Announcement of Union Election Commission
12 April 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Yame-thin Township in Mandalay Region.

2. The findings on voter lists of Yame-thin Township were released on 22-2-2021 and findings were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Township and numbers of polling stations</th>
<th>Township Sub-commission</th>
<th>List from Immigration department</th>
<th>Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards</th>
<th>Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC</th>
<th>Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>247 polling stations in Yame-thin Township of Mandalay Region</td>
<td>198,438</td>
<td>182,726</td>
<td>15,964</td>
<td>3,067</td>
<td>29,376</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Yame-thin Township of Mandalay Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators.

4. According to the inspection, 247 polling stations in Yame-thin Township took out 226,155 ballots and used 156,348 ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations and it found 6,321 missing ballots and 1,716 extra ballots which were not issued by UEC. Findings were as follows:

SEE PAGE-4

Ngapali beach being thronged with travellers on Thingyan second day

NGAPALI BEACH is being crowded with the travellers from across the country on the second day of Thingyan holiday.

The Ngapali beach is one of the popular beaches in Myanmar and it is located in Thandwe township, Rakhine State. Most of the travellers are visiting Ngapali beach during Thingyan holidays to relax and swim.

For the convenience of the travellers from across the country in Ngapali, the hotels and the restaurants at the beach are opened in accordance with the COVID-19 rules and regulations. The Ngapali beach was not opened during the last year Thingyan period because of the outbreak of COVID-19. Thus, the hotels and restaurants at the beach were also closed. Now, the beach is reopened during this year’s water festival period. The hotels and restaurants are also reopened under the COVID-19 rules and regulations.

Ngapali beach is a popular tourist destination and it is over 4 miles away from Thandwe town. The beach is one of the most attractive places for the local people and the foreign travellers.

The name “Ngapali” was given to a little village in Thandwe District in 1826, after the First Anglo-Burmese War, by Italians who reached there.

According to them, the beach is so similar to a beach in Napoli, a city in Italy and the name became “Ngapali” on the Rakhine people’s tongue. — District IPRD/GNLM
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs
   (a) Building of a Union based on democracy and federalism in practising genuine disciplined multiparty democracy in a full fairness manner
   (B) Emphasizing of restoration of eternal peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)
   (c) Continuous practising of the “principle” of peaceful co-existence among countries by holding up the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy

2. Economic affairs
   (a) Further development of production based on agriculture and livestock breeding through modern techniques and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
   (b) Stability of market economy and inviting international investments to develop the economy of entire ethnic people
   (c) Encouragement of local businesses to create employment opportunities to be able to produce many products of the State

3. Social affairs
   (a) For ensuring of dynamism of Union spirit which is genuine patriotic spirit
   (b) Following customs and traditions of all ethnic nationalities and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national characters
   (c) Enhancement of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

GTC, GTI under Technical, Vocational Education and Training Department of Education Ministry to open third-year courses, GTHS, second-year courses

GOVERNMENT Technological Colleges and Government Technical Institutes under the Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training of the Ministry of Education will open the third-year courses, the final years of three-year diploma courses of AGTI and the Government Technical High Schools, second-year courses as of 5 May 2021.

Plan to reopen final-year courses, master’s courses (written test) opened at universities, degree colleges, colleges under Higher Education Department of Education Ministry

UNIVERSITIES, degree colleges and colleges under the department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education will reopen the final-year courses and master’s courses (written test) which were conducted in the 2019-2020 academic year, as of 5 May 2021.

Universities students hold incense grinding festival and sacred Buddha bathing ceremony

A ceremonial procession is seen for incense grinding festival and sacred bathing of Buddha images in Sittway.

STUDENTS from various universities collaborated under the leadership of the University social association (Sittway) to celebrate the Incense Grinding Festival and the ceremony of Sacred Bathing Buddha Images yesterday afternoon on 12 April in Sittway.

The festival and the ceremony is annually held to promote friendship, unity and traditional cultures among the university students.

With the collected Thanaka paste from the incense grinding Festival and the teachers and students' contributions, they toured the town and bathed the Buddha Images and donated offerings to the venerable monks at Pyinnya Linkara monastery on 13 April.

Moreover, the incense grinding festival and the Ceremony of Sacred Bathing to Buddha Images are also celebrated by wards and Sittway Township associations.

Rakhine ethnic nationalities usually celebrate the Thingyan water festival only after the Sacred Bathing Ceremony to the Buddha Images. The ceremony is held on the second day of the Thingyan festival. The incense grinding ceremony is held on the first day of the Thingyan festival.

During the incense grinding festival, girls bring the stone slab to the festival place and grind the incense happily. During that time, men play traditional drum and sing Rakhine traditional songs, and aged people also offer traditional foods and drinks.

On the second day of Thingyan, Rakhine women in beautiful traditional dress take the scented liquids and offerings. The men play the traditional drum, sing songs and dance on the way to the pagodas. The Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival has started following the traditional culture only after returning from the Buddha Images Bathing Ceremony.—Tin Tun (IPRD)

Locals celebrate Thingyan water festival in Sittway

THE city of Sittway is alive with people celebrating the second day of Thingyan (water festival) yesterday afternoon.

Although there are no water pavilions, they have built traditional Rakhine nipa palm leaves pavilions in front of their houses and are throwing water at one another. Families and groups of people are also enjoying the splash of water during the tour around the city.

“It has been two years that we couldn’t celebrate the Thingyan festival, our Rakhine State is in peace this year and we can enjoy the festival as the COVID-19 disease is almost non-existent, that is why we came out to play with water,” said Ma Shwe Yin Thu, a resident of Sittway.

The roads in Sittway town are full of people who are celebrating the water festival as well as people in respective wards are also building traditional water pavilions and splashing water. —Tin Tun (IPRD)/GNLM

Festival revellers are seen enjoying Thingyan yesterday.
Announcement

SOME books and journals not included in the list of books and periodicals officially allowed by the Ministry of Information under the Printing and Publishing Law (2014) are being illegally published as of 11 April 2021. It is announced that action will be taken against anyone who operates the journal works without a permit and provides assistance according to the existing law.

Ministry of Information
(14.4.2021)

Thingyan celebration held with joy in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Nay Pyi Taw Council area became alive with teeming crowds on the second day of Thingyan (Akyar). The people kept Sabbath at the pagodas, including Nay Pyi Taw Upatasanti Pagoda and the monasteries.

The people also visited famous places like Hlay Khwin Taung beach resort, Kyi Taung jetty and Awai Yar Dam in Kyi Taung Village-tract of Zeyathiri Township.

During the Thingyan holiday, the officials take patrol or security measures to offer a safe environment for the visitors.

A visitor to Hlay Khwin Taung beach resort said, “We came here from Pyinmana. There are many visitors here like us. As I am staff, I am so glad to spend my holidays with my family. I also thank the officials of the beach resort for their security measures. May all Myanmar people be wealthy and happy in this New Year.” Similarly, the residents constructed water-throwing pavilions and some offered Satuditha in respective townships, wards and villages.

Myanmar Thingyan symbolizes the washing away of the previous year’s ills and sins in preparation for the New Year’s goodness. Sprinkling water on other people is also intended to wash away one’s sins of the previous year. — Naing Aung/ GNLM

PHOTO: AYE HTEIN

Water-splashing festival in Hlay Khwin Taung. PHOTO: AYE HTEIN

Water-throwing festival in Kyi Taung. PHOTO: AYE HTEIN
Announcement of Union Election Commission
12 April 2021

FROM PAGE 1

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Yamethin Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/village-tract</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the Ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Intine Village-tract</td>
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<td>2,480</td>
<td>1,072</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Shinwinkanungone Village-tract</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>441</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Wayyantaw Village-tract</td>
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<td>3,800</td>
<td>2,287</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Bywtgyi ilage-tract</td>
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<td>1,007</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>YayOo Village-tract</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Hluanankov Village-tract</td>
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<td>3,150</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Kanewel Village-tract</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,109</td>
<td>891</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Ushigone Village-tract</td>
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<td>1,865</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Ushikan Village-tract</td>
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<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Zipyygone Village-tract</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>3,118</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Findings were as follows:

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Putao and 8. Of 68 Ward/Village-tracts in Yamethin Township, it found extra use of ballots in 1 Ward and 4 Village-tracts and also found missing ballots at 1 Ward and 32 Village-tracts.

5. There are only lists of issued ballot papers with Form (11a) to Ward/Village-tract election sub-commission by township sub-commissions and the Ward/Village-tract commission did not have the lists of granted ballots with Form (11A) and it was announced as extra/shortage lists of ward/village-tract.

6. There were 22 additional voters in Form (1) book of No (1) polling station in Yaw Oo Village-tract of Yamethin Township and of 22 voters, 21 were submitted to township election sub-commission and the remaining 11 voters were not submitted to there and they were put on the list with handwriting and these 11 voters cast their votes.

7. The Ward/Village-tract election sub-commission did not return a total of 1,285 ballots – 100 from Ywaw Thae Hkawng Village-tract, 350 from West Gwaw Gone Village-tract, 50 from Wat Phyu Taung Village-tract, 50 from Kamma Village-tract, 140 from Ywaw Than Lal Thar Village-tract, 100 from Taung Kan Gyi Village-tract, 150 from Thaik Myaung Village-tract, 200 from Zee Phyu Gone Village-tract and 137 from unknown Ward/Village-tract, to the respective poll heads in accordance with the law, rule and instructions. They returned only after the election.

8. Of 68 Ward/Village-tracts in Yamethin Township, it found extra use of ballots in 1 Ward and 4 Village-tracts and also found missing ballots at 1 Ward and 32 Village-tracts.

Findings were as follows:

- They returned only after the election.
- Those involved in voting times holding one CSC.
- There were 6 Ward/Village-tracts of Kachin State.
- The announcement of Union Election Commission did not have the lists of granted ballots with Form (11A) and it was announced as extra/shortage lists of ward/village-tract.
- They returned only after the election.
- Ward/Village-tract separately handover ballots 1,285 1,285
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- Ward/Village-tract separately handover ballots 1,285 1,285

Announcement of Union Election Commission
13 April 2021

1. Regarding the Multi-Party General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Putao and Machanbaw townships of Kachin State.

2. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Township and numbers of polling stations to</th>
<th>List from Immigration department</th>
<th>Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards</th>
<th>Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CS</th>
<th>Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>48 polling stations in Putao of Kachin State</td>
<td>39,368</td>
<td>35,404</td>
<td>1,422</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Announcement of Union Election Commission
13 April 2021

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<td>35,404</td>
<td>1,422</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Putao and Machanbaw townships of Kachin State together with the respective township election sub-committee, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators in accordance with the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.

4. According to the inspection, a total of 65 polling stations in these two townships took out 52,877 ballots and used 35,848 ballots. It left 16,964 ballots instead of 17,029 ballots. The difference was 70 ballots and it found 5 extra ballots. Findings were as follows:

**Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township**

**Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Putao Township**

A total of 48 polling stations in 11 Wards and 14 Village-tracts of Putao Township in Putao District of Kachin State took out 45,575 ballots and used 30,884 ballots. It left only 14,630 ballots instead of 14,691. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

5. Findings were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward/village tract</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the Ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Ward/village tract ballots</td>
<td>40,600</td>
<td>30,481</td>
<td>10,119</td>
<td>10,058</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Township Remaining ballots</td>
<td>4,955</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>4,572</td>
<td>4,572</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45,575</td>
<td>30,884</td>
<td>14,691</td>
<td>14,630</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Machanbaw Township

A total of 17 polling stations in 4 Wards and 11 Village-tracts of Machanbaw Township in Putao District of Kachin State took out 7,302 ballots and used 4,964 ballots. It left only 2,338 ballots instead of 2,334. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

7. Findings were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward/village tract</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the Ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Ward/village tract ballots</td>
<td>7,302</td>
<td>4,964</td>
<td>2,338</td>
<td>2,334</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Machanbaw Township

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

**Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Machanbaw Township**

According to the inspection, a total of 17 polling stations in 4 Wards and 11 Village-tracts of Machanbaw Township in Putao District of Kachin State took out 7,302 ballots and used 4,964 ballots. It left 2,338 ballots instead of 2,334. Findings were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward/village tract</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the Ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Ward/village tract ballots</td>
<td>4,964</td>
<td>2,334</td>
<td>2,338</td>
<td>2,334</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. The township election sub-committee must have 5 ballots but it found only 5 ballots during the inspection and no four ballots were missing. Findings were as follows:

**Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Machanbaw Township**

The township election sub-committee must have 528 ballots but it found only 524 ballots during the inspection and so four ballots were missing. Findings were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward/village tract</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the Ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Ward/village tract ballots</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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5 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 April, total figure rises to 142,610

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 142,610 after 5 new cases were reported on 14 April 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 131,879 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Union Election Commission
Those spreading false news to affect State stability charged under Section 505-A

THE following celebrities and people have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for intentionally committing incitements to the government employees to join CDM to affect government mechanism and for spreading information showing their support for unlawful CRPH including fake news and other information to unrest riots and threaten the public on the social media.

The list of people charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code

<table>
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Action will be taken against those who admit the offenders, and list of remaining offenders will be released. —MNA
Files opened against medical doctors who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

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

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<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
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Among them, Dr Aung Tun Win (specialist), Dr Gam Min Htet (specialist), Dr Lyan Lin Htwe (specialist), Dr Banyar (specialist) of Bhamo People's Hospital (200-Bed) and Dr Yan Naing Moe (specialist) of Loikaw People's Hospital participated in CDM activities without performing medical treatments at assigned hospitals but gave medical treatments at private hospitals/clinics according to the documentary photos.

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those medical doctors charged, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those medical doctors and health staff for supporting the CDM participants.
Thi Vyan: The festival of goodwill and loving-kindness

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Tagu is the first month of Myanmar 12-month calendar, and its astrological name is Mesha (Aries). Of the flowers that bloom in this month gant-gaw (Mesua ferrea) is traditionally regarded as the flower of Tagu. Myanmar people celebrate the national festival every month and the festival is called the Thi Vyan festival.

The purpose of the festival is to cultivate a spirit of goodwill and loving-kindness. At 11:00 am on the day of the new year, all the heads of departments must come to the head office of the region. The chief minister will announce the new year and道理 to the employees. Then a meeting is held with the employees to get the feedback for the month of Tagu. The Thi Vyan festival is celebrated on the new year.

The registrant carries the name of the person who has registered and the name of the person who has been selected. This is the essence of Thi Vyan.

The registrant and the registrar then carry out the official duty of the registrant. The registrant and the registrar then carry out the official duty of the registrant. The registrar then carries the name of the person who has registered and the name of the person who has been selected. This is the essence of Thi Vyan.

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Five future programmes of State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted to carry out tasks that should be done, including inspection of voting lists in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken for the prevention of current infectious COVID-19 with added momentum.
3. Efforts will be made to recover businesses that faced loss caused by COVID-19 in various ways as quickly as possible.
4. Emphasis will be placed on restoring eternal peace in the entire nation in line with agreements from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible.
5. When missions will be accomplished in accord with provisions of the state of emergency, a free and fair multiparty democracy election will be held in accordance with the Constitution (2008), and further tasks will be undertaken to hand over State duty to the winning party meeting the standards of democracy.

Thingyan: The festival of goodwill and loving-kindness........

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OPINION/BUSINESS

15 APRIL 2021

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Man Weing border closure affects Muse trade

MYANMAR'S Muse border trade came to a standstill following the closure of the Man Weing border checkpoint triggered by the detection of the coronavirus cases in the border area, according to the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

A Myanmar citizen who tested positive for COVID-19 was found in Kyaing Oung precious stone market on 29 March. It prompted China to restrict border access at the Man Weing checkpoint, a major border crossing between Muse and Kyaing Oung areas.

Over 180 trucks from Myanmar struck in Kyaing Oung, Yunnan Province were allowed to depart on 11 April, said Muse traders.

"Man Weing post has been closed down since 12:30 pm of 30 March. Man Weing is the important cross-border point between Myanmar and Ruili, China. Following the detection of coronavirus case in Kyaing Oung border; the Ruili-Kyaing Oung river crossing is also closed. The coronavirus tests and vaccination are now offered in Kyaing Oung," Vice-Chair U Min Thein of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre elaborated.

Consequently, there is no trade flowing in and out of the country via the Muse-Man Weing border, and Myanmar’s Muse border came to a halt. However, Kyinsan Kyawt and Wan Ding posts give the green light to over 400 watermelon trucks.

Before the Man Weing checkpoint closure, Myanmar daily sent about 2,000 tonnes of rice and 40,000 broken rice bags to China. This Man Weing post plays a pivotal role in trading between Myanmar and China. Myanmar exports rice, broken rice, onion, chilli pepper, pulses and beans, food commodities and fishery products to China. In contrast, electrical appliance, equipment, medical device, household goods, construction materials and food products are imported into the country via Man Weing. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, about 500 trucks were daily flowing in and out of the Myanmar-China border Man Weing. At present, Man Weing post remains closed amid the heightened coronavirus containment measures.

The closure of the Man Weing checkpoint wreaked havoc on the Muse trade. Trade value through the Muse land border plummeted to US$2.47 billion between 1 October and 2 April in the current financial year 2020-2021 from $2.6 billion recorded in the corresponding period of last FY.

Traders and superiors and teachers, bathing and shampooing the aged, cleaning up one’s home and surrounding, and throwing cool scented water at the passerby to cleanse him. Thingyan is a Myanmar national festival held on a grand scale, in which all Myanmar nationalities, regardless of race, class, and religion, participate and revel in water pouring.

More than that, Thingyan has assumed an international character since the days of King Bodawpaya (A.D. 1782-1819).

"On the 12th of April, the last day of the Birman year, we were invited by the Maywoon to bear a part ourselves in a sport that is universally practised through out the Birman dominions on the concluding day of their annual cycle. To wash away the impurities of the past and commence the new year free from sin, women on this day are accustomed to throwing water on every man they meet, which the men have the privilege of retorting; this licence gives rise to a great deal of harmless merriment, particularly the young women, who armed with larger syringes and flagons, endeavour to wet every man that goes along the street, and, in their turn, receive a wetting with perfect good humour; nor is the smallest indecency ever manifested in this or in any other of their sports. Dirty water is never cast; a man is not allowed to lay hold of a woman, but may fling as much water over her as he pleases provided she has been the aggressor; but if a woman warns a man that she does not mean to join in the di versified retort, it is considered an avowal of pregnancy, and she passes without molestation".

'About an hour before sunset, we went to the Maywoon's and found that his lady had provided plentifully to give us a wet reception. In the hall were placed three large china jars, full of water; with bows and ladles to fling it. Each of us, on entering, had a bottle of rosewater presented to him, a little of which we in turn poured into the palm of the Maywoon’s hand, who sprinkled it over his own vest of fine flowered muslin; the lady then made her appearance at the door and gave us to understand that she did not mean to join in the sport herself, but made her eldest daughter, a pretty child, in the nurse’s arms, pour from a golden cup some rosewater mixed with sandal-wood, first over her father, and then over each of the English gentleman; this was a signal for the sport to begin. We were prepared, being dressed in linen waistcoats. From ten to twenty women; young and middle-aged rushed into the hall from the inner apartments, who surrounded and deluged without mercy four men ill able to maintain so unequal a contest. The Maywoon was soon driven from the field; but Mr Wood having got possession of one of the jars, we were enabled to preserve our ground till the water was exhausted; it seemed to afford them great diversion, especially if we appeared at all distressed by the quantity of water flung in our faces. All parties being tired and completely drenched, we went home to change our clothes and in the way met many damsels who would willingly have renewed the sport; they, however, were afraid to begin without receiving encouragement from us, not knowing how it might be taken by strangers; but they assailed Baba-sheen and his Birman attendants with little ceremony. No inconvenient consequences were to be apprehended from the wetting; the weather was favourable, and we ran no risk of taking cold. Havin’ put on my dry clothes, we returned to the Maywoon’s and were entertained with a dance and puppet show that lasted till eleven". (Michael Symes, An Account of an Embassy to the Kingdom of Ava, London 1800, pp. 178-180)
The cultivation of mixed crops of Theehmwe banana and calabash has met with success in Kyaukton village, Minbu (Saku) township, Magway region and the farmers are earning family income.

The nursery banana plants are cultivated five feet apart in between.

Then, the calabash seeds are dropped in the banana plants so that there is no space between banana trees. The yellow leaves and the leaves that are thought to be infected should be cleaned by putting them in the trash or burning them to prevent the plant buds.

Similarly, the yellow banana leaves should be gutted regularly. In summer, the plants need to put in irrigation water once a week. Banana plants need to put in irrigation and watering to boost export under Ministry of Commerce.

While exports were estimated at $7.8 billion, imports were valued at $7.5 billion this FY. Compared to the FY2019-2020, exports showed a drop of over $1.7 billion, while imports fell by $2.85 billion.

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 political changes.

The neighbouring countries tightened the border security and limited trading time to contain the virus’s spread. For maritime trade, disruption in the logistic sector, some ocean liners’ suspension, and the pandemic-induced container shortage somehow scaled down the maritime trade.

“|
The lack of money in circulation due to the closure of private banks decreases economic efficiency,” an exporter stressed.

Political uncertainties, reduced mobility derail the main contributors to the economy, and certain restrictions on banking, businesses’ operations, logistics, and network services, World Bank stated.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods. At the same time, it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country’s export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is endeavouring to boost export under World Trade Organization’s rules, enhance value-added production and competitiveness, reduce export barriers and provide trade financing services.

The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. The country mainly imports essential goods, construction materials, capital goods, hygienic material and supporting products for export promotion and import substitution.

Myanmar’s trade deficit was pegged at $1.3 billion in the 2019-2020FY, $1.14 billion in the 2018-2019 FY, $1.3 billion in the previous mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), $3.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY, $5.3 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and $5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization.

Under the National Planning Law for the Financial Year 2020-2021, Myanmar intends to reach the export target of US$16 billion and import at $18 billion.

The Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its policy reform depending on the State and people’s requirements.

Moreover, a series of trade liberalization and openness for policy development have been introduced for enhancing a more viable trade environment.

The private sector plays a prominent role in Myanmar’s market-oriented economic system. The ministry is highlighting free and fair trade, ensuring product safety and quality goods and services. — MM/GNLM
He identified only one reason why the State Administration Council’s Chairman wanted to open the schools because schools were closed during the COVID-19 period, affecting the students and parents. Although refresher courses are open for reopening schools, people who participated in the CDM campaign are putting pressure on the teachers. We have seen things that are not in our Myanmar society.

On the Indian side, $7 million were exported from Tamu and could not be imported. At the trading camp in Myeik, exports $34 million and imports $6.17 million. On the Laos side, there is not much trade from Kyai-klat. He replied that although business and commerce were less than before, they were operating normally.

35. Correspondent U Thwin Htoo Aung pointed out that some trade circles have said that foreign trade has been stagnant during the State Administration Council’s tenure. He asked about the current situation of foreign trade.

36. Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said he would talk about trade according to statistics. Practically speaking, trucks are moving on the Yangon-Mandalay old route. According to the provisional accounts for February and March 2021, while the State Administration Council was in charge, the export value was US$ 1,774 million, and the import value is $ 1,772 million. The trade volume was $3.546 million, and the trade surplus was over $ 2 million. At present, most of the trade at border crossings with neighbouring China was about US$ 438 million in exports and US$ 171 million in imports between February and March. The trade volume is US$ 609 million, 63 per cent from Muse border trade camp, 6 per cent from Lwejel, 18 per cent from Chinswehaw, 10 per cent from Kampai in total. In trading with Thailand, $352 million in exports and $104 million in imports. The trade volume is $492 million through the trading camps in Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee-khee and Mawlaung. As with Bangladesh, $5 million was imported from Sittway during the first two months of this year without any export.

37. Correspondent U Thwin Htoo Aung further mentioned that refresher courses are being provided to teachers before reopening basic education schools. He asked what percentage of teachers are in basic education; whether it is effective or not, and the difficulties during the training and planning to open schools.

38. Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said he would answer this question as much as he knew, and the Ministry of Education would add more information. He identified only one reason why the State Administration Council’s Chairman wanted to open the schools because schools were closed during the COVID-19 period, affecting the students and parents. Although refresher courses are open for reopening schools, people who participated in the CDM campaign are putting pressure on the teachers. We have seen things that are not in our Myanmar society. In the respectable and lovely
tradition of Myanmar people, teachers are regarded as one of the five infinite venerables. It is now seen that students are insulting the teachers. As per experience, there are not many countries that respect teachers as the way Myanmar people do.

He said if they appreciate the gratitude of those who educated them, he would like to ask why they are insulting the teachers.

As for difficulties, there are schools that were set on fire because of the opening of the refresher course. He said he would like to say to the teachers that there are 50 per cent and more of the teachers who are attending the refresh-

course. Some teachers are not able to come due to many difficulties such as attacking by students, but he said he believed they would absolutely succeed. As for teachers, basic education needs teaching, unlike universities, and it is a community where no self-study can be done without instruction. He would like, on behalf of the State Administration Council, to express words of thanks to those who attend the students’ education.

39. A Ministry of Education spokesperson added the coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports for the COVID-19 prevention at schools, preparation to reopen the schools, attendance of more than 50-per-cent teachers, difficulties for teachers to come to the course due to regional issues and the successful conducting of the course for the rest.

40. Dr Soe Myint Oo, Editor-in-Charge of Myanmar Public Press New Agency, raised the first question. After passing through 10 years as a democratic nation, patriotism has weakened a lot. Later, during the second parliamentary term, our country’s culture came with many distortions, and national characteristics have become very weak. Therefore, during the State Administration Council’s time, how does the Tatmadaw plan to promote and protect patriotism, national culture, and national characteristics? He also asked if there were any plans to hold traditional performing arts competitions again.

41. Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said there are different ideas about patriotism. For some liberal people, they see patriotism as a danger. He quoted the former Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yu, who is considered a realist in Southeast Asia. As he put it, patriotism is, in fact, a “place to cast the anchor”. No matter how big the ship, if it loses its place to cast the anchor, it will not be able to stand.

When we talk about patriotism, we often talk about the era of globalization. It is acceptable that news, trade, education and technology are spreading in the age of globalization. However, which country accepts the spread of people? Does the so-called democratization was really like hell in the COVID-19 outbreak. But the national response is more critical. As they have better national resilience, they do not need to worry too much.

42. Dr Soe Myint Oo, Editor-in-Charge of Myanmar Public Press New Agency, said that our country’s media were taken action. However, some foreign media outlets have been found to be inciting false news. He asked how it is planned to prevent such information from flowing into the country.

43. Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said that it is impossible to prevent, even modern countries can’t do, regarding the flow of information. There are various ways – traffic on the internet and flow from air. He said he does not think it is the right way to prevent them from entering the country. The main right thing to do is build and promote the strong national identity in the people’s minds. It means that it is more important to promote it.

There is very little good writing about China in the world media. Suppose you look at every news item, whether it is right or wrong, including Myanmar media outlets who reported that Wuhan’s situation was really like hell in the COVID-19 outbreak. But the national response is more critical. As they have better national resilience, they do not need to worry too much.

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The number one thing in the news media sector is that the State-owned media and local media must work hard to spread the truths about the news media, and we must continue to focus on nationalism not only at the State-level but also at the national-level.

TO BE CONTINUED.
**KIA collects money, destroys vehicles in Tanai**

**Rioters escalate terrorist acts in townships across country**

RIOTERS escalated terrorist acts in the townships in respective regions and states across the countries. They have attacked the security forces with grenades and live ammunition, setting homemade mines on public places and roads and setting fire on the people’s houses.

On 13 April, a mine explosion on Tagaung (6) street, No. (5) Ward, South Okkalapa Township, occurred in the afternoon and security forces went and inspected the area. A man riding on a motorcycle threw a homemade mine on the street, and it was reportedly exploded. Similarly, three men came and threw three mines that exploded in front of the ward administration office in No (4) Ward, South Okkalapa Township, at around 2 pm. However, they didn’t harm anyone or anything.

At about 8:15 pm on 13 April, two security force members were attacked by two men with live ammunition at the No (2) branch of the Global Treasure Bank in Zayit ward, Dawei Township. During the inspection around the area, one 91 grenade, 22 cartridges and two shells were recovered.

At about 4:30 am yesterday, the Golden Point tea shop owned by U Maung Nge, 54, son of U Kyi Shwin, who lives in Kyitaupaung village in Singu Township, was attacked by a group of rioters. They splashed petrol into the shop and threw a homemade mine, which exploded, and the fire broke out. Although the shop was burnt, no one was hurt.

The two homemade mines were also thrown into the shop owned by a civilian in Chaung Gyi village, Thabeikkyin Township, at about 4:30 am. One mine was exploded in front of the shop, and another was on the house’s roof. Two people were injured due to the explosion and sent to the Tatmadaw hospital for medical treatment. At the same time, a group of people came and threw a mine to the house of U Myint Win, 52, son of U Thaung Kyi, who lives in the same village. The mine exploded on the roof of the house but didn’t harm anyone.

Similarly, at around 8:05 am yesterday, three landmines planted in the ground by terrorists exploded while the security forces’ vehicles were stopping near the checkpoint in Monywa town. The security forces had to deactivate one mine found at the mine explosion area near the trash can on Thitaw road, Yone Gyi ward, Monywa Town, at about 8:35 am.

It is reported that action will be taken against those perpetrators as soon as possible according to the law. — MNA

**Rioters arrested, weapons used in riots seized in Tachilek, Dawbon**

ETHNIC armed group Kachin Independence Army (KIA) collected money from the vehicles and set the four rice trucks on fire in Tanai of Kachin State. About 30 members of KIA (leader is under scrutiny) stopped and inspected the vehicles on Tanai-Myitkyina road near Rawam hillock in Tain Kauk Village of Tanai Township at 3 pm on 13 April. If the drivers showed some documents of paying tax to them, KIA collected K40,000 per truck. If the drivers cannot offer such documents, KIA gathered K250,000 per truck and K50,000 per small vehicle. They collected money from a small car and three large trucks on that day.

That team also burnt four rice trucks, including three 12-wheel trucks and one 18-wheel truck in the forest about 1 mile from Tanai-Myitkyina road. It caused about K175 million in damages to four vehicles and about K38.4 million worth of damages for 1,200 rice bags.

The Tatmadaw convoy conducted security operations at the place where KIA collected money and destroyed the rice trucks. — MNA

**The sites are shown where KIA collects money and destroyed the rice trucks.**

**The combined team compris- ing the Police Force of Tachilek Township confiscated the materials used in making air guns on “Doh Nyi Naung” passenger bus at Mal Yan checkpoint in Tachilek on 8 April. The combined team received the information about the owner of these materials and contacted Win Zaw Oo, 37, to take the parcels back as the bus line suspends opera- tion during this period on 13 April. When the suspect came to take the parcels, the police arrested him.**

Similarly, the security forces raided the house of Win Zaw Oo in Wan Mine Village in the afternoon and seized 1 air gun, 1 gas gun, 3 gas cylinders and 4 lead balls.

Moreover, the combined team raided the house of Aung Kyaw Soe, 46 in Aung Chan Tha Ward of Dawbon Township on 13 April midnight and arrested him together with weapons used in riots.

Action will be taken against those arrested together with the weapons and other materials used in riots according to the law. — MNA/ GNLM
Report on Capitol Hill riot criticizes police preparation, response

CAPITOL Police had more intelligence than was previously known ahead of the January 6 riot at Congress but were instructed not to use their most aggressive tactics to repel the mob, a report cited late Tuesday by US media said.

The scathing 104-page report by the Capitol Police’s internal inspector general, Michael Bolton, concluded that officers did not prepare for or respond adequately to the assault, The New Times and CNN reported.

A congressional hearing on the report is scheduled for Thursday.

Capitol Police failed to prepare properly even though they had intelligence warnings that Trump supporters who believed his claims that the November election was stolen from him posed a threat, the report states.

Police were told to refrain from using their most aggressive crowd control tools such as stun grenades, it said. Three days before the assault the Capitol Police received an intelligence assessment warning of violence by Trump supporters. —AFP

Swiss strike gold with world’s smallest commemorative coin

The miniature coin, Switzerland’s mint announced Tuesday, features the Swiss citizen Steinmetz sticking his tongue out has been crowned as the world’s smallest commemorative coin. —AFP

A tiny Swiss gold coin bearing a picture of Albert Einstein sticking his tongue out has been crowned as the world’s smallest commemorative coin, Switzerland’s mint announced Tuesday. The miniature coin, with a face value of a quarter of a Swiss franc (€0.23), measures just 2.96 millimetres in diameter and weighs only 0.063 grammes.

“Guinness World Records has recognized the quarter-franc gold coin issued in 2020 as the world’s smallest commemorative coin,” Swissmint said in a statement.

Claiming inspiration from the “determination and patience” of theoretical physicist Einstein,谁知道 who died in 1955, the coin features the Swiss citizen in his famous pose on the obverse. The reverse shows the nominal value of the coin, the Swiss cross and the inscription Helvetia – the Latin name for Switzerland, which is used on coins in the four-language European nation.

However, casual observers should not expect to see much. “The world’s smallest commemorative coin is decorated with images that cannot be discerned with the naked eye.” —AFP

By rail, road or on foot, migrants flow across Mexico towards US

GREYSSI Venegas devours her first meal in three days at a Mexican shelter near the railroad where migrants risk their lives clinging to freight trains on their grueling journey north to the United States. An unexpected pregnancy has complicated her already tortuous trip from Honduras by rail, road and on foot with her seven-year-old son Eduard.

“Yesterday I felt ill. I didn’t want to eat. So I asked for a pregnancy test,” said the 23-year-old, who has a cough and dark circles around her eyes from fatigue.

Venegas scraped together around $100 for her second attempt to reach the United States in three years, but the money had already run out by the time she reached Mexico. She set off from the Honduran city of San Pedro Sula on March 21 and walked almost 300 kilometres to eastern Guatemala with her son, before traveling more than 12 hours by road.

Then she crossed part of southern Mexico on foot before riding a freight train northwards with other undocumented Central American migrants fleeing violence and poverty. —AFP

Myanma Port Authority “Notice of High Tide

Myanmar Port Authority

“Notice of High Tide”

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Life’s a Bitche for French town censored by Facebook

THE French town of Bitche celebrated its return to Facebook on Tuesday, three weeks after censors took down its page following an adverse analysis” by its algorithms.

“The world’s smallest commemorative coin is decorated with images that cannot be discerned with the naked eye.” —AFP

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Immunized’ Muslim pilgrims in Mecca as Ramadan begins

PILGRIMS immunized against Covid-19 circled Islam’s holiest site in Saudi Arabia’s Mecca city Tuesday as they performed the year-round umrah pilgrimage on the first day of the fasting month of Ramadan. Mask-clad worshipers entered Mecca’s Grand Mosque in batches to perform the ritual of circling the sacred Kaaba, a cubic structure towards which Muslims around the world pray, along socially distanced paths. Only immunised pilgrims are eligible for permits to perform the pilgrimage and to attend prayers in the Grand Mosque during Ramadan, the hajj and umrah ministry announced earlier this month.

According to the ministry, three categories of people are considered “immunized” – those who have received two doses of coronavirus vaccine, those administered a single dose at least 14 days prior, and people who have recovered from the infection.

The policy has effectively raised the Grand Mosque’s capacity during Ramadan to accommodate 50,000 umrah pilgrims and 100,000 worshippers per day, according to state media.

It is unclear whether the policy, which comes amid an uptick in coronavirus infections in the kingdom, would be extended to the annual hajj pilgrimage later this year.

In late July last year, the kingdom hosted a downsized hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam and a must for able-bodied Muslims at least once in their lifetime. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

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ONE Championship: Lee to face Nastyukhin for Lightweight title today

CHRISTIAN Lee will fight against Timofey Nastyukhin in the main card or Men’s Lightweight Kickboxing World Championship under the ONE Championship title: ONE on TNT II. It will be held today at Singapore Indoor Stadium, Singapore.

The ONE event will feature bouts of world-class fighters, and fights will start at 8:30 am of Singapore standard time, according to the statement with the ONE Championship.

There will be a total of six fights: five men’s bouts and one women’s bouts.

In the co-main event or Men’s Featherweight Mixed Martial Arts, Martin Nguyen will fight against Kim Jae Woong.

In the Women’s Atomweight Muay Thai fight, Janet Todd will face Anne Line Hogstad.

In the Men’s Strawweight Mixed Martial Arts fight, Jarred Brooks will compete against Lito Adiwang.

In the Men’s Heavyweight Mixed Martial Arts bout, Dustin Joyson will meet Kirill Grishenko.

Next, in the Men’s Bantamweight Muay Thai fight, Pongsiri PK. Saenchai Muaythaigym will take on Liam Harrison.

The ONE Championship Fights will be broadcast live free on ONE Super Application and ONE Championship YouTube channel, according to the ONE Championship. The first two fights will also be streamed live on the ONE Championship Facebook page, officials stated.

—GNLM

Arsenal wait on Aubameyang and Odegaard ahead of Slavia tie

ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta is still unsure if captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Martin Odegaard will be fit for Thursday’s Europa League quarter-final second leg away to Slavia Prague.

Aubameyang and Odegaard, who is on loan from Real Madrid, missed training Tuesday because of illness and an ankle injury respectively.

Arsenal were due to train Wednesday before travelling to the Czech Republic with the tie all-square at 1-1 and Arteta, asked if the duo would take part in the session, told reporters: “It depends how they wake up. (On Tuesday) none of them could train. Hopefully (on Wednesday) it is a summer day so maybe it is better.

“I don’t know, we have to see how they are. We still have a couple of other ones as well from the last few days, so we’ll have to see how everybody is and after training how they react for (Thursday’s) game.”

The Gunners, however, have been buoyed by the availability of Bukayo Saka and Emile Smith Rowe.

Saka suffered a thigh injury during last weekend’s 3-0 win away to Sheffield United in the Premier League, while Smith Rowe missed the trip to Bramall Lane with an ankle problem.

But both players are now set to feature in Prague.

Arsenal, however, will definitely be without David Luiz and Kieran Tierney, who both have knee problems, on Thursday. —AFP

Flick mulls future after Bayern Munich exit Champions League

BAYERN Munich head coach Hansi Flick admits he is considering his future after the holders were knocked out of the Champions League by Paris Saint-Germain.

Bayern’s 1-0 return-leg win in Paris on Tuesday was not enough to overturn last week’s 3-2 first-leg defeat in Munich as Psg marched into the semi-finals at the Germans’ expense.

“Everyone understands that I am thinking about my future,” Flick told Sky after Bayern striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scored the only goal on Tuesday.

Flick has been under noticeable strain in recent weeks with tensions running high between him and Bayern sports director Hasan Salihamidzic.

The 56-year-old Flick has also been tipped to become Germany’s next head coach when Joachim Loew steps down after the Euro 2020 finals this summer.

For now, Flick, whose Bayern contract runs until 2023, says he “first wants to process the elimination” and “assess the situation. I also have my own ideas.”

Ultimately, a PSG side boasting the talent of Neymar and Kylian Mbappe was too good for a depleted Bayern team missing their injured top-scorer Robert Lewandowski.

Under Flick, Bayern won all six titles available in the last 12 months, defeating PSG in last season’s Champions League final in Lisbon.

However, elimination from both the Champions League and German Cup, means only the Bundesliga is still in play with leaders Bayern five points clear and on course to win the German league for the ninth straight year.—AFP

Virus surges fuel fears 100 days before Tokyo Olympics

The tone from Tokyo 2020 organizers and Olympic officials is still one of confidence. PHOTO: AFP

THE Olympic flame is on its way across Japan and athletes around the world are ramping up training, but 108 days before Tokyo 2020 opens, organizers still face monumental challenges. Virus surges, including in Japan, are playing havoc with preparations and fuelling uncertainty about whether the Games can, or should, happen this summer.

The torch relay has been pared back, overseas fans will be barred for the first time and rising infections mean Tokyo and several other parts of Japan are under new restrictions. Despite that, the tone from organizers and Olympic officials is still one of confidence, with public pronouncements focused on how the Games will happen, not whether they will.

They have some cause for optimism. The Olympic torch relay kicked off in Fukushima last month, albeit with spectators barred from the launch ceremony, and vaccination programmes are under way in many countries, with some teams already given their shots.—AFP