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Press Release on ASEAN Leaders' Meeting

26 April 2021

AT the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, as the current ASEAN Chair; Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting which was held at the ASEAN Secretariat, in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 24 April 2021.

At the Meeting, the Chairman of the State Administration Council expressed his support for Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship of ASEAN for this year under the theme "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper", and reiterated Myanmar's commitment to work closely with the chair, including all ASEAN Member States, to successfully achieve chair's deliverables aiming for a resilient and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and for further progress toward the ASEAN Community building efforts.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council also apprised the Meeting of the recent developments in Myanmar especially on the reason why the Tatmadaw had constitutionally assumed the State's responsibilities on 1 February 2021, stages of protests, and the structure, future programmes and activities of the State Administration Council comprehensively.

ASEAN Leaders also exchanged views on the current situation which some suggestions were highlighted in the Chairman's Statement on the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting. In response to some of the suggestions made by ASEAN Leaders, Myanmar informed the Meeting that it will give careful consideration to constructive suggestions made by ASEAN Leaders when the situation returns to stability in the country since priorities at the moment were to maintain law and order and to restore community peace and tranquillity. In this regard, Myanmar also informed the Meeting that the suggestions would be positively considered if it would facilitate the implementation of the five-step roadmap laid down by the State Administration Council, serves the interests of the country and was based on the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Way and ASEAN Spirit.

Myanmar also stated that ASEAN Leaders thoroughly review the information booklet circulated at the Meeting before comments are made relating to the current political situation in Myanmar.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Students can apply knowledge learnt from universities in practical fields to enhance socio-economic life: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the coordination meeting at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 April 2021.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an

address at the coordination meeting held at the Ministry of Education yesterday morning in order to extend degree courses on economics and law subjects

at the universities.

Also present at the meeting were members of the Council Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Daw Aye Nu Sein and U Moungh Har, Un-

ion Ministers Dr Nyunt Pe and Dr Thet Khaing Win, the deputy ministers, directors-general, rectors and professors and officials.

In his speech, the Senior

General said he has been holding meetings with relevant officials for educational reforms since the assumption of the State duties.

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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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council State Administration Council Law No 18/2021

Fullmoon day of Tagu 1383 ME
26 April 2021

Law Amending Television and Video Law

1. The State Administration Council hereby enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. This law shall be named the Law Amending the Television and Video Law.
3. Section 36 of the Television and Video Law shall be amended as follows: -
“36. If anyone is handed down a sentence for failure to abide by the order or directive issued by this law or the video censorship board or the video industry scrutiny and central supervisory committee, the person shall be sentenced to less than one year imprisonment or less than K500,000 fine or both.”

I signed the law under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

National Unity and Peace Coordination Committee meets officials of DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC separately



The meeting between the National Unity and Peace Coordination Committee and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA in progress.

THE National Unity and Peace Coordination Committee held a discussion with DKBA (Democratic Karen Benevolent Army) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and DKBA's Saw Mo Shay respectively made greeting remarks during the meeting. Similarly, the Committee continuously discussed with KNU/KNLA-PC in the afternoon.

Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Secretary-General Naw Kapaw Htoo of (KNU/KNLA-PC) made remarks during this meeting.

During the meetings, the National Unity and Peace Res-

toration Committee secretary explained the implementation work of the SAC peacemaking committee. The officials of DKBA and KNU/KNLA-PC clarified the peace processes and regional development programmes.

The meetings also focused on peace processes in line with NCA, inter-village roads for regional development, the establishment of factories and industries to create job opportunities for the local populace and family members of troops, including the matters related to education, health issue and agriculture. —MNA

18 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 April, total figure rises to 142,740

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,740** after **18 new cases** were reported on 26 April 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **131,945** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

For the State to have good results

SOME personnel continue their absence due to the frightening of social punishment if they failed to participate in the CDM and face their lack of duty. Just appropriate action will be taken against those staff who did not lead the CDM under the rules and disciplines of service personnel, and they will not be dismissed from jobs. Telephone numbers have been released for dialling them to inform the authorities about threatening against staff to join CDM. Those who threaten the staff will be taken severe action. The Senior General warmly welcomes health and education personnel from CDM to return to their workplaces as quickly as possible for the State to have good results.

(Excerpt from the speech to the Management Committee meeting made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 23 April 2021)

Visits to Myanmar proposed by ASEAN will be considered after stabilizing the country: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is addressing at the SAC 9/2021 meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 April 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the meeting 9/2021 of the State Administration Council at the Council Chairman's Office yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on occasion, the Senior General said he attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting held in Jakarta of Indonesia on 24 April and discussed issues of ASEAN, prevention of Covid-19 and progress in Myanmar.

The Senior General explained his discussions on hand-over of the State duty under the Constitution on 1 February for voting frauds in the 2020 general

election in Myanmar, different stages of protests, formation of the State Administration Council, future plans and objectives, undertakings as pledged by the Tatmadaw in line with the democratic practice, Tatmadaw's endeavours in 2010 and 2015 general elections in line with democracy, the occurrence of voting frauds in the 2020 general election, printing of ballot papers beyond the laws and procedures, casting votes without identity, deaths and injuries of security forces in current riots, and solving the injuries and deaths of people under the law.

The Senior General stressed that leadership and leader are of importance in politics. They

have to lead everything under the rules and laws. A democracy with unlawful leadership cannot be accepted. The president, the government officials and the Hluttaw refused dialogue for unfairness in the election, not in line with the law. The Senior General explained that the Tatmadaw's undertaking of tasks in line with the law and clarified the plan to hold a free and fair election, the seizure of arms and ammunition used by rioters and terrorists, declaration of the martial law orders in some townships, and loss of people in healthcare services due to CDM activities of some health staff.

Likewise, the Senior General said that he explained the

Leadership and leader are of importance in politics. They have to lead everything under the rules and laws. A democracy with unlawful leadership cannot be accepted.

progress of the peace process, efforts to restore the peace that is essential for democracy and federalism, arrangement to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to 4.6 million people for holding the election and repatriation of those who left for another country, to Rakhine State under the prescribed disciplines.

In responding to the discussions on the Myanmar issue of ASEAN leaders, the Senior General said he would emphasize considering suggestions given to Myanmar with constructive attitudes compared with current situations at home. By giving priority to peace and stability of the State,

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Students can apply knowledge learnt ...

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As Myanmar is on the track of democracy, every citizen needs to understand the laws. So, it is necessary to provide teaching on legal affairs widely. Likewise, the development of the State requires a booming economy. So, the economic sector needs to have plentiful educated persons with business knowledge. As such, efforts are being made to teach economics and law subjects essential for State development at all universities.

Universities are hubs for turning out those with skillfulness in their respective subjects. They have to apply knowledge learnt from the universities in the practical fields to enhance the socio-economic life. As such, they can enjoy the benefits of uplifting social lives by using the arts of the law. Likewise, skillfulness in economics can effectively be applied in practical

students wishing to learn economics and law subjects came to Yangon for learning. As students went across the nation, they lived in a new environment. Those who tried hard in education could achieve outstanding and success. Upon completing university learning, some became officers at relevant departments, and some worked their respective businesses. Hence, some students who completed university education could not become government service personnel.

Basic education is based on teaching system and university education on learning. Students from day course and distance learning have some differences in learning and environs at the university level. They have to pursue education as well as practical exercises and learning. The Senior General stressed the need to emphasize the modernization of the libraries in universities. The

law subject is of importance for every citizen to live under laws and disciplines in democracy. Law is essential for operating social, economic and other affairs. Likewise, each citizen needs to have legal knowledge in administrative measures. In contrast, those in the management field need to have skills in legal matters. Learning about laws can be applied in the practical field. The Tatmadaw conducts law courses for senior military officers and junior officers and the Myanmar Police Force members.

Those who have business knowledge can manage the betterment of the State economy and development of production. **In the past, mismanagement of the economy caused a decline of the State economy. As citizens need to have business knowledge, they have to learn economics subjects which can be applied in the practical field.**

The Tatmadaw will build the Union based on democracy and federalism as a national vision by upholding the Our Three Main National Causes.

peace and stability of political and security trends. Efforts are being made to cease ethnic armed conflicts for having peace and stability on the security ground. Difficulties of learning happen in some armed conflict areas. The Tatmadaw provides assistance in some areas. Only when the number of educated persons becomes much larger will the region develop. Only when the region develops will local people have better knowledge. If so, they will have good ideas and attitudes for tasting peace and democracy. As such, their socio-economic lives will improve. **All the people from Myanmar should not work in other countries as basic labour and have to work at home to have wealth.**

As Myanmar is a democratic country, everybody may independently have diverse ideas on the political ground regarding the CDM activity. State service personnel must serve the State duty what government takes into office. State service personnel are different from government servants. Tatmadaw members and Myanmar Police Force members are State service personnel

who perform the rule of law for protecting the State. Education and health staff are State service personnel. Those from the administrative machinery are government servants. State service personnel and government servants need to stay away from politics.

The Tatmadaw will build the Union based on democracy and federalism as a national vision by upholding the Our Three Main National Causes. Problems out of the election will be addressed under the law. In a democracy, it is necessary to practise honest politics and fair politics. The closing of schools brings loss to students and parents as well as to the State. As such, preparations must be made to reopen the basic education schools in line with the Covid-19 health guidelines.

Union Ministers Dr Nyunt Pe and Dr Thet Khaing Win and those present reported **providing lectures on law subjects at 14 of 24 university zones, arrangements to conduct law subjects at remaining ten zones**, teaching economics and law subjects, and controlling of Covid-19. — MNA

As Myanmar is on the track of democracy, every citizen needs to understand the laws. So, it is necessary to provide teaching on legal affairs widely. Likewise, the development of the State requires a booming economy. So, the economic sector needs to have plentiful educated persons with business knowledge.

fields. Applying the knowledge from the subjects learnt at the universities can secure benefit in the practical fields.

Universities have been opened in 24 regions. In the past,

Senior General urged them to arrange youths' education to have genuine knowledge and skills at the universities.

With regard to teaching the arts of law at the universities,

Equal learning in all subjects can contribute much to the lives of university students. As such, all need to consider the future prospects of university education.

Development depends on the

Visits to Myanmar proposed by ASEAN will be considered ...

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the visits to Myanmar proposed by the ASEAN will be considered after stabilizing the country. In implementing the five future programmes of the council, if the aid of ASEAN with constructive attitude depends on ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Way and ASEAN Spirit, it will be considered for the State interests.

Efforts are being made to conduct law and economics subjects at universities. As law subject is essential in exercising democracy, every citizen needs to have basic legal knowledge. Only when the State economy improves will it practise democracy. So, it is necessary to reduce the development gap between urban and rural areas.

It is required to restore peace for turning out the educated persons. The Senior General stressed the need to re-operate factories and construction projects for generating jobs for the people to solve basic needs.

The council members discussed declaration of the CRPH as terrorist organization under the Anti-Terrorism Law, assessment over the laws enacted beyond the Constitution, reviewing formation of special courts, awarding the State servants loyal to the country and taking action against those break the law, scrutiny over loss of the State for appointment of foreign experts, easing worries of people for private banks, taking effective action against artistes who incited

riots and those who participated in the terror acts, taking out of river sands for earning foreign exchange, generating electricity through solar on water surface, inserting some provisions into the cyber law, exposing some construction entrepreneurs who attempt to stage CDM, scrutiny for some ministerial officials from CDM activity, issuance of CSC to people from IDP camps, exposing for trafficking of illegal arms in border areas, arrangements for releasing accurate news to the people, creation of economic opportunities, development tasks in Namsang and Mangtun townships, disbursement of agricultural loans for cultivation of alternative crops, no emergence of single party dictatorship system

in the Union based in democracy and federalism, and change of election system for participation of representatives from all parties at Hluttaws.

In his response, the Senior General said he would scrutinize the matters related to special courts for judicial affairs. **The staff who do not join CDM and are loyal to the State should be honoured. It is necessary to change the mindset of the staff from administrative machinery. The mindset of State service personnel and government servant must be changed in the long run.**

Arrangements are being made to operate the banks regularly. The issues for artistes are being considered for the long

term. Effective action will be taken against some artistes who have been warned many times. Press conferences are being held for the people to know the information in time. It is necessary to consider the development of the State with farsightedness.

Then, the Senior General highlighted issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards, coordination for amendment of election system between the Union Election Commission and parties, issues of the State economy and generating of electricity based on feasibility studies, uplift of living standard for ethnic nations to have literacy, and needs of realizing the democracy for the State and the people with genuine goodwill. — MNA

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs

Information released for Assistance Association for Political Prisoners-AAPP

AS the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners-AAPP, which has not been allowed to register because of not conformity with the Law on the Registration of Organizations and rules, it does not have to stand legally.

However, the association daily releases the list of injury and death toll related to current riots on the Internet Website under the title of AAPP.

Data mentioned by AAPP are not taken from accurate and correct information sources. However, it is based on social media and rumours. As such, such data are exaggerated more than the actual ones.

Moreover, AAPP one-sidedly mentions information on current events to cause State service personnel and public panic.

Attempts of AAPP in releasing the incorrect data and the information to cause State service personnel and public panic are designed to incite the occurrence of more riots. It was found that its attempts harm State stability, the rule of law and restoration of law and order. As such, severe action will be taken against illegally standing AAPP under the law.

Ministry of Home Affairs

Dated, 26 April 2021

Consecration ceremony of Su Taung Pyae, Su Taung Ya pagodas held in Pyinmana

THE ceremony of setting atop golden umbrella, pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb on Su Taung Pyae Pagoda and Su Taung Ya Pagoda was held in Pyinmana Township yesterday.

The Sanghas led by Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi of Mingalar Zeyon Pali Takatho Monastery, State Administration Council member Mahn Nyein Maung, well-wishers, and locals attended the ceremony.

SAC member Mahn Nyein Maung, well-wishers and attendees, firstly took five precepts from Presiding Sayadaw of Mingalar Zeyon Pali Takatho Monastery.

Then, the officials donated the golden umbrella crown, pen-

nant-shaped vane and diamond orb to the Sayadaws and shared merits.

Next, the SAC member Mahn Nyein Maung and congregation carried the sacred objects in ceremonial clockwise procession.

The Sayadaws, SAC member and congregation, sprinkled the sacred objects with scented water and hoisted them to the top of the pagoda by a ceremonial flying carriage.

After the ceremony, the well-wishers donated day meals to the monks.

The Su Taung Pyae Pagoda was one of the 84,000 pagodas constructed by King Siri Dhamma Soka, and now it is a more than 1,560-year-old pagoda. — MNA



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung, well-wishers and locals attend the consecration ceremony yesterday.

MoBA holds meeting on human resource development of border areas ethnic nationalities



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung chairs the coordination meeting 2/2021 yesterday.

THE Ministry of Border Affairs held a coordination meeting of the Department of Education and Training on Human Resource Development of Border Areas Ethnic Nationalities (2/2021) yes-

terday morning by virtual system.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, the Permanent Secretary and Directors-General, Deputy Direc-

tors-General, the Acting Rector of the University for the Development of the National Races, principals of the degree colleges and officials from the respective states and regions.

At the meeting, the Union Minister stressed the need to complete the preparation following the COVID-19 guidelines for the PhD programmes, master and final year courses of the universities and degree colleges would reopen on May 5. Plans are also underway to reopen the basic education schools. Preparation must be made to reopen ethnic youth development training schools in the border areas. Coordination will be made for the COVID-19 vaccination to the teachers, staff and students, he added.

He pointed out that it is necessary to complete the construction works approved by the

schools for the 2020-2021FY as per the set standards and quality. The staff and students should use the buildings properly.

The meeting discussed the status of human resource development in the border areas, preparation for reopening schools, and the status of the construction work in the 2020-2021FY.

The Ministry of Border Affairs has prepared to reopen the training for 4,156 trainees currently attending the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges in Yangon and Sagaing and 5,229 trainees at the Border Region Youth Development Training Schools in the border areas. — MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

25 April 2021

- 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 Myingyan, Taungtha and NyaungU townships of Mandalay Region.
- Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	267 polling stations Myingyan townships of Mandalay Region	235,359	194,297	13,423	2,475	29,926
2	322 polling stations Taungtha townships of Mandalay Region	195,211	150,185	8,359	2,463	26,702
3	236 polling stations NyaungU townships of Mandalay Region	206,048	169,151	6,667	915	17,984

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Myingyan, Taungtha and NyaungU townships of Mandalay Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrators under Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.

4. According to the inspection, a total of 834 polling stations in these three townships took out 718,289 ballots and used 470,634 ballots. It left 220,276 ballots instead of 247,655 ballots. The difference was 37,071 ballots, and it found 9,692 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Subject	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myingyan	276	261,138	177,036	84,102	73,064	13,971	2,933
2	Taungtha	322	224,188	133,317	90,871	81,123	12,788	3,040
3	NyaungU	236	232,963	160,281	72,682	66,089	10,312	3,719
	Total	834	718,289	470,634	247,655	220,276	37,071	9,692

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Myingyan Township

5. A total of 276 polling stations in 24 Wards and 64 Village-tracts of Myingyan Township in the Mandalay Region took out 261,138 ballots and used 177,036 ballots. It left 73,064 ballots instead of 84,102. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	246,750	175,181	71,569	58,613	13,971	1,015
2	Township Advanced ballots	1,855	1,855				
3	Township Remaining ballots	12,533		12,533	14,451		1,918
	Total	261,138	177,036	84,102	73,064	13,971	2,933

6. There were 13,971 missing ballots and 1,015 extra ballots at 276 polling stations in 24 Wards and 64 Village-tracts of Myingyan Township. The township election sub-commission must have 12,533 remaining ballots, but there were 4,451 remaining ballots, and so there were 1,918 extra ballots.

7. According to the inspection, the ballot receipts and remaining ballots of No (2) and No (4) polling stations in Daunt Thit Village-tract of Myingyan Township were not returned to the officials. Some of the Ward/Village-tract election sub-commission and the polling stations did not conduct the processes according to the law, rules, and procedures and returned the ballot receipts and remaining ballots after the election.

8. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	No (1) Ward	7	10,050	6,564	3,486	3,386	100	
2	No (2) Ward	6	6,700	4,996	1,704	1,641	63	
3	No (3) Ward	2	1,900	1,502	398	398		
4	No (4) Ward	4	5,600	3,564	2,036	1,186	850	
5	No (5) Ward	2	2,050	1,440	610	610		
6	No (6) Ward	5	6,600	4,713	1,887	1,736	151	
7	No (7) Ward	2	2,250	1,826	424	424		
8	No (8) Ward	1	850	634	216	266		50
9	No (9) Ward	2	2,000	1,531	469	469		
10	No (10) Ward	2	1,750	1,247	503	453	50	
11	No (11) Ward	3	2,450	1,939	511	655		144
12	No (12) Ward	3	3,200	2,308	892	492	400	
13	No (13) Ward	3	3,550	2,155	1,395	974	421	
14	No (14) Ward	3	3,050	1,786	1,264	349	915	
15	No (15) Ward	2	2,150	1,547	603	603		
16	No (16) Ward	5	5,500	3,905	1,595	1,553	42	
17	No (17) Ward	2	3,900	2,552	1,348	899	449	
18	No (18) Ward	5	5,100	3,751	1,349	1,349		
19	No (19) Ward	3	5,600	3,427	2,173	783	1,390	
20	No (20) Ward	2	2,500	1,791	709	564	145	
21	Simekhone Town (1) Ward	1	800	559	241	241		
22	Simekhone Town (2) Ward	1	1,300	981	319	269	50	
23	Simekhone Town (3) Ward	1	1,250	913	337	337		
24	Simekhone Town (4) Ward	2	1,150	842	308	308		
25	Nathtar Village-tract	2	1,300	997	303	303		
26	Nyaungwun Village-tract	1	500	88	412	162	250	
27	Kanchaw Village-tract	9	3,550	2,756	794	1164		370
28	Kokeke Village-tract	3	1,800	1,059	741	541	200	
29	Ywathaya Village-tract	3	2,350	1,752	598	498	100	
30	Hteinpan Village-tract	1	1,800	1,317	483	483		
31	Yonehto Village-tract	5	3,050	2,080	970	681	289	
32	Pya Village-tract	2	2,400	1,682	718	528	190	
33	Mipauk Village-tract	4	2,900	2,215	685	685		
34	Kanswe Village-tract	1	1,300	955	345	343	2	
35	Pyokan Village-tract	1	1,050	728	322	322		
36	Kyepinkan Village-tract	3	1,500	1,103	397	497		100
37	Thinpyon Village-tract	4	4,750	3,563	1,187	1,037	150	
38	Lethit Village-tract	5	5,300	3,899	1,401	1,301	100	
39	Pyawbwe Village-tract	5	4,850	3,319	1,531	1,321	210	
40	Balone Village-tract	5	3,650	2,627	1,023	573	450	
41	Kansint Village-tract	3	2,200	1,689	511	499	12	
42	Kwansike Village-tract	4	3,000	1,989	1,011	384	627	
43	Chaesay Village-tract	1	1,000	702	298	298		
44	Ku Village-tract	3	2,500	1,609	891	891		
45	Ywasi Village-tract	4	3,350	2,299	1,051	663	388	
46	Shartaw Village-tract	3	2,950	2,073	877	727	150	
47	Aye Village-tract	1	1,250	719	531	331	200	
48	Lintgyi Village-tract	9	4,150	2,745	1,405	1,104	301	
49	Thaepyuwa Village-tract	5	3,400	2,200	1,200	1,041	159	

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50	Kinetaung Village-tract	1	1,100	735	365	365		
51	Daunthit Village-tract	9	4,150	2,346	1,804	954	850	
52	Zitaw Village-tract	2	1,400	970	430	430		
53	Htanaungtine Village-tract	3	3,500	2,456	1,044	734	310	
54	Htanaunggone Village-tract	2	1,450	1,027	423	423		
55	Guokepin Village-tract	1	1,750	1,187	563	563		
56	Sarkhar Village-tract	2	2,050	1,674	376	426		50
57	Gwaypinyoe Village-tract	3	2,000	1,555	445	445		
58	Pyawt (shwebontha) Village-tract	4	1,600	1,209	391	591		200
59	Pinle Village-tract	5	2,700	2,237	463	463		
60	Hpetpinaine Village-tract	3	3,300	2,729	571	621		50
61	Nganan Village-tract	6	4,100	3,106	994	844	150	
62	Kula Village-tract	2	1,850	800	1,050	418	632	
63	Kanni Village-tract	1	1,450	1,137	313	313		
64	Paytaw Village-tract	3	1,500	1,094	406	406		
65	Nwarkuaine Village-tract	4	2,800	2,370	430	277	153	
66	Kataw Village-tract	4	3,950	3,064	886	936		50
67	Sakyue Village-tract	1	1,000	736	264	264		
68	Kyi Village-tract	2	1,250	887	363	363		
69	Kantaw Village-tract	4	1,800	1,153	647	457	190	
70	Gintge Village-tract	2	1,050	836	214	214		

71	Singut Village-tract	1	1,000	846	154	154		
72	Kyartine Village-tract	4	4,000	2,749	1,251	901	350	
73	Yatha Village-tract	3	3,100	1,941	1,159	657	502	
74	Tat Village-tract	2	1,200	840	360	360		
75	Zipinkan Village-tract	2	2,600	1,993	607	607		
76	Tawpu Village-tract	2	2,800	2,088	712	512	200	
77	Kine Village-tract	2	1,300	971	329	229	100	
78	Yannapo Village-tract	1	850	565	285	135	150	
79	Nyaungto Village-tract	1	850	537	313	213	100	
80	Sinchaung Village-tract	1	1,450	978	472	472		
81	Talokemyo Village-tract	8	7,400	5,472	1,928	1,604	324	
82	Yetine Village-tract	2	1,600	1,177	423	424		1
83	Ainema Village-tract	1	1,200	747	453	203	250	
84	Tuyinbot Village-tract	2	2,850	2,328	522	522		
85	Thityone Village-tract	2	2,050	1,339	711	561	150	
86	Thapaung Village-tract	9	7,500	5,835	1,665	1,519	146	
87	Khaungkwe Village-tract	5	6,350	4,812	1,538	1,538		
88	Kwenthpin Village-tract	8	5,800	4,017	1,783	1,173	610	
	Ward/village -tract ballots	276	246,750	175,181	71,569	58,613	13,971	1,015
	Township Advanced ballots		1,855	1,855				
	Township Remaining ballots		12,533		12,533	14,451		1,918
	Total	276	261,138	177,036	84,102	73,064	13,971	2,933

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Taungtha Township

9. A total of 322 polling stations in 6 Wards and 77 Village-tracts of Taungtha Township in Mandalay Region took out 224,188 ballots and used 133,317 ballots. It left 81,123 ballots instead of 90,871. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	210,450	131,979	78,471	66,292	12,788	609
2	Township Advanced ballots	1,338	1,338				
3	Township Remaining ballots	12,400		12,400	14,831		2,431
	Total	224,188	133,317	90,871	81,123	12,788	3,040

10. There were 12,788 missing ballots and 609 extra ballots at 322 polling stations in 6 Wards and 77 Village-tracts of Taungtha Township. The township election sub-commission must have 12,400 remaining ballots, but there were 14,831 remaining ballots, and so there were 2,431 extra ballots.

11. According to the inspections, the ballot receipts and remaining ballots of No (3) polling station in Butar Ward, No (3) polling station of Lal Kwat Gyi Village-tract, No (2) polling station of Yone Taw Village-tract, No (4), No (8), No (9) and No (15) polling stations of Ja Gyan Village-tract were not returned to the officials. The Ward/Village-tract election sub-commission did not conduct the processes according to the law, rules, and procedures. They returned the ballot receipts and remaining ballots between 16-11-2020 and 30-11-2020.

12. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Pharagyianouk Ward	3	2,350	1,596	754	604	150	
2	Myoma Ward	2	1,550	1,143	407	407		
3	Tanmyint Ward	4	3,600	2,589	1,011	1,011		
4	Zay Ward	1	1,050	725	325	325		
5	Butar Ward	3	3,000	1,404	1,596	536	1,060	
6	Minsu Ward	4	4,150	2,849	1,301	1,201	100	
7	Moehnaungkhin Village-tract	1	400	215	185	85	100	
8	Magyipinte Village-tract	3	2,050	1,377	673	689		16
9	Alegyaung Village-tract	2	1,950	1,303	647	437	210	
10	Nabekan Village-tract	2	1,100	889	211	251		40
11	Chaungson Village-tract	1	650	513	137	137		
12	Hlekuma Village-tract	7	6,350	3,275	3,075	2,477	598	
13	Zayetgyi Village-tract	3	3,150	1,628	1,522	1,222	300	
14	Shwesigyi Village-tract	2	1,650	910	740	740		
15	Ywagyiaine Village-tract	3	1,400	860	540	540		
16	Thanbo Village-tract	3	1,500	707	793	613	180	
17	Dandin Village-tract	5	2,250	1,227	1,023	1,023		
18	Aungtha Village-tract	1	950	551	399	399		
19	Kyaukchaw Village-tract	1	650	360	290	290		
20	Ayataw Village-tract	3	1,250	638	612	612		
21	Panpaung Village-tract	6	2,950	1,313	1,637	1,637		
22	Yonesigyi Village-tract	10	5,750	3,634	2,116	1,816	300	
23	Yaykhar Village-tract	3	1,750	1,215	535	535		
24	Shwepyitaw Village-tract	3	1,550	866	684	634	50	
25	Letpadaw Village-tract	2	1,350	862	488	488		
26	Magyicho Village-tract	7	3,250	1,943	1,307	1,007	300	
27	Legwetgyi Village-tract	4	2,300	945	1,355	705	650	
28	Khatetgone Village-tract	3	1,750	1,082	668	482	186	
29	Taunglyin Village-tract	3	1,100	616	484	484		
30	Welaung Village-tract	11	4,650	2,725	1,925	1,965		40
31	Hlepywegone Village-tract	5	2,350	1,111	1,239	1,239		
32	Yonetaw Village-tract	4	2,750	870	1,880	878	1,002	

33	Tapwatpinte Village-tract	7	3,400	1,725	1,675	1,525	150	
34	Kyepinte Village-tract	2	1,350	805	545	295	250	
35	Kywetalin Village-tract	3	1,250	710	540	543		3
36	Simekan Village-tract	10	4,300	2,530	1,770	1,718	52	
37	Kine Village-tract	4	2,500	1,607	893	827	66	
38	Mintee Village-tract	5	2,600	1,824	776	776		
39	Letthaechin Village-tract	2	1,250	1,019	231	181	50	
40	Kyaukyin Village-tract	2	1,850	1,303	547	547		
41	Aohepho Village-tract	4	3,600	2,533	1,067	1,007	60	
42	Kansint Village-tract	2	1,500	884	616	466	150	
43	Hnanywa Village-tract	2	1,300	912	388	338	50	
44	Thayagyi Village-tract	4	2,700	2,091	609	809		200
45	Nanmyint Village-tract	3	1,850	1,437	413	413		
46	Ayeywa Village-tract	7	2,800	1,520	1,280	1,080	200	
47	Thammaku Village-tract	4	3,000	1,731	1,269	1,169	100	
48	Phettaw Village-tract	5	4,750	3,624	1,126	1,076	50	
49	Pharahla Village-tract	3	2,400	1,791	609	609		
50	Nante Village-tract	5	4,700	3,172	1,528	1,278	250	
51	Ainte Village-tract	4	2,700	1,648	1,052	1,202		150
52	Natsaunt Village-tract	6	3,550	2,009	1,541	691	850	
53	Kanthaya Village-tract	1	1,050	781	269	119	150	
54	Padatsagone Village-tract	3	2,650	1,589	1,061	1,011	50	
55	Segone Village-tract	2	1,550	1,078	472	459	13	
56	Tegyigone Village-tract	2	1,350	930	420	470		50
57	Kyaukkaywama Village-tract	7	3,450	1,927	1,523	1,043	480	
58	Thayamyaing Village-tract	9	4,450	2,845	1,605	1,188	417	
59	Ayechantha Village-tract	3	2,150	1,428	722	722		
60	Shwepyithit Village-tract	4	2,650	1,950	700	600	100	
61	Talneyeit Village-tract	4	2,300	1,363	937	937		
62	Tada Village-tract	5	3,350	1,674	1,676	1,372	304	
63	Tapyaywa Village-tract	2	1,100	607	493	493		
64	Minyin Village-tract	5	3,550	2,374	1,176	1,176		
65	Kanmye Village-tract	7	5,350	3,624	1,726	1,526	200	
66	Zagyan Village-tract	16	11,150	5,661	5,489	2,539	2,950	
67	Thigone Village-tract	5	3,450	2,354	1,096	1,096		

Secure success in eliminating child labour through concerted efforts

YOUTHS and children are invaluable sources of the country as their development role is of great importance in shaping the future of a country.

As the population of youths and children hit one billion across the world, accounting for 18 per cent, they face gaps and diversities of economy, social and technological development as well as a culture among regional countries and civil society organizations.

As part of accepting the national duty, administrative bodies, relevant ministries, CSOs, NGOs and INGOs need to emphasize working in concert for the elimination of child labour in Myanmar.

The majority of child labour can be seen at various factories, garment industries and other odd-job works because of poverty, lesser learning opportunity as they try to contribute to respective families for solving problems of needs.

Actually, concerted efforts can achieve success in one day. Hence, the government, the relevant organizations and people should join hands with one another to eliminate child labour from workplaces and resettle them at schools with creating learning opportunities.

alleviate poverty with increasing family income. The first five-year plan prioritizes the elimination of child labour in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and Kayin states by taking education, job opportunities, family situation and poverty issues into consideration.

Actually, concerted efforts can achieve success in one day. Hence, the government, the relevant organizations and people should join hands with one another to eliminate child labour from workplaces and resettle them at schools with creating learning opportunities.



A 'malaria-free future' is possible, UN chief says on international day

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple crises it has sparked, a growing number of countries are approaching and achieving malaria elimination, the UN chief said on Sunday, World Malaria Day.

“We commend all countries that have reached the ambitious target of zero malaria”, said Secretary-General António Guterres.

“Together, they are showing the world that a malaria-free future is possible”.

‘Key to success’

Countries with zero malaria have reached the people at risk with the necessary services, from prevention to detection and treatment, regardless of citizenship or financial status, said the top UN official. “Sustained funding, surveillance systems and community engagement have been the key to success”, he added. Yet, while these achievements deserve celebrating, it is important to remember the millions around the world who continue to suffer and die from this deadly illness.

Each year, malaria claims the lives of more than 400,000 people, mainly young children in

Africa. And, every year, there are more than 200 million new cases of this fatal parasitic disease.

With robust political commitment, adequate investment and the right mix of strategies, “malaria can be defeated”, upheld the UN Secretary-General.

Stamping out malaria

Between 2000 and 2019, the number of countries with fewer than 100 indigenous malaria cases increased from six to 27, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), calling it “a strong indicator” that malaria elimination is within reach.

The UN health agency lauded those countries that have already done so saying: “They provide inspiration for all nations that are working to stamp out this deadly disease and improve the health and livelihoods of their populations”.

Country breakdown

In 2019, Africa shouldered 94 per cent of all malaria cases

and deaths worldwide, with more than half of all cases occurring in the five countries of Nigeria, 27 per cent; Democratic Republic of the Congo, 12 per cent; Uganda and Niger, five per cent each; and Mozambique, four per cent, according to WHO.

During that same period, about three per cent per cent of malaria cases were reported in South-East Asia and two per cent in the Eastern Mediterranean region. The Americas and Western Pacific region each accounted for fewer than one per cent of all cases.

Certifying zero malaria

Certification of malaria elimination is WHO’s official recognition of a country’s malaria-free status, which it grants when a State has proven, beyond reasonable doubt, that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission has been interrupted nationwide for at least the past three consecutive years.



A mother and her nine-month-old baby sit under a UNICEF-supplied bed net in Upper Nile state, South Sudan. PHOTO: UNICEF/MARK NAFTALIN

Following 50 years of solid commitment by the Government and people of El Salvador to end the disease, in February it became the first country in Central America to receive the distinction. Meanwhile China, which registered zero indigenous cases in 2016 and has stayed malaria-free to date, applied last year for the WHO malaria-free certification. Source : UN News

Covid jobs at the ends of the earth

Nearly one billion Covid jobs have now been administered worldwide but reaching people in all four corners of the planet is an unprecedented logistical challenge.

WHILE Japan is best known for its teeming megacities, much of its countryside remains remote and depopulated, making vaccination of its often elderly residents a huge headache.

The village of Kitaaiiki, in the foothills of the picturesque mountains of Nagano, is a case in point. It is home to just over 700 people — one third of them over 65 — and with only one doctor to give everyone their jab, Kazuhiro

Matsuhashi. Matsuhashi has received one box of Pfizer jabs, enough to inoculate everyone who wishes to receive the vaccine, but he has to work fast, injecting around 60 people per day.



Health workers speak to Kakino Yamaguchi (L), after arriving at her home to inoculate her with the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 coronavirus vaccine. PHOTO: AFP

The doctor said his local knowledge helped him in his mission to vaccinate as many villagers as possible. “I can make these thoughtful decisions for each resident,” he told AFP.

The approach seems to be working. Kakino Yamaguchi, a 93-year-old woman, said: “When I saw those thick needles on TV, I thought to myself ‘I don’t want that’. But I didn’t feel anything today.”

“This doctor has been looking after me for so many years. So I wasn’t worried about getting the vaccine at all, because I trust the doctor,” Yamaguchi told AFP.

‘House to house’

For Anselmo Tunubala, a nurse from the Misak ethnic indigenous group in Colombia, the problem is battling scepticism over the vaccine due to a belief in traditional plant-based medicines.

On foot or by motorbike, Tunubala tours the mountains in the country’s southwest searching for people over 70 to vaccinate. “I go from house to house raising awareness about vaccination, because grandparents always have low defences and it is to protect them from the disease that we are facing. Without this vaccine you can get ill with the coronavirus that is bearing down upon us.”

Sometimes he is successful, other times he finds himself rebuffed. Carlos Tunubala, 22, said his pastor had told him vaccination was unnecessary. “Trusting in God we move on, we overcome everything that comes our way,” he said.

Others were won over, however: Gerardo Muelas, a 72-year-old from the Misak group said: “We didn’t think of getting it, because

we used to cure ourselves of anything with plants.”

“But as this is a worldwide problem, there is no other solution. Whoever wants to can get it. It’s not obligatory, but you would feel safer getting it.”

In the remote Sudanese village of Seer, the residents do not have much, but they do have vaccines, courtesy of the Covax initiative that seeks to deliver to the world’s poorest areas.

The health ministry has secured 3,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, trained medical staff and monitored for possible side-effects, with the process going without a hitch so far.

“Thank God, everything is going well and there are no delays, the process is going smoothly, the turnout is high and all is well,” said lab technician Seifeldin Khodr.

SOURCE: AFP

Public information

Yangon Region Administration Council is working with relevant departments to help the businesses in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their small and medium-scaled businesses and investments which are facing some delays and working to do new businesses.

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council

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68	Tapinkan Village-tract	2	2,250	1,684	566	566		
69	Kywezin Village-tract	2	900	687	213	213		
70	Chaungpauk Village-tract	3	1,500	1,093	407	357	50	
71	Yathit Village-tract	4	3,150	2,156	994	1044		50
72	Kanywa Village-tract	2	1,250	937	313	313		
73	Konepahto Village-tract	2	1,650	1,254	396	396		
74	Tamiketha Village-tract	3	3,000	2,257	743	733	10	
75	Minkyoe Village-tract	2	1,300	973	327	327		
76	Kyarpohat Village-tract	3	2,600	2,056	544	544		
77	Kantha Village-tract	7	4,450	3,175	1,275	1,025	250	

78	Sinpyu Village-tract	5	2,900	1,885	1,015	765	250	
79	Kyawzi Village-tract	4	3,150	2,105	1,045	1055		10
80	Ngarpinsin Village-tract	2	1,600	1,049	551	551		
81	Aungzabu Village-tract	2	1,700	972	728	628	100	
82	Malar Village-tract	2	1,850	1,334	516	566		50
83	Thayaaye Village-tract	3	1,800	1,361	439	439		
	Ward/village tract ballots	322	210,450	131,979	78,471	66,292	12,788	609
	Township Advanced ballots		1,338	1,338				
	Township Remaining ballots		12,400		12,400	14,831		2,431
	Township Total	322	224,188	133,317	90,871	81,123	12,788	3,040

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in NyaungU Township

13. A total of 236 polling stations in 17 Wards and 75 Village-tracts of NyaungU Township in the Mandalay Region took out 232,963 ballots and used 160,281 ballots. It left 66,089 ballots instead of 72,682. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	214,550	159,472	55,078	48,589	10,208	3,719
2	Township Advanced ballots	809	809				
3	Township Remaining ballots	17,604		17,604	17,500	104	
Total		232,963	160,281	72,682	66,089	10,312	3719

14. There were 10,208 missing ballots and 3,719 extra used ballots at 236 polling stations in 17 Wards and 75 Village-tracts of NyaungU Township. The numbers of withdrawals and used township advance ballots were in conformity with 809. The township election sub-commission must have 17,604 remaining ballots, and it found only 17,500, and so 104 ballots were missing. It did not found the ballot receipts and remaining ballot books of No (2) polling station of Tatma Village-tract and No (8) polling station of Lat Pan Chay Paw.

15. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact re-remaining	Remain-ing on the Ground	Difference	
							Miss-ing	Extra
1	No (4) Ward	3	3,450	2,697	753	503	250	
2	No (5) Ward	4	5,150	4,412	738	888		150
3	No (7) Ward	2	1,650	1,303	347	146	201	
4	Kyansittha Ward	2	2,750	1,908	842	292	550	
5	Anawrahta Ward	3	4,150	3,257	893	693	200	
6	Thiripyitsara Ward	1	1,400	1,236	164	164		
7	Shwetwin Ward	1	750	681	69	69		
8	Ashaeyanaung Ward	1	1,050	935	115	117		2
9	Gantga Ward	1	1,350	1,132	218	268		50
10	Taungyanaung Village-tract	2	1,450	1,052	398	248	150	
11	Taungbi Village-tract	3	3,000	2,475	525	475	50	
12	Myinkapa Village-tract	3	4,600	4,262	338	439		101
13	Ywatha Village-tract	3	2,300	1,733	567	445	122	
14	Kyaohe Village-tract	5	4,900	3,863	1,037	839	198	
15	Melaungpya Village-tract	4	3,650	3,118	532	782		250
16	Sintku Village-tract	12	7,350	5,051	2,299	2,699		400
17	Myayni Village-tract	6	4,050	3,062	988	1,080		92
18	Pyinchaung Village-tract	1	700	503	197	247		50
19	Shwekapyu Village-tract	1	400	300	100	100		
20	Ziizahmyin Village-tract	2	1,400	1,124	276	226	50	
21	Kyaukpyinkan Village-tract	2	2,250	1,860	390	290	100	
22	Kannipauk Village-tract	2	1,650	1,425	225	225		
23	Kyaukkan Village-tract	2	1,000	617	383	183	200	
24	Tawywa Village-tract	1	700	628	72	122		50
25	Nwarkyoekan Village-tract	1	650	598	52	72		20
26	Phwarsaw Village-tract	4	2,500	2,213	287	287		
27	Minnanthu Village-tract	1	450	415	35	35		
28	Konetangyi Village-tract	3	4,200	3,180	1,020	870	150	
29	Nyaungto Village-tract	2	1,550	1,415	135	385		250
30	Natpalin Village-tract	1	1,450	1,290	160	160		
31	Tuywintine Village-tract	7	3,450	2,833	617	467	150	
32	Thaepyintaw Village-tract	1	1,450	1,066	384	434		50
33	Chaungshae Village-tract	2	2,850	2,228	622	772		150
34	Chaungwa Village-tract	2	1,250	874	376	241	135	
35	Wakhingyi Village-tract	3	2,050	1,080	970	820	150	
36	Sute Village-tract	2	1,900	983	917	617	300	
37	Pankonepin Village-tract	1	400	274	126	26	100	
38	Ywathittaung Village-tract	1	600	315	285	185	100	
39	Pyatinetaungnauk Village-tract	1	1,050	797	253	303		50
40	Sabathin Village-tract	1	1,400	620	780	580	200	
41	Tetma Village-tract	4	3,100	2,062	1,038	438	600	
42	Taungbelay Village-tract	5	5,800	4,166	1,634	1,781		147
43	Thapyayaine Village-tract	2	2,250	1,192	1,058	788	270	
44	Nyaungnikyinyin Village-tract	2	1,900	891	1,009	209	800	
45	Dan Village-tract	2	1,850	1,122	728	628	100	
46	Ngarminmay Village-tract	3	3,350	1,918	1,432	413	1019	

47	No (1) Ward	5	5,550	4,780	770	820		50
48	No (2) Ward	2	2,100	1,782	318	270	48	
49	No (3) Ward	3	5,000	4,055	945	1378		433
50	No (6) Ward	2	2,550	2,283	267	417		150
51	No (1) Ngathayauk	1	1,350	1,236	114	414		300
52	No (2) Ngathayauk	1	1,700	1,185	515	565		50
53	No (3) Ngathayauk	2	2,200	1,570	630	630		
54	No (4) Ngathayauk	1	800	626	174	274		100
55	Taungba Village-tract	1	1,150	972	178	178		
56	Myaythintwin Village-tract	3	2,450	1,967	483	333	150	
57	Kuywa Village-tract	5	3,050	2,294	756	556	200	
58	Chaukywa Village-tract	1	1,550	1,248	302	302		
59	Nyaungpinkan Village-tract	2	1,700	1,282	418	440		22
60	Pyon Village-tract	3	2,800	1,783	1,017	417	600	
61	Taungzin Village-tract	11	10,850	7,022	3,828	3,666	162	
62	Nyaungpintha Village-tract	1	100	45	55	60		5
63	Hteepu Village-tract	6	4,250	2,749	1,501	751	750	
64	Dahatse Village-tract	1	400	359	41	91		50
65	Kyunkhingyi Village-tract	1	1,350	1,148	202	202		
66	Myaynelay Village-tract	1	750	407	343	343		
67	Sitha Village-tract	1	400	353	47	47		
68	Kabarni Village-tract	3	1,450	1,220	230	130	100	
69	Aintine Village-tract	1	600	512	88	88		
70	Yansan Village-tract	2	1,950	1,349	601	251	350	
71	Palin Village-tract	2	1,550	1,270	280	230	50	
72	Auknyee Village-tract	3	2,200	1,830	370	220	150	
73	Ahtetnyee Village-tract	1	1,350	1,143	207	207		
74	Thithtaung Village-tract	3	2,600	2,087	513	713		200
75	Letpanchaepaw Village-tract	10	6,350	4,821	1,529	1,826		297
76	Lethtoke Village-tract	4	2,600	1,885	715	765		50
77	Pyawkan Village-tract	1	1,150	1,159	-9	41		50
78	Kanthaya Village-tract	1	1,200	1,052	148	48	100	
79	Kalate Village-tract	2	2,550	1,617	933	883	50	
80	Sinthamway Village-tract	4	3,550	2,429	1,121	921	200	
81	Se Village-tract	5	5,250	3,666	1,584	1,334	250	
82	Tawpyar Village-tract	3	3,750	2,224	1,526	1,376	150	
83	Kanma Village-tract	4	2,850	2,068	782	782		
84	Tapaukgone Village-tract	1	850	687	163	163		
85	Kannigyi Village-tract	2	2,050	1,214	836	786	50	
86	Kantain Village-tract	2	1,450	1,079	371	321	50	
87	MyayHnegyi Village-tract	1	750	487	263	213	50	
88	Ywapale Village-tract	2	1,900	1,193	707	409	298	
89	Taungtaw Village-tract	1	1,950	1,347	603	603		
90	Kutaw Village-tract	3	3,300	2,099	1,201	898	303	
91	Setsetyo Village-tract	2	1,300	836	464	462	2	
92	Bywegyi Village-tract	1	1,450	886	564	714		150
	Ward/village tract ballots	236	214,550	159,472	55,078	48,589	10,208	3,719
	Township Advanced ballots		809	809				
	Township Remaining ballots		17,604		17,604	17,500	104	
	Township Total	236	232,963	160,281	72,682	66,089	10,312	3,719

129th Maha Pathana recitation occasion completes successfully

THE closing ceremony of 129th Maha Pathana recitation was held at Upatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Ovada Cariya of pagoda Presiding Sayadaw of Pauk Myaing Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and wife, Deputy Minister U Tun Ohn and wife, Permanent Secretary U Myint Oo and wife and members of pagoda board of trustees attended the ceremony.

Union Minister U Ko Ko and

party firstly took nine precepts from Pauk Myaing Sayadaw Baddanta Janinda and then the monks recited Parittas. Union Minister and party also donated the offertories to the Sayadaws.

Then, the Union Minister and attendees shared merits after the sermons of Sayadaw and the ceremony ended with a three-time recitation of Buddha Sasana Ciram Titthatu.

The Union Minister and officials donated 'Day meals' to the Sayadaws and monks.

— MNA



The Union Minister and congregation are taking nine precepts from the Pauk Myaing Sayadaw.

Plans are underway to narrow development gap between regions, states

UNION Minister U Tin Htut Oo urged all responsible persons under his Ministry to make concerted efforts to further develop agricultural and

livestock-based production with modern methods and to achieve the comprehensive economic development of other economic sectors at the

coordination meeting on agricultural development held on 24 April in Shan State.

The Union Minister pointed out the need to make an effort for the country's export promotion and food security in all states and regions. It is necessary to develop the agriculture and fisheries sector that is a basic need, and increase rural people's incomes. He continued that although farming conditions may vary depending on local climate, he wants them to play an active role in narrowing the development gap between regions and states.

He added that it is necessary to coordinate with the private sector and the required technical assistance for the productivity of each acre of land per capita and capital inputs and to ensure the use of

equipment of irrigation water by the officials. At the meeting, officials also presented their sectors. The Union Minister and the Shan State Administration Council members coordinated the meeting.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party arrived at the Shan State Cooperative Union Co-op hospital to provide public healthcare near the Aye Thiri Market in Aye Thayar Town. Officials explained the history of the Cooperative Union and current activities.

The Union Minister further said that the people need to be widely aware of the good intentions and results of the cooperative and the role of cooperatives in trade and services is crucial. He commended the cooperative's policy with the unions to prevent the difficulties in goods flow caused

by COVID-19.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party inspected the ongoing research activities and the further ones at the Aungban Regional Research Centre-RRC in the Department of Agricultural Research. They have been cooperating with the private sector at the research camp to produce potato seeds and high-quality banana with the successful modern tissue method. In Shan State, researchers have carried out agricultural research to support agricultural development in various fields such as paddy, corn, wheat, soybeans, sunflower, and tissue laboratory work. These activities have been carried out by a Regional Research Centre-RCC, five research camps and 15 farmer-based research camps. — MNA



Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo and party are inspecting the Aungban Regional Research Centre-RRC on 24 April.

National Committee on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict meets

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the first National-Level Committee on the Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict (1/2021) yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the committee; the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, the Deputy Minister for Defence; the members of the national committee, the Deputy Minister for Health and Sports and the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; the Deputy At-

torney General and Permanent Secretaries from relevant departments, members of the National Level Committee, Directors General Deputy Directors-General and officials.

The National committee was amended by Notification No.80/2021 by the State Administration Council on 31 March 2021 to ensure that the current activities under the auspices of the State Administration Council are carried out.

The meeting aimed to revise the terminology in the action plan and discuss the next steps to reorganize the working committee further and implement the

approved national action plan.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine said the Myanmar Permanent Representative signed the joint communique to the UN and UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Violence Against Women in Conflicts Ms. Pramila Patten at the UN headquarters in New York.

A total of seven National-Level Committee Meetings and one Working Committee Meeting were held in 2019 and 2020 for the emergence of a National Plan to draw up a work plan and implement the action plan concerning the contents

of the Joint Declaration. The UN agencies and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflicts (OSESOG) were invited twice to the third and the fifth meetings.

She added that the committee was renamed the National Committee on the Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict. It shall address all forms of sexual violence in conflicts, not just women. She called for the discussion on the reorganization of the working committee and implementation of the project plan by the relevant sectors.

The Deputy Minister for

Defence, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee on the Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict, addressed the meeting.

The Secretary of the national committee Director-General of the Social Welfare Department explained the national committee's reorganization and the implementation of the approved work plans, and the attendees gave suggestions.

The National Committee on the Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict will hold the second meeting (2/2021) in the last week of May 2021. — MNA

Military hospitals continue providing healthcare to civilians



MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states keep providing medical treatments to the people to solve their healthcare services difficulties.

A total of 164,130, outpatients and 4,448 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date. Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 7,686 major operations and 3,923 minor operations. The sen-

ior doctors treat serious cases. These hospitals managed for the birth of 10,198 babies while bringing 10,198 pregnant women to the respective military hospitals. Of those 3,994 cases are done in caesarean section and 6,204 cases in ordinary delivery. Officials from the respective commands also provided the patients with foods, and medical workers were provided with cash assistance. — MNA

Local national people are getting medical care at the military hospital.

Terrorists destroy buildings, car in Payathonezu Ceti monastery in Amarapura

A group of 20 terrorists led by Myint Swe, a resident in Kanaw village, destroyed the monastery building and a vehicle in the Payathonezu Ceti monastery yesterday in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region.

The incident reportedly happened because Sayadaw U Gotika, the abbot of the Monastery, was dissatisfied by them with the request to the security forces paving the road in Kanaw village to to the monastery on 25 April.

The Sayadaw had to flee from the monastery while the building was being destroyed. Due to the attack, the 12-foot-long wooden door, the entrance to the monastery, four glass windows and six wooden windows and the roof were damaged, and the window of the car was smashed.

It is reported that investigations are underway to take effective legal action against the perpetrators. — MNA

Security measures conducted to ensure community peace



Tatmadaw, police and fire brigade members take security measures at night in Toungoo.

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

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

Five men nabbed in Yangon



Five arrestees are seen after protests in Hline and Mingala Taungnyunt townships.

ABOUT 20 people staged a strike in U Aye street (1) of No (16) Ward in Hline Township of Yangon Region yesterday. Acting on tip-off, the security forces dispersed the protest crowd and detained three men, including

Nyi Soe Myat, who lives in that township.

Similarly, about 30 rioters staged a demonstration between 119th street and Banyar Dala street of Yay Twin Gone Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

The police dispersed the protest crowd and arrested two men, including Hein Naing Soe, who lives in Kyauktada Township.

The suspects will face effective actions under the law. — MNA

Terrorists attack security forces convoy in Mindat

THE rioters attacked the security forces convoy in Mindat Township of Chin State yesterday. One security member reportedly killed, three injured and one vehicle damaged.

The combined team comprising security forces led by the head of Mindat police conducted patrol between Mindat and Pakokku townships at about 2:50 pm. When the vehicle convoy arrived near the golf course in Ashe Pyin Ward of Mindat township at

about 3:30 pm, the terrorists attacked the convoy with guns, including percussion lock firearms.

The security fought back and moved back to Mindat. On the way, the terrorists blocked the way in front of the Ashe Pyin Ward administration office. The security forces arrived back in Mindat at 4:40 pm.

During this attack, one security member was killed while three injured and one vehicle damaged. —MNA

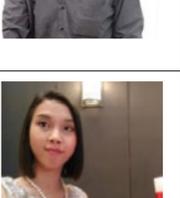
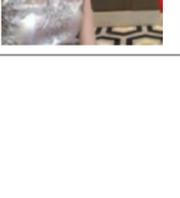
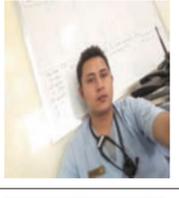
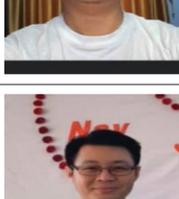
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Files opened against medical doctors who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

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.

Sr	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Dr Zar Chi Soe Myint (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
2	Dr Nilar Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
3	Dr Hsan Ro (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
4	Dr Aung Thu Kyaw (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
5	Dr Khine Thinzar Win (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
6	Dr Phyo Htut Bo Bo Tun (Assistant Surgeon)	Mongyang Hospital	North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
7	Dr. Thein Tun Aung (Specialist)	Monghsat Hospital	Tatkon Town, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
8	Dr Hnin Phyu Phyu Soe (Specialist)	Monghsat Hospital	Monywa Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
9	Dr Myo Min Than (Assistant Surgeon)	Monghsat Hospital	Pale Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
10	Dr. Sa Myo Min (Assistant Surgeon)	Mongton Hospital	Kyonpyaw Town, Ayeyawady Region	505-a	
11	Dr. Thant Thant Kyi Win (Assistant Surgeon)	Hpa-an Hospital	Hpa-an Town, Kayin State	505-a	
12	Dr Shine Htet Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Hpa-an Hospital	Hpa-an Town, Kayin State	505-a	
13	Dr Lal Ram Zar Oh (Assistant Surgeon)	Hpa-an Hospital	Hpa-an Town, Kayin State	505-a	
14	Dr Min Htet Naing (Assistant Surgeon)	Paingkyon Station Hospital	Paingkyon Town, Kayin State	505-a	
15	Dr Than Htike Aung (Assistant Surgeon)	Myaing Gyi Ngu Station Hospital	Myaing Gyi Ngu, Kayin State	505-a	
16	Dr Wai Zin Htwe (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
17	Dr Tha Pyay Kyi (Specialist)	Kengtung General Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
18	Dr Myat Min Han (Assistant Surgeon)	Kyaikto Hospital	Kyaikto Town, Mon State	505-a	
19	Dr Kyaw Swa Myint (Specialist)	Tachilek General Hospital	Tachilek Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
20	Dr Nay Lin Aung (Specialist)	Tachilek General Hospital	Tachilek Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	

Among them, Dr Wai Zin Htwe (Assistant Surgeon) and Dr Tha Pyae Kyi (Specialist) of Kengtung General Hospital, Dr Myat Min Han (Assistant Surgeon) of Kyaikto Hospital, Dr Kyaw Swa Myint (Specialist) and Dr Nay Lin Aung (Specialist) of Tachilek General 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 work licences of the private hospitals/clinics which allowed them to give medical treatments will be closed. Deterrent action will be taken against owners of these hospitals/clinics under the law. Action will be taken against any health staff under the law for taking charges of providing healthcare services to the people and giving assistance to private hospitals/clinics with participation in CDM activities without discharging assigned duty. Severe action will be taken against owners of private hospitals/clinics which admit those medical doctors and health staff for supporting the CDM participants. — MNA

Israel closes Gaza fishing zone over rocket fire

ISRAEL said Monday it is closing the fishing zone off the already blockaded Gaza Strip, preventing trawlers from going out to sea, after repeated rocket attacks on the Jewish state. The move comes after the Israeli army said five rockets were fired from Gaza towards Israel overnight, two of which were intercepted by its air defences.

“The fishing zone in the Gaza Strip would be completely closed until further notice,” said COGAT, the Israeli military body that administers civilian affairs in Palestinian territories including the occupied West Bank.

The measure was “due to the continuation of the



This picture taken on 26 April, 2021 shows a view of fishing boats within the fishing port of Gaza City. Israel announced on 26 April that it closed the fishing zone in the already-blockaded Gaza Strip preventing fishermen from going out to sea after repeated rocket attacks on the Jewish state. The Israeli measure comes after the army said five rockets were fired from Gaza towards Israel overnight, two of which were intercepted by the Iron Dome Aerial Defence System. **PHOTO: AFP**

rocket fire from the Gaza Strip towards the State of Israel during the night”, it said in a statement. Israel

would hold the Islamist Hamas movement which controls Gaza “accountable for all that is done in and from

the Gaza Strip towards Israel”, COGAT said.

Hamas “will bear the consequences for the violence committed against the citizens” of Israel, it said. Salvos of rockets were also fired at Israel from Gaza overnight Friday and again overnight Saturday, prompting Israel to carry out retaliatory air strikes on the coastal enclave.

Israel, which has imposed a blockade on Gaza for more than a decade, had set the fishing zone for the coastal enclave at 20 nautical miles following the Oslo peace accords in the 1990s.

But over the years Israel has reduced the size depending on tensions with Hamas. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia launches new batch of UK telecom satellites into space

A Soyuz rocket blasted off from the Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia's Far East on Monday carrying 36 UK telecommunications and internet satellites, the Roscosmos space agency said. OneWeb, a London-headquartered company, is working to complete the construction of a constellation of low earth orbit satellites providing enhanced broadband and other services to countries around the world.

The company is competing against billionaires Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos in the race to provide fast internet via satellites for the world's remote areas.

Images released by Russia's space agency Roscosmos showed the Soyuz rocket taking off against hazy skies Monday morning at 7:14 am local time (2214 GMT).

“All satellites have been successfully placed in target orbits and have been taken under customer control,” Roscosmos said in a statement.

“Mission success!” OneWeb wrote on Twitter.

The UK company plans for its global commercial internet service to be operational by next year, supported by some 650 satellites.

Monday's launch was the third batch of its satellites placed into orbit from Russia, with earlier launches from the Vostochny cosmodrome of 36 satellites each taking place last month and in December.

OneWeb's first six satellites were also launched by a Russian-made Soyuz rocket, taking off from the space centre in Kourou in French Guiana in February 2019.

The company launched 68 more from the Baikonur launch site in Kazakhstan last year.

The Vostochny launch site is one of Russia's most important space projects, designed to reduce reliance on the Baikonur space centre Moscow currently rents from Kazakhstan.

The project has been consistently behind schedule, with its construction marred for years by multiple controversies including corruption.—AFP ■

‘Nomadland’ wins big at pandemic Oscars as Zhao makes history



Frances McDormand (L), winner of the award for best actress in a leading role for “Nomadland,” and Yuh-Jung Youn, winner of the award for best actress in a supporting role for “Minari,” pose in the press room at the Oscars on 25 April, 2021, at Union Station in Los Angeles. **PHOTO: AFP**

US road movie “Nomadland” emerged as the big winner at the Oscars on Sunday with three major prizes, including a history-making award for di-

rector Chloe Zhao, as Hollywood celebrated its most glamorous night with a unique pandemic-era gala.

Zhao's drama about marginalized Americans

roaming the West in vans was honored for best picture, director and actress for Frances McDormand, who now is in elite company with her third Academy Award for performing.

No-show Anthony Hopkins pulled an upset to win best actor in the final award of the night, besting sentimental favorite Chadwick Boseman, who died of cancer last year.

The unorthodox Oscars ceremony was moved from a Hollywood theater to a glammed-up downtown train station to abide by strict Covid-19 protocols, and reunited Tinseltown A-listers for the first time in more than a year.

Zhao, who is the first woman of color ever honored as best director, thanked “all the people we met on the road... for teaching us the power of resilience and hope, and for reminding us what true kindness looks like”.

She is also only the second woman to win best director after Kathryn Bigelow, who broke the glass ceiling in 2010 when she won the prize for “The Hurt Locker”. “It's pretty fabulous to be a woman in 2021,” Zhao told journalists as a virtual backstage Q&A, adding: “If this win means more people get to live their dreams, I'm extremely grateful.” —AFP ■

Facebook blocks Australian MP for virus misinformation

FACEBOOK removed Australian member of parliament Craig Kelly's page for repeatedly peddling pandemic misinformation, the social media giant said Monday. Kelly previously had posts blocked on the platform and was forced to quit the governing Liberal Party, amid controversial statements on vaccine safety,

lockdowns and unproven Covid treatments. Facebook said it removed his popular page permanently after “repeated violations” of its policies.

“We don't allow anyone, including elected officials, to share misinformation about Covid-19 that could lead to imminent physical harm or Covid-19 vaccines that

have been debunked by public health experts,” a spokesperson said in a statement.

Kelly's Facebook account -- in which he also frequently played down climate change -- drew around six million video views and five million interactions in 2020, according to data tool CrowdTangle.—AFP ■

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US, Britain rush supplies to virus-stricken India

THE US and Britain rushed ventilators and vaccine materials to India Monday as the country battles a catastrophic, record-breaking coronavirus wave that has overwhelmed hospitals and set crematoriums working at full capacity.

A surge in recent days has seen patients' families taking to social media to beg for oxygen supplies and locations of available hospital beds, and has forced the capital New Delhi to extend a week-long lockdown.

The country of 1.3 billion has become the latest hotspot of a pandemic that has killed more than three million people, even as richer countries take steps towards normality with quickening inoculation programmes.

Irfan Salmani told AFP he had been going from hospital to hospital around Delhi for the past three days, searching for oxygen for his sister.

"I've never seen anything so terrible," he said. "I've been trying non-stop."

"What can I do?... I've just been facing rejection after rejection."

France, Germany and Canada have also pledged support to India, which has driven increases in global case numbers in recent days, recording 352,991 new infections and 2,812 deaths on Monday — its highest tolls since the start of the pandemic.

Creaking health facilities in poorer countries were exposed Sunday when more than 80 peo-

ple died as fire ripped through a Baghdad hospital for Covid-19 patients, sparking outrage and the suspension of top Iraqi officials.

Thailand enforced new restrictions Monday after a record daily death toll over the weekend, while the capital of neighbouring Cambodia has been under lockdown for 12 days as cases spike.

Vaccine surplus

The first of nine airline container-loads of supplies from the UK, including ventilators and oxygen concentrators, was set to arrive in India early Tuesday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, pledging the UK would do "all it can" to help.

The White House said it was making vaccine-produc-



Medical staff and relatives help a Covid-19 coronavirus patient to get in a car at a hospital in New Delhi on 24 April 2021. PHOTO: AFP

tion material, therapeutics, tests, ventilators and protective equipment immediately available to India.

But it did not mention

whether it would send any of the 30 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses it currently holds in surplus, sparking accusations of hoarding. —AFP ■

New Covid restrictions in Thailand as cases rise



Commuters wearing protective face masks walk on Pratumnam pier in Bangkok on 26 April 2021, after the government imposed strict restrictions including a 20,000 THB (525 Euros, 636 USD) fine for not wearing a mask in public following the recent outbreak of Covid-19 coronavirus cases in Thailand. PHOTO: AFP

NEW Covid restrictions came into force in Thailand on Monday to try to halt a spiralling outbreak that saw deaths hit a record single-day high over the weekend.

In Bangkok — where the latest outbreak has been traced back to a nightlife district — as well as 46 other provinces, wearing masks is now compulsory in public spaces, backed up by the threat of a 20,000 baht (\$640) fine.

Authorities in the capital have also closed a raft of venues including cinemas, parks, gyms, swimming pools, spas and nurseries.

The new restrictions come a week after authorities ordered bars and nightclubs to close and banned restaurants from serv-

ing alcohol.

The tightening comes amid a spike in cases — total infections reached 57,500 on Monday, up from just 29,000 in early April.

Some 2,048 new cases were announced on Monday, while Sunday saw Thailand record its highest single-day death toll of the pandemic, with 11 fatalities.

Until the latest outbreak Thailand had managed to keep infections down, thanks to draconian travel restrictions and swift action to isolate confirmed cases. But there have been complaints about the slow rollout of vaccinations, with Thailand lagging behind other countries in the region.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha said on Facebook

the government was trying to source more vaccine doses and ramp up the programme to inoculate 300,000 people a day.

In neighbouring Cambodia, also in the grip of a new wave of the pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) urged factory owners in the key garment sector to help protect workers.

"The current outbreaks in factories and markets serve as a painful reminder of the importance of investing in mitigation measures before cases occur, to help prevent the virus spreading," Li Ailan, WHO representative in Cambodia, said in a statement.

Li urged factory owners to do more temperature screening and rearrange workshops to allow social distancing. —AFP ■

HK, Singapore to resume quarantine-free travel in late May

HONG Kong and Singapore will launch a quarantine-free "air travel bubble" on 26 May following its postponement late last year, as the coronavirus situation has since stabilized, the two governments said Monday.

The arrangement was postponed just before its planned launch in late November as virus cases had increased in Hong Kong, but both Hong Kong and Singapore have recently managed to keep community transmissions under control.

"I am happy that Hong Kong got the COVID-19 situation under control. It has been a long few months, but the conditions

are now ripe again to relaunch the ATB," Hong Kong's Commerce and Economic Development Secretary Edward Yau told a press conference.

Under the revised program, travelers will have to take standard PCR tests both before departure and upon arrival, travel on designated flights and install mobile tracking apps.

Hong Kong travelers must also be vaccinated "for better self-protection," Yau said.

Those traveling under the arrangement will be free from any restrictions on travel itineraries and compulsory quarantine. — Kyodo News ■

Australia's Perth ends snap lockdown as quarantine debate heats up

AUSTRALIAN authorities on Monday lifted a snap three-day lockdown of Perth, but faced pointed questions about how the coronavirus leaked from a quarantine hotel for returning travellers.

Stay-at-home orders for Perth and surrounding areas will expire at midnight Monday, after just two people contracted Covid-19 out of thousands tested in the region.

"It was a circuit breaker we needed to limit community spread and keep our community healthy," Western

Australia state premier Mark McGowan said.

The virus reportedly spread from a man who recently returned from his wedding in India to other travellers at a quarantine hotel, including one who then unknowingly infected people in the community after being released from isolation.

The cases have prompted a fresh debate over the effectiveness and fairness of Australia's hotel quarantine system, which is now being copied in several countries around the world. —AFP ■

AFC Executive Committee focus on upcoming tournaments

ASIAN Football Confederation (AFC) Executive Committee is now focusing on the 2021 football tournaments, according to the statement with the AFC.

President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of the AFC recently acknowledged his commitment and unity of the AFC Member Associations (MAS)

towards the resumption of the Asian football calendar in 2021.

Shaikh Salman said, "The successful completion of the 2020 AFC Champions League has given us a template to approach 2021 with greater confidence. Our thanks must go to the Qatar Football Association, the Qatari Authorities and the medical pro-

fessionals for their commitment and support.

"Our sincere appreciation must also go to all Member Associations that have agreed to host our national team and club matches in the coming weeks and months."

"We needed to show the world that Asian football is ready

to return – for the players, the teams and fans across the Continent. Just as important, we must continue to demonstrate that the AFC is in the best possible position to deliver safe and world-class competitions as underlined in the AFC's Vision."

The members were also briefed about FIFA's decision to

immediately suspend the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) in light of the recent events at the PFF headquarters in Lahore. During the circumstances, a group of protesters stormed the offices. It took control of the premises from the PFF Normalization Committee, according to the AFF. —GNLM ■

Atletico defeat by Athletic Bilbao hands initiative to Barcelona

ATLETICO Madrid's title hopes suffered a setback on Sunday as a shock 2-1 defeat at Athletic Bilbao handed Barcelona the upper hand in a thrilling race at the top of La Liga.

Real Madrid's draw with Real Betis on Saturday gave Atletico the chance to pull further clear but instead they ended the weekend with their lead reduced, a loss at San Mames the latest twist in Europe's most unpredictable domestic chase. Barca had earlier beaten Villarreal by the same scoreline, with Antoine Griezmann's quick-fire double becoming all the more valuable after another Atletico slip. Sevilla have largely been overlooked as possible champions in Spain but they are right in the mix as well now after a 2-1 win over Granada puts them just three points off the top and one behind Real Madrid.

Yet Barcelona were the biggest winners, with Ronald Koeman's team able to go top of the table if they win their game in hand at home to Granada on



Atletico Madrid's Slovenian goalkeeper Jan Oblak (C) holds the ball during the Spanish League football match between Athletic Club Bilbao and Club Atletico de Madrid at the San Mames stadium in Bilbao on 25 April, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

Thursday, even if Atletico might have a way back given they are still to play at Camp Nou on 8 May. Real Madrid host Sevilla a day later.

"There are four of us in that race and now emotionally, those who have the mental strength will be closer to winning," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone.

"We still know that we de-

pend on ourselves."

Atletico have first place, for now at least, but they might be the least convincing of all the contenders.

Losing to Athletic Bilbao means they have won only six of their last 14 league games, with the momentum gained from consecutive wins over Eibar and Huesca proving short-lived. —AFP ■

Smalling returns but Roma crash in Cagliari before Man United tie

CHRIS Smalling's return after over a month out injured could not prevent Roma suffering their third straight league loss with a 3-2 defeat at Cagliari ahead of next week's Europa League semi-final, first leg at Manchester United.

Ex-Man United defender Smalling's return from a knee injury was the only positive note for Paulo Fonseca's side whose European ambitions next season have been dented.

Joao Pedro set up Charalampos Lykogiannis to put Cagliari ahead after just four minutes in the Sardegna Arena. Carles Perez pulled Roma level before the half hour mark but Razvan Marin and a Joao Pedro header either side of the hour restored the hosts' advantage.

Smalling played for an hour before being substituted by Bryan Cristante.

A Federico Fazio header revived Roman hopes with 20 minutes to go but the visitors

were unable to find the equaliser.

"Smalling played a very good game, the team is a lot more secure with him and it was important to let him play at least for a while so as to have him for Manchester," said Fonseca. "Today it was important that he played at least 45 minutes – and in the end he played 59. "That's positive heading into the game in Manchester.

"We weren't able to give a runout to all of the players that are just back from injuries, but the key thing was to be able to get Smalling and Leonardo Spinazzola back out there."

Roma's Champions League ambitions are effectively over as they are 11 points behind Juventus who occupy fourth place, with five games to play.

They are also three points behind city rivals Lazio, who occupy the final Europa League berth, and have played two games fewer. —AFP ■

Hazard's woes leave Real Madrid nostalgic for age of Galacticos

"I'll try," said Eden Hazard when asked in his first press conference at Real Madrid if he could now become the best player in the world. Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi were the immovable duo but still, the suggestion was not that Hazard settle for third, a position he had already come to hover around following seven brilliant years for Chelsea.

Hazard had been the Premier League's outstanding attacking talent and at Real Madrid, where the demands would be higher and the supporting cast more prestigious, it was not out of the question there could be more to come. He could replace Ronaldo, fill Madrid's creativity gap, launch a new era and perhaps even win the Ballon d'Or. "If everything goes well, why not?" said Hazard. "It's in my head but I'm not thinking

of it every day." Almost two years later, Hazard counts it as a blessing to make it through a single match without another muscle creaking let alone an entire season worthy of international acclaim.

Real Madrid face Chelsea in the first leg of the Champions League semi-finals on Tuesday and it would be a huge surprise if he were to start against his former team. Hazard came off the bench against Real Betis on Saturday to play his first 15 minutes in almost three months. "He played with spark, with energy," said Zidane. "We're going to need him."

When asked about the merits of Real Madrid's 'Galactico' signings such as Hazard, the club's president Florentino Perez said they are as much a projection of power as a way of bringing in a better striker or right-back. —AFP ■



Real Madrid's Belgian forward Eden Hazard walks in the rain during the Spanish League football match between Real Madrid CF and Real Betis at the Alfredo di Stefano stadium in Valdebebas, on the outskirts of Madrid, on 24 April, 2021. PHOTO: AFP