

TATMADAW members, families and members of the Myanmar Police Force collectively cleaned the pagodas across the country, including Shwe Dagon Pagoda in Yangon, MahaMyat Muni Pagoda in Mandalay and Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw so that people can pay homage peacefully in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines, yesterday.

The State Administration Council has permitted the opening of these pagodas on 8 February since the COVID-19 outbreak has been under control to some extent, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by EPPA)

## Request to monks, people for paying homage to Shwedagon Pagoda

THE Shwedagon Pagoda has been closed off for more than 10 months since 9 April 2020 during COVID-19 pandemic. The spread of disease reaches under control to a certain extent due to the effective COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities. Therefore, the pagoda will be opened to public starting 8 February 2021 in accordance with the words of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws, Ovada Sariya Sayadaws of Pagoda Board of Trustees, and permission of the State Administration Council in line with the COVID-19 health rules. But, celebrating occasions with ceremonial gatherings remains restricted.

### Pilgrimage programmes for monks, people

1. The pagoda will be opened to monks and nuns on 8.2.2021 and 9.2.2021.
2. The pagoda will be opened for the older people and people with disabilities on 10.2.2021.
3. The pagoda will be opened to public starting 11.2.2021.
4. There will be three pilgrimage sections respectively in the morning and afternoon- from 06:00 am to 07:00 am, 08:00 am to 09:00 am and 10:00 am to 11:00 am and 13:00 pm to 14:00 pm, 15:00 pm to 16:00 pm and 17:00 pm to 18:00 pm. There will be six times for pilgrimage and 500 visitors will be allowed at a time, and a total of 3,000 people can visit per day.
5. A total of 500 people can pay homage to the pagoda per time as it will allow 200 people from the eastern stairway while 150 from the western stairway, 50 from the southern stairway and 100 from the northern stairway.
6. The visitors except for elderly people and people with disabilities must not use the elevator.
7. The pilgrimage hour is 1 hour.
8. The pilgrims will have to fill the Form for personal data (name, father's name, NRC No, phone number, address). The pilgrims can also take the pre-filled personal data forms.
9. The pilgrims must return from the stairways where they come.

### Facts to follow

1. The people with suspected COVID-19 symptoms like fever (temperature over 100.4°F/38°C), cough, difficult breathing and smell loss must not be allowed.
2. The pilgrims must wear masks. The elderly people at the age of over 60 and those having chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension must wear masks and face shields.
3. The pilgrims must cooperate in filling personal data, phone numbers in the designated forms and record books.
4. The pilgrims must exactly follow the COVID-19 preventive measures without fail.
5. The people need to wash the hands thoroughly for 20 seconds at the hand-washing basins at the entrance of stairways, pagoda platforms and exit ways or use Hand Sanitizer containing 60pc of alcohol before they enter the pagoda compound, or every time after paying homage (the hands touch the floor (or) pagoda platform), and when they return.
6. The people must take mini Hand Sanitizer containing 60pc of alcohol to wash the hands after paying homage (touching the floors or pagoda platforms).
7. The people must take temperature screening conducted by the officials at the stairways with Non-contact thermometer (or) Thermal Scanner.
8. The pilgrims must follow the 6ft social distancing at the entry and exit of stairways and on the pagoda platform.
9. The people must avoid paying homage at the rest house and guest pavilions for a long time, eating food in a group or offering food donation (Satudithar).
10. The people must systematically throw the used masks and tissues to the dustbin with covers.
11. Within 7 days after the visit to the pagodas, if the people suffer from sick, cough, smell loss and hard breathing, they must go to the nearest healthcare department.

### Pilgrimage programmes for region/state pagodas

1. The pagodas located in regions/states will be opened to public starting 8.2.2021.
2. The pilgrims must follow the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment instructions of the Ministry of Health and Sports.
3. All the people living in Nay Pyi Taw and other regions/ states must follow the instructions of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

4. The pagoda board of trustees of Nay Pyi Taw and other regions/states must make preparations for 33 facts released by the Ministry of Health and Sports.
5. The relevant pagoda board of trustees must follow the orders and directives of Nay Pyi Taw, Region/State Administration Councils.

*Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture*

## MoNREC Minister inspects Myanmar gems and jewellery training school

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, along with Permanent Secretary U Min Min Oo and officials inspected the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Training School of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the inspection tour, the principal and officials from the training school explained the opening of the school and the preparation during the temporary closure of the school during the COVID-19 period.

The Union Minister said to make an effort to produce and export high-valued jade jewellery rather than exporting them as raw stones and to

make arrangements to be ready to reopen the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Training School in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports as the training school is important for human resource development and job creation.

He added to coordinate with the Myanmar Workers' Skills Standards Establishment Team for the training and the necessity to create and produce designs that foreign countries like.

The Union Minister and party also visited Mani Yadanar Jade Hall, the former hall for gems exhibition, in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.—MNA

(Translated by EPPA)



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi looks into the gems and pieces of jewellery at the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Training School in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 February 2021. **PHOTO: MNA**

### COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre ([phone number 2019](#)) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

## Union Auditor-General Office holds coordination meeting



THE Union Auditor-General Office held a coordination meeting yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Auditor-General Dr Kan Zaw discussed the aims to become an organization that can promote the interest of the public, including public financial management system and efforts to carry out the plans in accordance with the

Union Auditor-General Dr Kan Zaw chairs the UAGO coordination meeting on 6 February 2021. PHOTO: MNA

instructions of the Chairman of State Administration Council.

He also urged to follow the COVID-19 health rules, existing laws and directives in implementing the duties of UAGO.

He then instructed to conduct the inspection in line with the auditing standards and to carry out the work plans precisely, accurately with full of responsibilities and accountabilities. The Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, Directors and other officials also coordinated the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by KTZH)

## Experiences shared after getting vaccinated

THE vaccination programme for the officials at Union-level organizations and senior government officials was conducted in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Officials who took part in the Covishield vaccination shared their experiences in the programme.

### Dr Myat Wunna Soe (Deputy Director-General of Public Health Department)

"Today's COVID-19 vaccination programme was for the civil service personnel in Nay Pyi Taw. It will be started on 5th of every month. The remaining staff members of ministries will be vaccinated tomorrow in line with the procedures of the Ministry of Health and Sports, followed by the other persons.

From 500 to 1,000 persons will be vaccinated every day. Practices of social distancing, wearing masks and hand washing must be taken even after the two rounds of vaccines."

Preliminary medical tests



Dr Myat Wunna Soe (Deputy Director-General of Public Health Department).

were carried out before giving vaccines to the registered personnel from the ministries. Other medicines for some symptoms of side effects were also given to them. There has been no significant health problem after the vaccination to around 10,000 persons.

The vaccinated persons were allowed for leaving only after 30 minutes to closely monitor their health conditions and were asked to report on any health problems in 24 hours.



Dr Khin May Nu (Deputy Director-General of Social Welfare Department).

### Dr Khin May Nu (Deputy Director-General of Social Welfare Department)

I undertook preliminary medical tests before getting vaccinated. I was asked whether I have heart problems, blood pressure and diabetes — no pain during the vaccination. I am pleased to get the vaccine.

### U Zaw Aye (Director from Ministry of Construction)

There was no difficulty in getting the vaccination. I un-



U Zaw Aye (Director from Ministry of Construction).

dertook medical tests such as blood pressure — no bad feeling during and after the vaccination. I recommend the people to get vaccinated.

### U Thein Shwe Win (Director from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement)

Health workers conducted preliminary medical tests on me and asked questions about the background health conditions. We also received the registration



U Thein Shwe Win (Director from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement).

cards for completion of the first round of vaccine with the date for the second round. We were reminded not to take any vaccine between the two rounds of vaccine. A total of 491 personnel from Union-level organizations and 11 ministries got vaccinated on 4 February, and the vaccination for remaining ones from other ministries will be conducted in the following days.

Reported by Ye Myo,  
Photo: Soe Ko Ko

## Myanmar nationals, migrant workers fly back home from Singapore, RoK



Myanmar returnees undergo immigration process at the Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

THE 38<sup>th</sup> relief flight of Myanmar National Airways organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore landed at Yangon International Airport bringing back a total of 115 Myanmar nationals who were stranded in Singapore due to the temporary suspension of international flights, yesterday evening.

The relief flight of Myanmar Airways International organized by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul also brought back a total of 108 Myanmar nationals who were working with Employment Permit System-EPS in the Republic of Korea.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration

and Population and the Ministry of Health and Sports arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

To bring back the Myanmar citizens and Myanmar seamen who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights in accordance with the instructions from Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries and shipping companies.—MNA

(Translated by EPPA)

## Agro-products market flexibility key to overcoming COVID-19 impacts on agriculture

**C**OVID-19 and restrictions measures are among the biggest challenges that the modern world is facing.

Covid-19 has attacked the very core of our present society, and has thrown light on many problems including agriculture and food system we will face going forward.

To build future food systems that are fit for purpose, we need to take a systems approach, develop a multi-stakeholder identity, maintain joint accountability and redesign the incentives and transitional steps to get us there.

The Food Action Alliance (FAA) led by partners from public, private and civil society, farmer and consumer organizations and academia, works to expedite country and region-led partnership platforms in the Americas, Europe, Africa, India and South-East Asia.

The head of the United Nations World Food Programme has highlighted how Covid-19 puts over three dozen countries at risk of a famine of 'biblical' proportions. That is a famine that could affect hundreds of millions of people, post Covid-19. Global warming, insect attacks, global health pandemics, these are not few and far in between anymore, but a fact of life.

To overcome the impacts of the pandemic on agricultural sector and counter the investment headwind, there needs to be a major push to agricultural product market flexibility and to ensure that the farmer has a market to sell to.

For Myanmar farmers to reach their full potential in agriculture, they need more investment, crop diversification, access to information and research, along with complete mechanization of cultivation.

These challenges can be overcome by farmers as private companies, under the contract farming system, are obliged to support farmers in terms of technology and supervision, in cooperation with governmental departments.

Farmers, on their part, would be responsible for growing crops using Good Agricultural Practices and producing crops that meet the quality, quantity, and standards set by both sides under the contract.

Agricultural experts are obliged to conduct research and disseminate knowledge to farmers who are dealing with the consequences of using chemical inputs and the impact of climate change.

The other sectors we need to improve through research are highland cultivation, boosting production of rice through water management, and fighting diseases using methods that do not affect the natural environment.

We should not forget the fact that small farmers play a crucial role in ensuring food sufficiency and nutritional content, abolishing poverty, and promoting inclusive and sustainable agricultural development operations.



WORKING COLLECTIVELY TO HURRY UP COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

## 'Join up to speed up': WHO urges Europe, pharma to collaborate on vaccines

**E**UROPE and pharma groups must work together to speed up Covid-19 vaccinations and share doses with poorer countries, the head of the European branch of the World Health Organization said Friday, expressing concern about the spread of virus variants.

"We need to join up to speed up vaccinations," WHO Europe director Hans Kluge told AFP in an interview, as Europe bids to overcome a slow start to its vaccination campaign amid tensions between Brussels and vaccine manufacturers.

Kluge said competing pharmaceutical companies must join efforts to "drastically increase production capacity".

In the European Union, just 2.5% of the population has received a first vaccine dose, though announcements by several laboratories of increased vaccine deliveries have raised hopes of an acceleration.

Asked whether the vaccines available since December would



Doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine against Covid-19 pictured at a vaccination centre in Freising, Germany, on February 2, 2021. PHOTO: CHRISTOF STACHE/ AFP

be effective against new virus variants, Kluge replied: "That's the big question. I'm concerned."

"We have to be prepared" for new problematic mutations of the virus, he warned, calling on countries to expand their genomic sequencing capacity.

He added: "It's a cruel re-

minder that the virus still has the upper hand on the human being."

### Tunnel 'a little bit longer'

Of the 53 countries in the WHO's European region – which includes several countries in central Asia – 37 have reported cases of the British variant and 17 have

registered cases of the South African variant.

While the fight against the pandemic now appears more challenging than in December when the first vaccines became available, Kluge remained optimistic.

"I'll be honest, I think that

the tunnel is a little bit longer than what I thought at the end of December, but it's going to be manageable, more preventable this year," he said.

"The solution or 'the' strategy doesn't exist. We have to get better at what we do and we are getting better," Kluge added.

He reiterated the WHO's call for rich countries to show solidarity toward poor nations unable to buy vaccines, urging wealthy ones to share their doses after having inoculated a portion of their own population.

Kluge suggested wealthier nations share their vaccines once they have inoculated "elderly people, health care workers and people with comorbidity" – without waiting to cross the 70% threshold required to attain herd immunity.

"If they hit 20% of their population, maybe that's the moment that they can already start to share some vaccines," he said.

### No to 'vaccination passports'

The milestone of 100 million vaccine doses administered was

passed on Tuesday, with 65 percent of jabs given in high-income countries, according to World Bank criteria.

In a bid to combat "vaccine nationalism", the WHO has set up Covax, a global inoculation-sharing initiative to help poor countries.

"We know that in the EU, Canada, UK, US, they all ordered and made deals for four to nine times more doses than they need. So my point here is, don't wait until you have 70% of the population (vaccinated) to share with the Balkans, to share with central Asia, Africa," Kluge said.

While the WHO is in favour of countries issuing vaccination certificates, Kluge was opposed to the idea of "vaccination passports" required for travel.

"We certainly don't want to have a situation where there are so-called vaccination passports, that's something that we are definitely not subscribing to because it will increase inequities," he explained.

SOURCE: AFP

FORCING ANIMALS INTO NEW HABITATS MEANS THE VIRUSES THEY CARRY MOVE WITH THEM

## Climate change may have had 'key role' in pandemic: study

*Climate change may have played a "key role" in the transmission of the novel coronavirus to humans by driving several species of pathogen-carrying bats into closer contact, research showed on Friday.*

**T**HE virus, which has killed more than two million people and caused unprecedented global disruption, is thought to have originated in bats in Southeast Asia.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge used temperature and rainfall data over the last 100 years to model populations of dozens of bat species based on their habitat requirements.

They found that over the last century, 40 species had relocated to southern China, Laos and Myanmar -- the area where genetic analysis suggests the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 first appeared.

While the precise chain of SARS-CoV-2 transmission from animals to humans is yet to be determined, Beyer said the changing climate and habitat destruction in Asia had driven virus-carrying species into ever closer contact with human popu-

lations. "It's two sides of a similar coin: we penetrate deeper into their habitat but at the same time climate change can have the effect that it pushes the pathogen in our direction," he said.

### Complex risk'

The study, published in the journal Science of the Total Environment, urged governments to take measures including limiting urban expansion and farming, which it said would help to manage the risk of another pandemic of a disease endemic in wild animals.

It also called for greater effort to mitigate climate change to avoid large accumulations of wild species near human habitation.

"The fact that climate change can accelerate the transmission



Over the last century, 40 species of bat have relocated to southern China, Laos and Myanmar -- the area where genetic analysis suggests the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 first appeared. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

of wildlife pathogens to humans to reduce global emissions," said Camilo Mora at the University of

Hawaii, who contributed to the research.

Kate Jones, Professor of Ecology and Biodiversity at University College London, said Friday's research was interesting but that the pandemic was a result of a variety of factors.

"Climate change certainly has a role to play in changing species distributions to increase ecological hazard," said Jones, who was not involved in the study.

"However, spillover risk is a complex interplay of not only ecological hazard but human exposure and vulnerability."

Habitat loss, for example, has also been a major driver in pushing wild animal species closer to human populations.

SOURCE: AFP

## Union Day Objectives 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day - 2021

1. To work on the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, till the success of the internal peace process is achieved.
2. Development of the socio-economic life of the ethnic nationalities.
3. To work for the emergence of a constitution that is in alignment and harmony with the Democratic Federal Union.
4. All ethnic nationalities to work for the preservation and protection of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty.
5. To nurture and develop new generations endowed with high skills and capabilities imbued with strong Union spirit.

## Union Day slogans for 2021 (74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

1. Equal opportunities and equal responsibilities, living in a peaceful, prosperous and stable Union.
2. Unity is strength, solidarity is power. That is the heart of the Union.
3. Many fruits sprouting from one stem, this is our brotherhood of the Union.
4. Our Union built with brotherhood, Never forget Union day.
5. Drinking the same water, living on the same land, we are Union nationals of the same blood.



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 5 February, 2021)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 6th February, 2021:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Rakhine, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 February, 2021:** Generally fair weather.

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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.

# COVID-19 vaccination programme begins for elderly persons in Yangon

THE COVID-19 vaccination programme was launched for over 65-year-old living in Dagon, Botahtaung and Pabedan townships of Yangon Region yesterday.

"We conducted vaccination programmes as planned for those over 65 years old. We will conduct the programme in 34 townships of Yangon, and we launch in Dagon, Pabedan and Botahtaung townships. The process will keep going as planned," said Dr Tun Myint, Deputy Director-General for Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services.

The people are vaccinated against COVID-19 at B.E.H.S (1) Dagon, B.E.H.S (1) Pabedan and B.E.H.S (1) Botahtaung. The medical officials also arrange emergency ambulances and Oxygen cylinders if the elderly have some health problems.

According to the data of re-



Health workers are administering the Covishield vaccine to the over 65-year-old woman in Yangon Region on 6 February 2021. **PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)**

gion Public Health and Medical Services, there are more than 5.9 million people over the age of 18 and 380,000 elderly over the age of 65.

A total of 25,000 health work-

ers and volunteers were vaccinated on 27 January.—Min Thit (MNA) (Translated by KTZH)

## MR reopens Mandalay-Myitkyina, Mandalay-Kawlin-Mandalay trains

Myanma Railways (MR) resumed its Mandalay-Myitkyina and Mandalay-Kawlin-Mandalay train service on 4 February in line with the Ministry of Health and Sports COVID guidance, according to the Kanbalu Town Railway Station, Sagaing Region.

MR has suspended its train service to those regions in the

pandemic period. Now MR resumed its operation service for the railway passengers' convenience with the number of COVID-19 patients dropping down.

The resuming trains are No. 31 Up and No. 32 Down Mandalay-Myitkyina airbag trains, No. 55 Up and No. 53 Down express trains and No.

53 Up and No. 54 Down Mandalay-Kawlin RBE trains on 4 February. Moreover, No.47 Up and No.48 Down Mandalay-Nabar trains and No. 57 Up and No. 58 Down Mandalay-Myitkyina-Mandalay trains resumed on 5 February, said U Win Myint, the station master of Kanbalu Railway Station.

MR keeps two seats for one

ticket so that the commuters can follow the social distancing rule. The railway passengers need to comply with the COVID-19 rules and regulations when they are aboard the train. The train schedules are the same as those in the previous period. —Aung Win Nyein (Kanbalu)

(Translated by HM)

## Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Sub-Committee

From 28-1-2021 to 3-2-2021, local/foreign donors contributed 4,402,975 million Kyats and USD 30,337 to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar kyat account OA 013733 and foreign currency account EDC 600012 opened at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 3-2-2021 is as follows:

**COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List**

Account opening balance on 28-1-2021  
Received amount of money from (28-1-2021 to 3-2-2021)

**Kyat**  
25,511,875,485.39  
4,402,974,518.00

Closed balance on 3-2-2021

29,914,850,003.39

**COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List**

Account opening balance on 28-1-2021  
Received amount of money from (28-1-2021 to 3-2-2021)

**USD**  
178,103,587.28  
30,337.25

Closed balance on 3-2-2021

178,133,924.53

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## Manageable-scale chilli growers earn extra income in Pakokku

MANAGEABLE-scale chilli growers from Kyauk-U village, Pakokku township, Magawe region are earning extra income annually, according to the local growers from that village.

"Our family grows 0.80 acres of chilli on a management scale. It has been raised for seven years. Our villagers and the villagers from a nearby village are growing the seeds to get the nursery plants. After one month, we can start developing the chilli with the necessary plant. There are many chilli species such as India species, Moe Hmaw (or) Moe Htaung and Auk Swe Thi. The chilli plants like the cold weather and the farmers started to grow over 2,000 nursery plants in December 2020. Then, they began

to pick up the chilli in February 2021. If we can put the fertilizer to the plants, the chilli can be picked up for the whole year, said U Khin Aung, a local chilli grower from Kyauk-U village.

He also added that the fresh chilli was sold for over K1,000 per viss last year. If the fresh chilli could not earn a high price, we dried them. The cost of the dried chillies ranges from K3,000 to K4,000 per viss. Last year, we sold the whole chilli plantation for K1.2 million. It could make a profit of K700,000 because the cost of cultivation of chilli was only K 500,000.

This year, the fresh chillies are offered at a low price. So, we have made all the picked fresh chillies the dried ones. If



The chilli plants like the cold weather and the farmers started to grow over 2,000 nursery plants in December 2020. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN**

we grow one acre of chilli, we have to hire about 20 labour-

ers. There are about 10 acres of chilli fields in our village, said U Khin Aung. —Salai Ko Key (IPRD) (*Translated by HM*)

# Gold traders urged to make outright purchase: YGEA

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) released a statement on 4 February that the gold traders should make an outright purchase.

Regarding the gold price stability in the market, the YGEA called an emergency meeting on 4 February before the gold market started. Then, the YGEA issued four decisions.

These decisions are: not to accept the rumours that K5,000 or K10,000 notes will be confiscated; to encourage the people who are trading with fear and trading with restraint; to deal with down payment system and to comply with the COVID-19 rules and regulations set up by the Ministry of Health

and Sports

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) also made a statement on 3 February that rumours were spreading in the country that K5,000 and K10,000 notes are revoked. The banks in the country would close be-

cause of current situations in the country. So, the CBM urged the people to keep their trust in the Myanmar currency. All the banks have been instructed to provide regular service.

On 3 February, the domestic gold price skipped sharply based on the rumours that the K5,000 and K10,000 notes would be demonetized. Although the domestic gold price was only K1,340,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogrammes) on 2 February, the gold price went

up to K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February.

Besides, on those days, the domestic gold market sees more buyers than sellers. However, the domestic gold price was a bit more stable on 5 February, and the pure gold price was opened at K1,367,000 per tical. Currently, the supply of gold is still on the rise, according to the domestic gold market.

Further, the US dollar exchange rate has been rising against Myanmar Kyat and is over K1,400 per dollar. Although the domestic gold price is rising, the world gold price is on the decline. The global gold price stood at US\$1,856 per ounce on 2 February, and it plunged to \$1,794 per ounce on 5 February.

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**CHANCE ADAPTATION KEY TO AVOIDING MAJOR ECONOMIC LOSS**

**NATIONAL**

Senior General holds meeting with Union Ministers, officials from Union-level organizations

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**To MYANMAR**

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**Senior General holds meeting with members of UMFCCI, its associates**

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**State Administration Council**

**Announcement**

**President's Message**

**1.** It is learnt that resources circulated that K2,000 would be allocated to each state and region to be distributed.

**2.** Regarding the Central Bank of Myanmar which already issued an announcement related to the resumption of business activities, it has been working hard to stabilize the financial system, so the bank will soon provide a proper

**3.** Section 36 of the Constitution (1989) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar says, "The

**Union shall not discriminate the currency legally issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar in any way, and the Central Bank of Myanmar shall be responsible for any executive using K2,000 allocated to each state and region to stabilize the financial system, so the bank will soon provide regular banking services. The resources allocated to each state and region will be used without trivializing the resources."**

**State Administration Council**

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE**

**C**OMMANDANT-in-Chief of Defense Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing chaired the meeting of the State Administration Council with the members of the Union Ministry of Planning and Development.

Gen Min Aung Hlaing explained the reasons of meeting with the members of the Union Ministry of Planning and Development, the members of the State Administration Council, and the members of the State Ministry of Entrepreneurship, while the total number of COVID-19 cases in the country has reached over 904,000, and the total number of recoveries has exceeded over 800,000 cases of infection.

He also informed that the members of the State Administration Council advised the members of the State Ministry of Entrepreneurship, while the total number of COVID-19 cases in the country has reached over 904,000, and the total number of recoveries has exceeded over 800,000 cases of infection.

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Gold jewellery sets are seen at one of the gold shops in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

## THE CARBON NEUTRALITY GOAL

## US\$43 bln deal for ‘world’s biggest’ offshore wind farm in South Korea

A \$43 billion deal was signed Friday to build what the South Korean government said will be the world's biggest offshore wind power complex, as it seeks to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

South Korea has few energy resources of its own and relies on imported coal — a cheap but dirty fuel — for around 40 percent of its electricity.

President Moon Jae-in declared the carbon neutrality goal last year but at the same time is looking to phase out nuclear power, leaving the country depending on renewables to square the circle.

Moon oversaw the signing



South Korea's president Moon Jae-in unveils the 8.2-GW offshore wind plan. **PHOTO COURTESY: @MOONRIVER365/TWITTER/AFP**

of the 48 trillion won (\$43 billion) agreement to build the complex off Sinan in the country's south-

west, which he said would be seven times bigger than the world's current largest offshore wind

farm. With a maximum capacity of 8.2 gigawatts, the government is banking on it being the equivalent of six nuclear power stations.

Moon said that the country's position on the Korean peninsula gave it a geographical advantage.

“We have the infinite potential of offshore wind power to the sea on three sides, and we have the world's best technology in related fields,” he added.

The agreement involves 33 different entities, among them regional governments, the electricity generator KEPCO, and major private firms including Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction and SK E&S.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Russia's Navalny goes on trial on slander charges

KREMLIN critic Alexei Navalny went on trial Friday on charges of defaming a World War II veteran, days after being handed a nearly three-year prison term that sparked an international outcry.

An AFP journalist said the 44-year-old anti-corruption campaigner was present in the courtroom, standing inside a glass case for defendants.

Legal pressure has been mounting on Navalny and his allies since he returned in mid-January to Russia from Germany, where he had been recovering from a poisoning attack with the nerve agent Novichok.

He was ordered by a Moscow court this week to serve two years and eight months in prison for violating the terms of a 2014 suspended sentence on embezzlement charges he says were politically motivated.

**SOURCE: AFP**

### Trump refuses to testify in ‘unconstitutional’ impeachment trial

FORMER president Donald Trump refused Thursday to testify in his looming impeachment trial after being called by House prosecutors to give evidence, branding the process “unconstitutional”. Trump’s lawyers ridiculed the request in a letter by lead House prosecutor Jamie Raskin to answer questions over the January 6 attack on the US Capitol as a “public relations stunt”. “Your letter only confirms what is known to everyone: you cannot prove your allegations” against Trump, attorneys Bruce Castor and David Schoen said in their reply. While the attorneys did not say whether he would testify, a senior advisor to Trump, Jason Miller, said flatly that he would not. “The president will not testify in an unconstitutional proceeding,” Miller told AFP.

### Trial opens Tuesday

The refusal came five days before the trial of the former US leader on one impeachment charge of “incitement to insurrection” opens in the US Senate.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## CULTURE

## French museums beg to reopen as blockbusters go unseen

IT was to be a highlight of the art calendar: 230 works by impressionist master Henri Matisse gathered at France’s leading modern art museum to mark 150 years since his birth.

But thanks to the pandemic, the show at the Pompidou Centre in Paris stayed open for only 10 days after it began in October, and it looks highly unlikely to resume before the paintings are packed away again at the end of February.

Only 17,000 people secured a ticket in time -- an abysmally low figure for a museum that attracts more than three million visitors each year in normal times.



Thanks to the pandemic, a Matisse show at the Pompidou Centre in Paris stayed open for only 10 days. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

“For an artist that was absolutely not melancholy, this is something very melancholy,” said Pompidou curator Aurelie Verdier.

This week, desperate mu-

seums demanded a chance to reopen -- even if only partially -- with two petitions to the government signed by hundreds within the industry and wider art community. “For an hour, a day, a week or a month -- let us reopen our doors, even if we have to shut them again in the case of another lockdown,” it says.

### It's a nightmare'

Museums had hoped to reopen in December when the last lockdown ended, but as with restaurants, theatres and cinemas, they have remained shut as infection rates remain stubbornly high.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## HUGE BREAKTHROUGH

## Al-Qaeda’s leader in Yemen under arrest: UN report

THE leader of Al-Qaeda’s Yemeni affiliate has been under arrest for several months, according to a United Nations report released on Thursday, in what will be seen as a huge breakthrough in the fight against the global jihadist threat.

The document said Khalid Batarfi, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) for just under a year, was arrested and his deputy, Saad Atef al-Awlaqi, died during an “operation in Ghayda City, Al-Mahrah Governorate, in October.”

The report -- filed to the

Security Council from a UN monitoring team specializing in extremist groups -- is the first official confirmation of Batarfi’s arrest following unverified reports. The wide-ranging UN assessment, summarizing global potential jihadist threats, did not disclose the militant’s whereabouts or reveal any further details of the October operation.

But the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors the online activity of jihadist organisations, noted “unconfirmed reports” in October that Batarfi had been arrested by Yemeni

security forces and then handed to Saudi Arabia.

AQAP revealed it had appointed Batarfi, believed to be in his early 40s, as its leader in February 2020 following the death of his predecessor Qassim al-Rimi in a US air strike in Yemen.

Batarfi, who was designated a global terrorist by the US State Department in 2018, has appeared in numerous AQAP videos over recent years, according to SITE, and appeared to have been Rimi’s deputy and group spokesman.

**SOURCE: AFP**

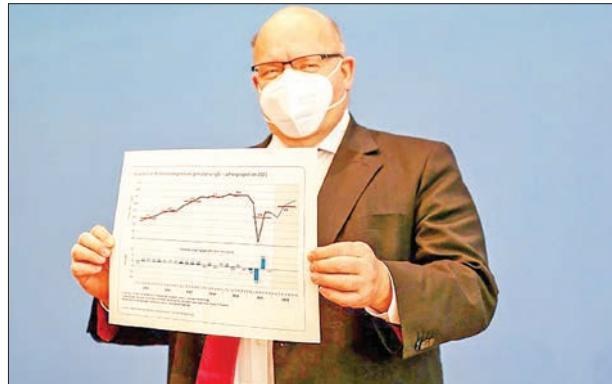


An image grab taken from a video released by Al-Malahem Media, the media arm of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), shows Khaled Batarfi in a video posted online on June 15, 2015. **PHOTO: AL-MALAHEM MEDIA/AFP/FILE**

"REDUCING STATE PARTICIPATION"

# Germany's virus spending fires up privatization debate

WITH German state finances reeling from the Covid-19 pandemic, the question of raising funds by selling government assets has become a hot topic ahead of this year's general election. Economy Minister Peter Altmaier, a close ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel, floated the idea of "reducing state participation" in businesses in



German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier has floated the idea of 'reducing state participation' in businesses. **PHOTO: AFP**

an interview with Die Welt daily this week. Flogging state assets could be all the more beneficial since their value has "increased considerably in recent years", Altmaier said.

The money raised could help plug a gaping hole in state finances left by the coronavirus pandemic, which has already cost the government more

than a trillion euros (\$1.2 trillion) and forced it to lift its cherished "debt brake".

## 'A little bizarre'

But the suggestion has caused some consternation at the heart of the coalition government between Merkel's conservatives and the Social Democrats (SPD). Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, who

will lead the SPD into September's election as its chancellor candidate, called the idea "a little bizarre". State participation has played a "not insignificant role" at a time when the government is providing a "huge" amount of aid to prop up businesses and their employees during the pandemic, he said.

SOURCE: AFP

## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

### South Korean trade minister drops out of WTO race: govt



South Korean Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee (L) dropped her bid to lead the WTO on Friday, clearing the way for Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (R). **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SOUTH KOREAN trade minister Yoo Myung-hee on Friday abandoned her bid to become head of the World Trade Organization, Seoul said, clearing the way for Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala to become the global body's first woman and first African director-general. Yoo had consulted with the United States -- her prime backer -- and other major countries and "decided to renounce her candidacy",

SOURCE: AFP

## CHANGING THE NAME OF PESTICIDE TRADE NAME

Myanma Shwe Nagar Agricultural Group Co.,Ltd brand pesticide which are registered under pesticide registration Board of Myanmar. Myanma Shwe Nagar Agricultural Group Co.,Ltd is now would like to change its product trade name as mentioned below. Any objection regarding to this trade name change can notify to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within a period of fourteen (14)days from the publication of this notice.

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type And Number
1.	Super Sun	Super Linn	Metriam 55% + Pyraclostrobin 5%WG	Experimental E 2019-4781
2.	Diclobin	Super Sun	Dimethomorph 32% + Pyraclostrobin 16%WG	Experimental E 2019-4790

Myanma Shwe Nagar Agricultural Group Co.,Ltd  
No-402, U Phoe Hlaing St, Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone,  
Hlaing Thar Yar Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.  
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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WERU PACK KHA

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WERU PACK KHA VOY. NO. (V.01)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-2-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S UNIVERSE LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL CO LTD**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (104S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (104S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-2-2021** 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 ANEMOS

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ANEMOS VOY. NO. (2012)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-2-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRIVLAKA

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PRIVLAKA VOY. NO. (2101)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-2-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRAVIK

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PRAVIKVOY. NO. (V.PVK-016)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-2-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

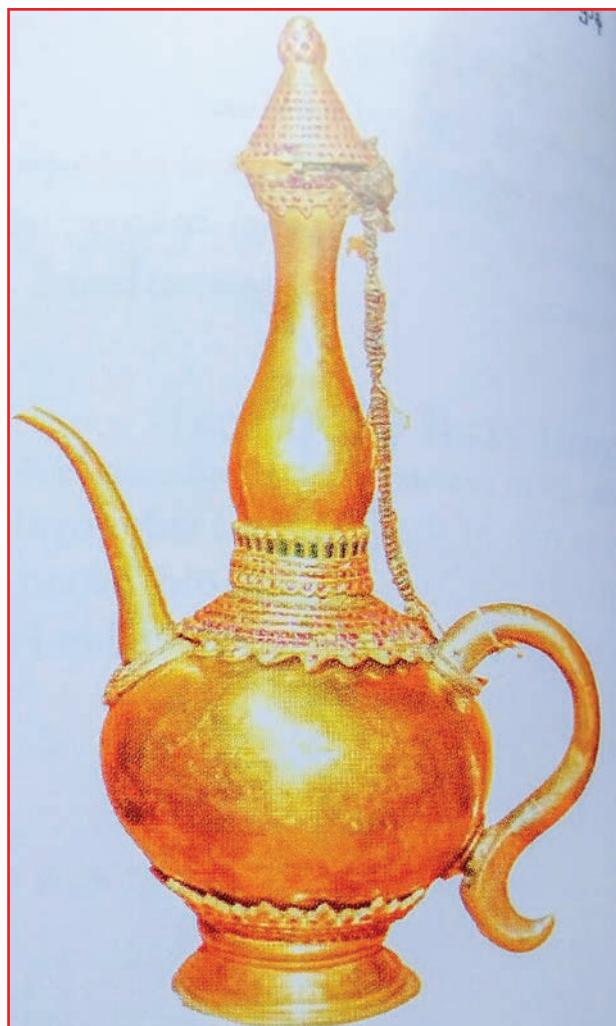
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

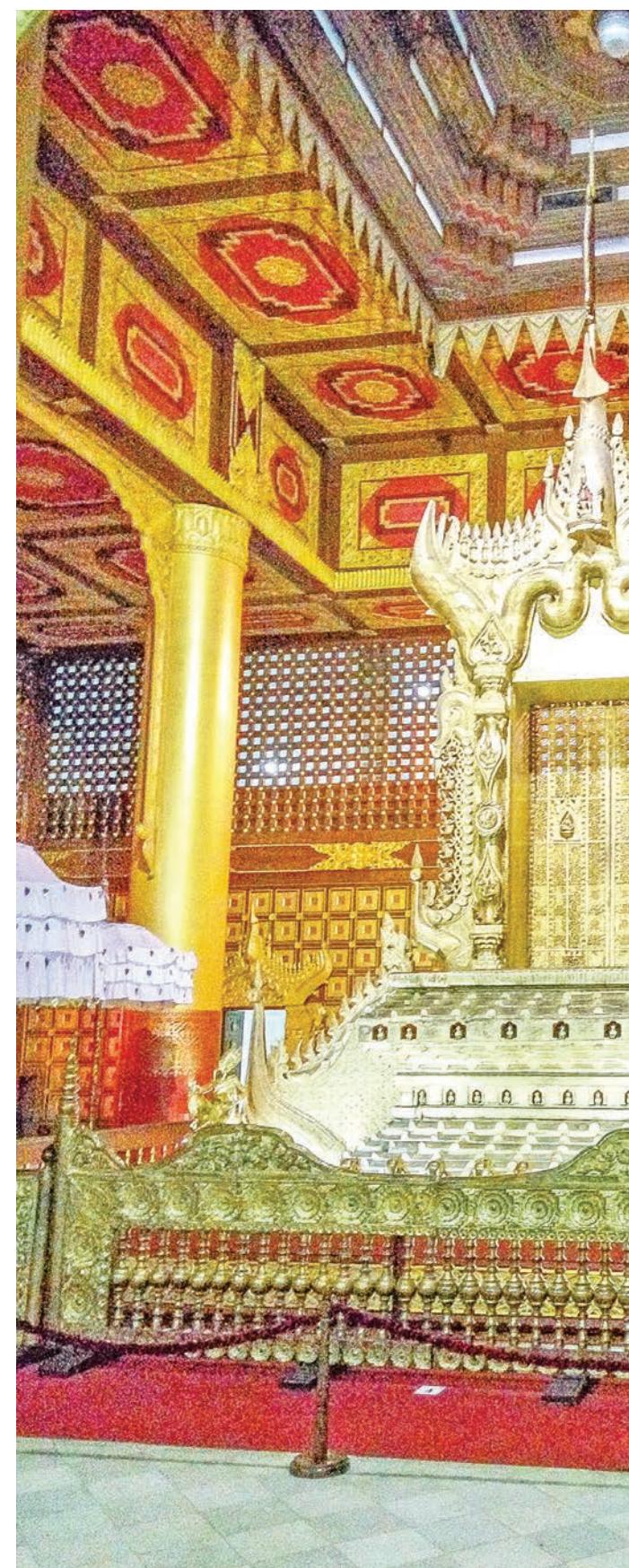
Agent For:  
**M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD**

# Royal appearances in right and left orders of Myanmar

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)  
Translated by Than Tun Aung



**Royal appearances.**



HERE remain a large number of royal appearances in the right and left orders in late Konbaung and Yadanabon eras as Myanmar's historical and cultural heritages. In 1885 when Myanmar lost its independence, the royal appearances and precious jewellery items lost under the rule of colonialists.

Among them, Myanmar regained 141 items of royal appearances including Thiha Thana throne from Kolkata Museum in the post-independence era, and these items were put on display at the National Museum (Yangon).

Shwebon Nidan compiled by Zeya Thinkhaya showed 26 items of royal appearances which took positions for both 13 items each of royal appearances in left and right orders. But, the National Museum displayed 17 items of royal appearances in the right side and 18 items in left.

## Thiha Thana throne

There were eight kinds of thrones on the list of royal appearances. Thiha Thana throne was located at ground tier-roofed hall and Zetawun Hall of the court,

Bhamaya Thana throne at the glass hall, Paduma Thana throne at west Zetawun hall, Hantha Thana throne at east Zetawun hall, Gaza Thana throne at Byetaik hall, Thinkha Thana throne at Laytha hall, Miga Thana throne at South Samok hall and Mayura Thana throne at North Samok hall. Currently, original Thiha Thana throne and duplicates for the remaining seven thrones can be observed at the National Museum (Yangon).

In Myanmar, Thiha Thana throne where the king sat in the trials of the court was the grandest and most splendid. Thiha Thana throne in Pali means the seat based on lion statues. It also means the best and noblest seat for the king. In the Konbaung era, the throne was placed at ground tier-roofed hall and Zetawun Hall.

The king and the queen sitting on Thiha Thana throne at ground tier-roofed hall accepted respects paid by royal families, Saophas and counsellors of the court on New Year day, start and end of Buddhist Lent. The ceremony of New Year day to pay respects was held on 40th days from Atet Day of Maha Thingyan festival, on the start of Buddhist Lent on 1st Waning of Waso and the end of Buddhist Lent on 1st Waning of Thadingyut.

At that time, the king and the queen sat on Thiha

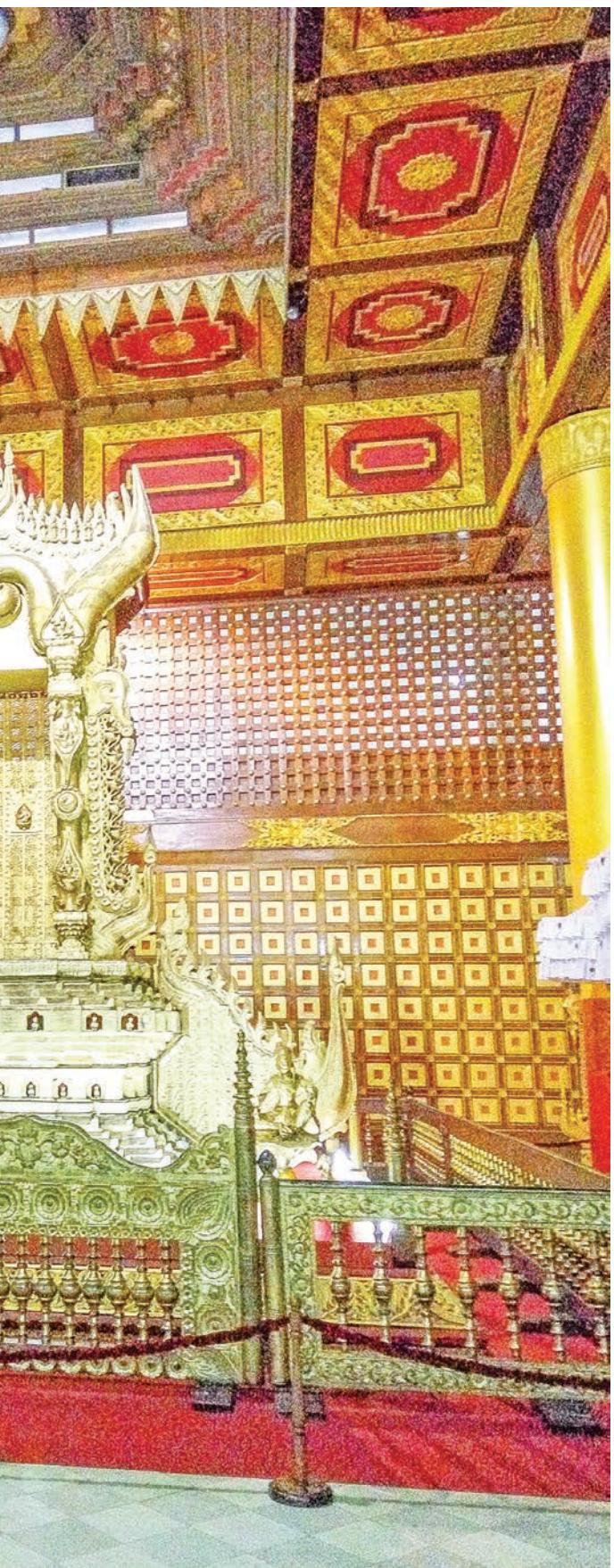
Thana throne flanked by four white royal umbrellas in both sides. The king sat on Thiha Thana throne in the ground hall while receiving foreign diplomats and taking oaths of the servants.

Thiha Thana throne placed at the royal court was sat by the king to release the orders and perform trials for judicial affairs. If the king did not attend it, the crown prince, the prince for the royal court or any minister, on behalf of the king, conducted trials of court while touching the throne by a hand. In fact, anyone was not allowed to sit on Thiha Thana throne except the king and the queen.

Thiha Thana throne from the foot to the top is 34.5 feet high, from the foot to the place of the queen, 5 feet and 11 inches high and the door, 7.5 feet high, according to the book on Myanmar's royal appearances written by veteran historian Dr Than Tun.

## Royal appearances

Display of white royal umbrellas and royal equipment in both right and left sides of Thiha Thana throne means royal appearances which centred Thiha Thana throne. The royal white folded paper mentioned the



**Thihathana throne.**

throne was flanked by Kambu and Sanda white umbrellas in the right side and Kanekkadan and Suriya white umbrellas in the left side. White umbrellas were made of textile decorated with the gold jingle bell, banyan leave, star, pearl, coral, diamond, emerald and ruby. Umbrella stock was 13 feet and three inches long.

The dictionary on Vocabulary of Royal Palace mentioned displays of royal appearances. In addition to royal white umbrellas, other umbrellas namely Paduma, Thamuti, Thamuddaraza and Withakyon were opened. Lotus betel box, the betel box based on lion statue, long boat-shaped betel container, the decorative motif of regalia, Kyatlya, shoes, slippers, yak fan, four-edged dagger, staff, jug based on lion statue, long-necked pot, chin supporter, iron stable and goblet were placed in the left side of the king.

Right royal appearances were betel clip, large long boat-shaped betel container, small quartz lotus, large quartz lotus, betel cup based on dragon statue, octagonal-shaped betel cup, large ornament, long-necked pot, goglet, a tray for drinking water, goblet, jug and jewellery decorated box, hard fan and royal multicolour flags.

Dancers and musicians were accommodated in sheds in both sides of the tier-roofed hall in addition to musical instruments for Anyeint troupe and Mon ethnic musical instruments. Ladder to the royal ground hall was protected in either side by guards against unconcerned persons except those involved in the royal appearances.

A total of 226 seats were displayed in the left side and 225 seats on the right side at the royal ceremonies. Ranks of the left side were higher than that of the right side.

#### **Left-wing of royal appearances**

Lotus betel box involved in left royal appearances were regalia of Yodaya king. It was used in Mandalay royal palace. It was made of gold for keeping a hand on it as well as for using as betel box. Long boat shaped betel container was decorated with jewellery items. The betel box based on lion statue was made of gold as regalia of King Vijayabahu of Sri Lanka.

The betel box decorated with reliefs of 12 zodiacal signs and pieces of ruby and gems on gold ornaments was called 12 zodiacal sign betel box. It was 18.5 inches high and mouth of the box, 20 inches wide.

A 1.92 feet high gold pot with floral designs was decorated with pieces of ruby which were presented by Linzin king to Pinya Taseeshin King.

Kyatlya was in the shape of a rectangular box, 17.23 inches high. The gold box was decorated with pieces of ruby which were regalia of Thaton's kings.

The royal shoes made of nine gems, 11.53 inches long is displayed the National Museum. The forehead of the shoes was made of gold. It was not real footware but was displayed for royal appearances. The 10.82 inches long slippers decorated with pieces of ruby and straps were filled with pieces of gold.

Yak fan's handle was decorated with gold and nine gems. The fan was made of yak hairs as a royal appearance of King U Aung Zeya. Its handle was 23 inches long, and Yak hairs were 16 inches long.

The four-edged dagger used by King Alaung Mintayar was displayed on the left wing. The iron dagger, 30 inches long, was installed with wooden handle kept in velvet decorated with red stones.

Gold jars were 15.5 inches high and 19 inches in diameter, decorated with pieces of the ruby. But, gold goblet, chin supporter, long the necked pot decorated with gold, ruby and diamond and staff were made as duplicates.

Tidantaka is tripod installed with handle for keeping a jug. Its base was gilt decorated with two lines of ruby pieces and the top, one line of ruby pieces. It was 18.11 inches in height and 0.98 inch in diameter.

#### **Right-wing of royal appearances**

Such wing comprised gold betel basket decorated with pieces of ruby which was equipment of Tagaung dynasty, the triple gold betel box, and the betel tray based on four dragons. They are displayed as duplicates at the National Museum.

Octagonal shaped betel boxes, 19 inches in height and 16 inches in diameter, were one of regalia for the crown prince to submit betel leaves to the king.

Long gold boat shaped betel container decorated with pieces of ruby was 21 inches in height and 24 inches in diameter. Another two equipment were gold lotus-shaped oil lamps which were regalia of King Patikkara presented to King Anawrahta, according to Shwebon Nidan.

The gold cup in shapes of sun and moon was 8.85 inches high and 11.8 inches wide. Its brim was decorated with pieces of the ruby. Goglet was 15.5 inches high and seven inches wide. Its lid was 17.5 inches in height and 6.5 inches in diameter. Spittoon and water pot stand and wine cup-shaped tray were seen as duplicates. Makan jar, 24.8 inches high and 9.5 inches wide, was made of

gold. A 28 inches high alms-bowl made of gold threads was decorated with pieces of ruby, emerald and pearl.

Despite no involvement, valuable gold wares, costumes, royal furniture, paintings and sculptures, wris, palm leaves and folded papers, emblems, royal letters and orders, knives and spears, tier-roofed buildings and vehicles remain as Myanmar cultural heritages.

Most of the royal appearances gathered at the National Museum were made in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were more than 100 years old. As equipment of royal appearances is displayed not only at home but at museums in other countries, these royal appearances uplift prestige of grand and splendid royal pieces of evidence of Myanmar.

**Reference:**  
*Royal appearances (Department of Archaeology and National Museum)*



## MFF joins AFC Social Responsibility Committee Meeting



The screen shows Myanmar Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw (right) joining the AFC Social Responsibility Committee Meeting online yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR Football Federation participated Asian Football Confederation Social Responsibility Committee Meeting yesterday, and officials discussed better development of football matters plus COVID-19 issues related with football sectors.

The AFC Social Responsibility Committee meeting of the AFC was held as an online meeting and Myanmar Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw, AFC General Secretary Dato' Windsor John and Committee members of the AFC participant countries representing the

Asian region joined the discussion.

The CSR committee meeting focused on the current issues of COVID 19 prevention and treatment in Asia and football authorities of the AFC pointed out the social activities of the confederation.

Officials also discussed the expansion of the CSR committee to make it stronger.

The submission of CSR committee decisions at the AFC Executive Committee meeting in Manama, Bahrain was further discussed. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Djokovic beats Zverev as Nadal sidelined by injury

MELBOURNE—Novak Djokovic fought past Alexander Zverev but it wasn't enough to stave off defeat for Serbia in the ATP Cup Friday, with Germany making the semi-finals alongside a Spanish team missing injured Rafael Nadal. The world number one, who is ramping up preparations to defend his Australian Open crown, was tested in his singles rubber before outlasting Zverev 6-7 (3/7), 6-2, 7-5. But the German got revenge in the deciding doubles, teaming with Jan-Lennard Struff to edge Djokovic and Nikola Cacic 7-6 (7/4), 5-7, 10-7 and ensure they made a last four

clash against Daniil Medvedev's Russia. Struff earlier beat Dusan Lajovic in the other singles tie. "It was so difficult to play against (Zverev) today. Missiles from the other side of the court, both first and second serve," said Djokovic, who led his country to the inaugural title last year. "He was going for it, not too many double faults. You've got to give him credit for being courageous and trying his best."

### Nadal missing again

Meanwhile, Nadal was once again missing from the Spanish team as they lost 2-1 to Greece.—AFP ■

## Referees in Spain likely to favour Real Madrid, says Pique

BARCELONA—Barcelona defender Gerard Pique has weighed in to a debate about refereeing by saying many officials in Spain were likely to favour his club's great rivals Real Madrid.

Pique, in an interview on YouTube show "Post United" on Thursday, said that if the vast majority of La Liga referees supported Real Madrid, they would naturally be partial to that team when refereeing their games.

The central defender, recovering from a long-term knee injury, was reacting to Spanish media reporting comments



Barcelona defender Gerard Pique. **PHOTO: AFP**

from former referee Eduardo Iturralde Gonzalez that many officials in Spain were Real Madrid fans. Iturralde said the split

between Real Madrid and Barca supporters on the officials' list was "90 per cent to 10 per cent".—AFP ■

## Liverpool team barred from entering Germany for Champions League match under Covid-19 rules

BERLIN—Liverpool will not be allowed to enter Germany for a Champions League match against RB Leipzig on Feb 16 because of strict entry rules imposed over the pandemic, the German interior ministry said on Thursday (Feb 4).

"German federal police informed RB Leipzig today that the described case does not meet the requirements for an exception" to the travel restrictions, the interior ministry said in a statement.

According to AFP sports subsidiary SID, Leipzig are now looking for an alternative location.

The Bundesliga club are set to host Premier League champions Liverpool in a Champions League last-16, first leg game but the planning for the match has been upended by Germany's recently updated travel restrictions. The new rules, slated to last until the day after the game, ban travellers from countries hit by new, more contagious coronavirus variants such as Britain.

Though there are some exceptions for medical workers and others in key professions, the interior ministry has repeatedly said that there are "no special provision for professional sportspeople".—AFP ■



Liverpool will not be allowed to enter Germany for a Champions League match against RB Leipzig on February 16 because of strict entry rules imposed over the pandemic. **PHOTO: PETER BYRNE/AFP**