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74th Martyrs' Day ceremony held under COVID-19 protocols in Yangon

THE 74th Martyrs' Day celebration was held yesterday morning at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon following the COVID-19 rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Committee on Organizing the Martyrs' Day, Chairman of the Yangon Region Administration Council U Hla Soe as Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, Commander of Yangon Region Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, members of the central committee, sub-committees, Tatmadaw and departmental officials laid wreaths at the tombs of Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs, paid tributes and observed a two-minute silence.

At the moment, the flag



The 74th Martyrs' Day Commemoration Ceremony in progress.



The MoRAC Union Minister, the Yangon Region Administration Council Chairman and the Commander of the Yangon Region Command are paying tribute to the Martyrs after laying wreaths at the Martyrs' Mausoleum to commemorate the 74th Martyrs' Day on 19 July 2021.

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was lowered to half-mast, the guard of honour presented arms, and a military bugle sounded the Last Post.

Afterwards, the Secretary for the 74th Martyrs' Day Ceremony Invitation, Information and Documentation Sub-Committee, on behalf of U Aung San Oo, son of Bogyoke Aung San, and families of the martyrs laid wreaths in front of the monuments.

Representatives from political parties in Yangon, ambassadors, heads of embassies and charge d'affaires from the foreign embassies in Myanmar, the European Union and UN agencies also laid wreaths at the memorial to Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs.

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Alms-food offered at Yangon City Hall to commemorate 74th Martyrs' Day

ALMS-FOOD was donated to senior Buddhist monks as a commemoration service to the martyrs of national independence at the meeting room of the City Hall of the Yangon City Development Committee at 10:30 am yesterday.

Chairman of the Central Committee on the 74th Martyrs' Day Ceremony and Union Minister for Religion Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, Chairman of Yangon Region Administration Council and Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee U Hla Soe, Commander of Yangon Region Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, Yangon Region Administration Council Member (1) Colonel Win Tint,



The congregation led by the MoRAC Union Minister are taking the Five Precepts in the 74th Martyrs Day commemoration event at Yangon City Hall yesterday.

Chief Justice of Yangon Region High Court Daw Thin Thin Nwet, the Yangon Mayor, committee members and invited guests attended the ceremony. First, the audience re-

ceived the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Thumingala, the patron monk of Nyaungdon Pariyatti Pali University, Maha Gandha Vasaka Panita Pali University, Yangon Region Sangha Nayaka Committee.

Next Sayadaws (Buddhist monks) preached sermons and shared merits for the fallen leaders, followed by the donation of alms-food for day-meals to the members of Sangha.

Afterwards, the congregation paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Thumingala and poured water drops to dedicate the merit for General Aung San and the other martyrs. — MNA

Myanmar expects 50% of population to be vaccinated this year

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health and Sports, 50 per cent of Myanmar's population is expected to get vaccinated against COVID-19 this year.

At present, more than 1.6 million people have been vaccinated, and vaccines are constantly being imported to ensure that a hundred per cent of the population is fully vaccinated. About 750,000 vaccines from China will arrive on 22 July, and more will arrive on 23 and 24 July. In addition, plans are underway to receive more vaccines in the first week of August and it is reported that private companies are allowed to import medicines without restrictions.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) on 15 July, the incidence of COVID-19 in the world increased by 10 per cent com-

pared to the previous week and the death rate increased by three per cent.

Despite the rise in morbidity and mortality around the world, the cases in the United States, which has been heavily vaccinated, is lower than last week, with a three-per-cent drop in morbidity rate and a one-per-cent drop in mortality rate.

Outbreaks and death rates are declining in Italy, Germany, the USA and France, where more than 50 per cent of their populations have been vaccinated, respectively, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Efforts are being made to have the nationwide coverage of vaccines as the vaccination rate in Myanmar is only one per cent and the incidence and mortality rate is on the rise. — Htet Lyan/GNLM



People pay tribute to the Martyrs.

Personal preventive practices against COVID-19 infection

- (1) Wear the mask systematically when going out in public.
- (2) Keep a proper physical distance.
- (3) Avoid the crowd.
- (4) Wash your hands for 20 seconds frequently.
- (5) Avoid entering unventilated closed spaces as much as possible.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

74th Martyrs' Day ceremony held under ...

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The people who came to the ceremony to pay their respects to the great martyr leaders lined up at a distance of six feet in line with the Social Distancing set by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The ceremony was also attended by UEC Member U Aung Moe Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tun Ohn as Vice-Chairman of the Working Committee, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, members of the Yangon Region Administration Council, the Regional Chief Justice and invited people. — MNA



(From top to down)
Foreign dignitaries from embassies, the European Union and UN organizations lay wreaths and pay tribute to the martyrs.



(From top to down)
The Yangon Region Administration Council members and representatives from political parties lay wreaths and pay tribute to the martyrs.

Families of Martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders



On behalf of the family members of Bogyoke Aung San, the Secretary for the 74th Martyrs' Day Ceremony Invitation, Information and Documentation Sub-Committee pay tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and Martyrs in Yangon on 19 July 2021.



Family members of Thakhin Mya pay tribute to Thakhin Mya and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2021.



Family members of Deedok U Ba Cho pay tribute to Deedok U Ba Cho and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2021.



Family members of U Ba Win pay tribute to U Ba Win and martyrs at the Martyr's Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2021.



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing pay tribute to Mahn Ba Khaing and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2021.



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing lay a wreath paying tribute to Mahn Ba Khaing and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2021.

Politicians and media should not commit incitements and spread fake news

POLITICIANS and media should not commit incitements and spread fake news. The peacemaking process goes on as it is necessary to cease armed conflicts among the ethnic nationals for restoring peace and stability based on security measures.

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

Families of Martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders



Family members of Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun pay tribute to Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2021.



Family members of U Razak pay tribute to U Razak and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2021.



Family members of U Ohn Maung lay a wreath paying tribute to U Ohn Maung and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2021.



Family members of Yebaw Ko Htwe lay a wreath paying tribute to Yebaw Ko Htwe and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on 19 July 2021.



Union Minister U Ko Ko of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Yangon Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe and Yangon Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe are cordially greeting the family members of the martyred leaders.

Merit shared for martyred leaders on 74th Martyrs' Day in Nay Pyi Taw



Alms-food offering and merit sharing ceremony are held in Nay Pyi Taw in commemorating the 74th Martyrs' Day.

ON the 74th Martyrs' Day, a donation ceremony was held at the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office yesterday morning and merit was

shared for the leaders who sacrificed their lives for the country. The ceremony was graced by Sayadaws headed by Aung

Si Thar Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Wisakkhana, Principal of State Central Working

Committee of the Sangha of All Orders, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Myo Tin, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Aye Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council members and officials attended the ceremony.

First, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing paid homage to the Buddha image in the hall and donated fruits, flowers, drinking water and lamps to the Buddha.

Next, the attendees took the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Wisakkhana and listened to the Sayadaws and Sanghas recitation of Paritta.

After that, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Myo Tin, Deputy Minister U Aye Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council members Colonel Min Naung and U Myint Soe donated offerings to the Sayadaws and Sanghas.

Then, the guests who attended the ceremony paid homage to the Sayadaws and listened to the Dhamma from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Wisakkhana followed by sharing merit to the martyrs.

At 10:37 am, those in attendance paid a two-minute silence to the martyred leaders who gave their lives for the country.

The ceremony was concluded after offering day-meals to the Sayadaws and Sanghas. —MNA

Disabled person makes generous donation for oxygen plant in Yenangaung

A disabled person with a wheelchair donated 30,000 kyats for the construction of an oxygen plant in Yenangaung on 18 July.

The man, who lives on the streets of Yenangaung and lives on public donations, collected and donated banknotes, according to social media reports.

Despite being poor and dis-



A disabled person with a wheelchair donated 30,000 kyats for the construction of an oxygen plant in Yenangaung on 18 July.

abled, the charitable contribution for the construction of the much-needed oxygen plant is now a generous donation, and thus donors can now donate any amount of faith for the benefit of the community to build and purchase an oxygen plant in any area, officials said.

The third wave of the COVID-19 virus in Myanmar has increased the rate of infection plus oxygen requirements.

The Tatmadaw and volunteers are trying to meet the oxygen needs of the COVID-19 centres promptly, and a committee has been formed to build an oxygen plant in Yenangaung Township, which will cost about 80 million kyats.

Until now, over 40 million donations from well-wishers have been received and when the plant is completed, it will be able to distribute about 40 large 40-litre containers daily, according to the Oxygen Plant Implementation Committee. —MNA

State Flag hoisted at half-mast at former Secretariat for 74th Martyrs' Day



The ceremony to hoist the State Flag at half-mast is held at the Secretariat (formerly the Ministers' Office) yesterday.

THE 74th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day was commemorated with a ceremony in Yangon yesterday at the Secretariat (formerly the Ministers' Office), where the martyrs were assassinated.

Present on the occasion were Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor U

Bo Htay, committee members, department officials and the Guard of Honour.

They saluted the martyrs and observed 2 minutes of silence.

While people were allowed to visit there in the previous years, the spread of COVID-19

has prevented a similar event from happening this year. Various vehicles honked their horns at 10:37 am across Yangon, about the same hour when Bogyoke Aung San and the martyrs were assassinated, in their honour and observed two minutes of silence. —MNA

5,189 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 July, total figure rises to 234,710

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **234,710** after **5,189 new cases** were reported on 19 July 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **164,670** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **5,281** after **281** died. —MNA

1,500 beds being prepared for COVID-19 patients at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw

A total of 1,500 beds are under preparation for COVID-19 confirmed patients in Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, according to Dr Thiri Nwe, Deputy Director-General of the Public Health Department, Nay Pyi Taw.

patients had reportedly been increased from 200 to more than 300, the Mani Yadana Jade Hall was planned to open a COVID-19 centre with the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

As the number of daily With necessary medical



Preparations are underway for Covid-positive patients at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.



equipment and medicines supported by the Ministry of Health and Sports at the Jade Hall, 24 military doctors and nurses led by Tatmadaw medical specialists will provide medical care to COVID-19 patients in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. — Than Min Aung (MNA)/GNLM

Vehicle carrying liquid oxygen for MDY General Hospital leaves Myawady border



A vehicle carrying 16.02 tonnes of liquid oxygen for Mandalay General Hospital left Myawady Trade Zone at 2 pm yesterday as import processes of the anti-COVID-19 supplies are allowed through the Myawady border in order to assist in the prevention and control of the pandemic.

officials.

The import of oxygen concentrators does not require an FDA-approved import licence. And the Myawady Trade Zone allows for a pre-withdrawal fee of 3% duty-free, officials added.

The Department of Commerce coordinates with the relevant departments to get better import processes at the Myawady trade post, said of-

According to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce, 49 million litres of liquid oxygen, 6,505 home oxygen concentrators and 290 tonnes of face masks were imported through border camps from 12 to 18 July. —Htein Lin Aung /GNLM

A 16-tonne liquid oxygen vehicle is leaving for Mandalay to fulfil the needs of oxygen at the MDY General Hospital.

Over 18 tonnes of liquid oxygen to be delivered to Yangon General Hospital

A vehicle carrying 18.89 tonnes of liquid oxygen to Yangon General Hospital departed from the Myawady Trade Zone yesterday afternoon.

devices and medical supplies, including oxygen, has been allowed through the Myawady border in order to assist in the prevention and control of the disease. According to the trade zone, it is unnecessary to apply for an FDA approval and import licence. In addition, 3 per cent Customs duty is allowed to be withdrawn in advance without paying in cash. — Htein Lin Aung/GNLM

The Department of Commerce, Myawady Trade Zone facilitated the delivery of the oxygen without delay, which is critically needed in the treatment of COVID-19 in the country.

Importation of COVID-19



A 18.89-tonne liquid oxygen lorry is departing for Yangon as part of measures to meet the oxygen requirement at YGN General Hospital.

Save lives of not COVID-19 victims but honour employees from operation sites

THE Ministry of Health and Sports dutifully releases the infection rate of more than 5,000 COVID-19 confirmed patients on a daily basis in addition to hundreds of deaths. Social network media mentions hundreds of dead bodies waited for their turn to receive cremation at respective cemeteries. Such undesirable scenes would be the black spots in Myanmar history.

In the third wave of the disease, the authorities raised public awareness of the pandemic and made preparations to provide prevention, control and treatment of the disease. On the other hand, the entire people underestimated the infection rate of the disease with carelessness. Meanwhile, small and large hospitals did not have a reliable number of medical doctors and staff for giving treatments to the people. In addition, fret families of patients faced red tape rules and regulations while facing the emergency of the patients.

Hence, it is necessary to honour those forgotten employees with fulfilment and uplift their morale. In today's situation, they face difficulties having meals. They are trying to publish newspapers on a daily basis. A large number of employees from the operation sites can be seen in all ministries.

Recently, the government announced the long holidays for banning the infection of the disease with an act of people not to go elsewhere. The order affected office staff only. For example, the order totally affected staff from the administration section, the advertisement section, the publishing section and the accounts section and others at our daily newspaper. But, the order is not concerned with those from the editorial, the printing, the security, the computer and the transport sections and so on. Likewise, the remaining editorial staff are working from home till midnight. Hence, it is necessary to honour those forgotten employees with fulfilment and uplift their morale. In today's situation, they face difficulties having meals. They are trying to publish newspapers on a daily basis. A large number of employees from the operation sites can be seen in all ministries. So, we deeply request the authorities not to set aside the lives of forgotten employees. May all the people be physical and mental well-being!

Psychiatric patients at increased risk of COVID-19 hospitalisation, mortality: Study

Study shows, the chances of dying or being hospitalized following COVID-19 infection in individuals with psychiatric disorders were found to be twice as high in comparison to persons without mental disorders.

ACCORDING to a new study, the chances of dying or being hospitalized following COVID-19 infection in individuals with psychiatric disorders were found to be twice as high in comparison to persons without mental disorders.

This study, initiated by the Immuno-NeuroPsychiatry Network of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, was published in the peer-reviewed journal 'Lancet Psychiatry'.

The research compiled data from 33 studies

The study also found ICU admission rates were not affected. The research compiled data from 33 studies from 22 countries, comprising 1,469,731 patients with COVID-19, of whom 43,938 had mental disorders.

23 studies were included in a random-effects meta-analysis of crude and adjusted odds ratios for COVID-19-related mortality, hospitalization, and ICU admission in individuals with comorbid pre-existent mental disorders, investigating different diagnostic groups and classes of psychiatric drugs.

Individuals with psychotic disorders and mood disorders, as



A patient meets with a doctor at Le Gouz clinic in France, which specializes in the mental health of medical staff amid the Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

well as patients receiving treatment with antipsychotics or anxiolytics (anxiety-reducing drugs) appeared as the most vulnerable groups for COVID-19-associated mortality.

Patients with substance use disorders were also at increased risk for hospitalization following COVID-19.

Take concerted action

The authors of the paper called for national and international health authorities to take concerted action by offering priority vaccination to patients with severe mental illness, intellectual

disability, and substance use disorders, and highlight the urgency of actions to counteract possible reduced access to care.

Corresponding author, Dr Livia De Picker, from the University Psychiatric Hospital Campus Duffel, Belgium, said, "Together with many colleagues from national and international psychiatric associations, we have been advocating for priority SARS-CoV-2 vaccination of patients with severe mental illness.

Lack of high-quality evidence

However, it quickly became apparent that a lack of high-quality

evidence on the mortality and hospitalization risks of patients with mental disorders was blocking implementation of our recommendations by healthcare policymakers.

"In several countries, pleas to change the vaccination strategy were discarded by national health authorities with the argument that the current scientific evidence did not distinguish particular groups of psychiatric patients who have a very high risk for severe Covid-19, hospitalizations, ICU admittance and death due to Covid-19.

This paper offers precisely this and shows that pre-existing mental disorders, in particular, psychotic and mood disorders, and exposure to antipsychotics and anxiety-reducing drugs are associated with COVID-19 mortality.

With this new evidence, not taking action is no longer an option," added De Picker.

De Picker further said, "Importantly, our data revealed a striking contrast in patients with severe mental illness.

Patients with psychotic disorders

Patients with psychotic disorders in particular were affected by the highest mortality risk but did not have increased risk of hospital

admission. We know these patients face important barriers to physical healthcare, and our results suggest reduced access to care could have contributed to the increased mortality seen in this group.

"Public health authorities need to take targeted action to ensure maximum vaccination uptake for all groups of at-risk patients identified in this study.

Close monitoring and adequate hospital referral in patients with psychiatric disorders who develop COVID-19 is needed to counteract possible reduced access to care," noted De Picker.

High-quality study

Author and director of the ImmunoNeuroPsychiatry Network, Professor Marion Leboyer (University of Paris Est Creteil, France) said, "This high-quality study was created through the concerted efforts of many international colleagues working together.

Further work is needed to determine the causes of the poor COVID-19 outcomes in psychiatric patients, which might reflect biological processes, such as immune-inflammatory alterations related to the psychiatric disorders."

Leboyer added, "In particular the impact of psychopharmacological treatments requires further study.

Severe COVID-19 outcomes

We found that exposure to antipsychotic and anxiolytic drug treatments initiated before contracting COVID-19 was associated with severe COVID-19 outcomes.

Antipsychotics might increase cardiovascular and thromboembolic risks, interfere with an adequate immune response, and cause interactions with drugs used to treat COVID-19."

"Benzodiazepines are associated with respiratory risk and are known to be associated with all-cause mortality. By contrast, some antidepressants were recently shown to have protective effects.

In addition, social and lifestyle factors such as diet, physical inactivity, social isolation, high alcohol and tobacco use, and sleep disturbances, and a higher prevalence of somatic comorbidities might also have detrimental effects on COVID-19 prognosis," concluded Leboyer.

SOURCE: Asian News International

China's hard-and-fast approach needed to constrain Delta variant: New Zealand expert

ANEW Zealand microbiologist has advocated for a hard-and-fast approach, as that taken by the Chinese government, to contain the spread of COVID-19 Delta variant.

Associate Professor Siouxsie Wiles from the University of Auckland has argued for a prompt and complex government response when dealing with potential COVID-19 Delta variant infection, by comparing the Australian government's slow-and-steady approach with the hard-and-fast approach by the Chinese government in pandemic control restrictions, local news media Stuff reported

on Monday.

In mid-June, an unvaccinated and unmasked van driver working with the Sydney airport responsible for transporting international aircrew, became infected with the Delta variant.

"We know how Sydney ended up where it is now. That one case has gone on to seed an outbreak. It may even be approaching 1,500. More than 70 people were in hospitals, about 20 of them in intensive care. Sadly, deaths are possible," said Wiles.

Wiles believed that the outbreak is a combination of the increased infectiousness of the Del-

ta variant and a state government that decided to take the slow-and-steady rather than hard-and-fast approach to enacting pandemic restrictions.

"A new study sheds light on just how much more infectious Delta is. Researchers from China and the UK examined the first Delta variant outbreak in mainland China. It started in late May, and like Sydney's, with one case. China takes the hard-and-fast approach to deal with COVID-19, so the outbreak was over by mid-June with 167 cases," said Wiles.

Wiles said Chinese health officials started population-wide

screening as soon as the first case was detected, and the close contacts of anyone who tested positive were put into managed isolation and were given daily PCR tests.

"Researchers found that people with Delta tested positive on average around 3.7 days after exposure compared to around six days with the earlier variants, a shortened incubation period," said Wiles.

"This reinforces that hard and fast is the right way to stamp out Delta outbreaks," stressed Wiles.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Residents line up to have their swab samples collected for nucleic acid testing of possible COVID-19 infection at a testing site in the Xin'gang residential compound in Bayuquan District, Yingkou City, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on May 21, 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/PAN YULONG



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 4:00 pm Monday 19 July 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 20 July 2021: Rainor thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Bago Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Southern Shan, Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (6-8) feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 July 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Priority given to importation of anti-COVID-19 equipment

FOR quick and easy importation of anti-COVID-19 equipment, the Ministry of Commerce is carrying out regular import and export activities at border trade posts including Muse, Myawady, Tachilek, and Chinshwehaw during the public holidays.

With 45 vehicles, 84 Myanmar companies imported 57,240 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 36,040 tonnes of oxygen tanks, 25,590 tonnes of oxygen gas, 5,053 home oxygen concentrators, 500 test kits, 75,546 kilograms of face masks through Muse, Myawady, Tachilek, and Chinshwehaw and Mawtaung trading posts on 19 July.

Most of the imports came from the Myawady Trade Zone on the Thailand-Myanmar border



and the Muse trade zone on the China-Myanmar border, officials said.

From 12 to 19 July, the government is giving priority to disease control and 285,954

tonnes of liquid oxygen, 83,169 tonnes of oxygen tanks, 61,848 tonnes of oxygen gas, 11,558

home oxygen concentrators, 114,500 test kits, 365,221 kilograms of masks have been allowed to be imported by 162 vehicles.

Despite the temporary closure of trade between the two countries due to the global epidemic, officials from the Muse District Administration and the Department of Commerce is coordinating directly with the Shwe Li External Affairs Department of China to get better import processes.

The Ministry of Commerce is cooperating with the relevant departments to facilitate the importation of the anti-pandemic supplies and has arranged for direct contact with officials from the relevant trading posts if assistance is needed. – MNA

Preparations continue to provide healthcare services to COVID-19 patients



TATMADAW hospitals, military station training schools, interrogation and accommodation camps in respective military headquarters are preparing to provide healthcare services to the COVID-19 positive patients and those who need to be quarantined, and healthcare services are being provided at the completed sites. In addition, the Ministry of Health

and Sports, in collaboration with department officials, charitable organizations and the public, is preparing for quarantine centres in respective townships.

Yesterday, chairpersons of the respective state/region administration councils and military officials inspected the sites, provided food, cash assistance and coordinated where

necessary.

A total of 270 people has been quarantined in the Nay Pyi Taw Interrogation Camp; 28 COVID-19 positive patients are being provided with necessary healthcare services in the Ottarathiri station battalion; 504 positive patients in the Hline Township Interrogation and Accommodation Camp in Yangon Region; 85 positive patients in the Ye Mon Tat station battalion; 35 positive patients in the Pathein station training school, respectively.

The military station medical teams and officials are taking care of the patients with necessary healthcare services and they are in good health, it is reported. – MNA

82 oxygen cylinders ordered from Thailand arrive in Tachilek



A total of 82 40-litre oxygen cylinders, which was ordered from Thailand, arrived in Tachilek via the Friendship Bridge (2) on 18 July.

Military and department officials and Alinyaung Charity ordered the oxygen cylinders through the Myanmar-Thai Border Committee (TBC) to donate 72 of them to charitable associations in Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region and ten oxygen cylinders for Tachilek.

Officials are planning to transport the oxygen cylinders to Pathein. – Ya Say (IPRD)/GNLM

Oxygen cylinders supplied to hospitals, Covid centres in regions/states



THE Tatmadaw and donors have donated oxygen cylinders to public hospitals, Tatmadaw hospitals, medical departments and COVID-19 centres in various regions/states to help meet the oxygen needs in the treatment of the patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and those who need special care.

Yesterday, Tatmadaw officials from the Nay Pyi Taw Military Regional Military Headquarters donated 50 oxygen cylinders to the General Hospital (1,000-bedded) and 40 oxygen cylinders to the Public Hospital (300-bedded) in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. In addition, a total of 55 oxygen cylinders were donated to public hospitals in Lashio, Kyaukme, Mongyai, Namlan and Hsipaw townships in northern Shan State; 86 oxygen cylinders to hospitals in Pathien and Labutta townships in Ayeyawady Region; 5 oxygen cylinders to the public hospital in Minbya Township, 60 oxygen cylinders to Taungup Public Hospital, 40 oxygen cylinders to Thandwe Township Hospital and 10 oxygen cylinders to

Gwa Public Hospital in Rakhine State; 40 oxygen cylinders to Letpadan Township Hospital in Bago Region.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is stepping up the installation of oxygen plants in respective regions and states as well as Tatmadaw is coordinating the production of oxygen from oxygen plants in various areas of the regional military headquarters. The Oxygen Plant of the Naval Dockyard Headquarters in Thanlyin Battalion donated 50 40-litre oxygen cylinders to civil society organizations in Yangon Region yesterday. The Oxygen Plant has donated 585 40-litre oxygen cylinders and 67 15-litre oxygen cylinders in Thanlyin, Dala, Twantay, Kayan, Thongwa and Kyauktan townships in Yangon Region as of yesterday since 9 July.

It is reported that oxygen cylinders imported by the private companies and 57 tonnes of liquid oxygen purchased with the fund of donors and the Ministry of Health and Sports have arrived and will be distributed to the respective regions and states. – MNA

Thai-Myanmar border trade decreases

THAI-Myanmar border trade has registered a decrease of US\$ 10 million between 1 October and 9 July in the current financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Ministry of Commerce data shows that the value of Thai-Myanmar trade at all seven borders touched \$3.26 billion in the current financial year, which plunged from \$3.27 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

Myanmar delivers goods to Thailand through its sea routes, as well as land borders. Seven border trade camps are open between the two countries, including Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maesai.

Apart from Tachilek

and Myawady checkpoints, bilateral trade from the Myanmar-Thailand borders decreased in relation to the same period of the last year.

The country exports agricultural, forest and animal products, minerals, manufactured goods and other miscellaneous products to neighbouring Thailand. Its imports include medicines, cosmetics, food and beverages, stationery, footwear, clothing, machinery and other commodities.

The total trade between Myanmar and four neighbouring countries between 1 October and 9 July reached over \$8.44 billion, decreasing by \$392 million over the same period last year. — ACM/GNLM



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Rubber export tops \$315.4 mln in seven months

MYANMAR'S rubber export generated more than US\$315.4 million in revenue in the past seven months (October-April) of the current financial year 2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

The price of domestic natural rubber jumped to K900 per pound as the rubber production usually declines during the off-season.

Myanmar's natural rubber price is tracking the global rates, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA) stated.

The growing demand for rubber gloves during the coronavirus pandemic, shortage of natural rubber, the depreciation of Kyat are the reasons for price rise, rubber exporters stressed.

Myanmar's rubber is priced lower than the international rate owing to raw material variability. Rubber price stood at US\$2,600 per tonne in 2020-end in the global market, whereas Myanmar rubber fetches only \$2,100 per pound.

Rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. According to the 2018-2019 rubber season's data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State

accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber made in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries, according to the MRPPA.

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At present, Myanmar is exporting only rubber sheets owing to a lack of machinery and technology. Export rubber varieties include synthetic rubber, ribbed smoked sheet RSS 1,3,5, Myanmar Standard Rubber MSR-20, Technically Specified Rubber TSR-20, and Crepe Rubber.

About 150,000 tonnes of rubber was exported in the 2017-2018 financial year. Myanmar shipped over 190,000 tonnes of rubber with an estimated value of \$250 million to external markets in the 2018-2019 financial year, increasing



Myanmar exported over 200,000 tonnes of natural rubber to foreign countries last FY2019-2020, generating an income of over \$200 million.

41,000 tonnes. It helped boost earnings by \$60 million compared to the year-ago period, the MoC's data indicated.

Myanmar exported over 200,000 tonnes of natural rubber to foreign countries last FY2019-2020, generating an income of over \$200 million. — KH/GNLM

Rare Burmese Roofed Turtles total 34 at Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary

THE endangered Burmese roofed turtles, which has been saved from extinction, hatched for the third time at Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary, reaching a total of 34 turtles, said U Shwe Htay Aung, warden of Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary.

In a bid to protect those Burmese roofed turtles from extinction, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) handed over 100 roofed turtles to the Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary under the approval of the Department of Forest, including 3 to 4 years old 40 male and 60 female turtles. The Department transferred some turtles to WCS and TSA so that 10 male roofed turtles and six female turtles were sent to Singapore in 2016. Additionally, ten male turtles were set free into Chindwin River in Kanni city, Sagaing Region in 2018. This being so, 20 male turtles and 54 female turtles are bred at the Lawkananda Wildlife sanctuary, U Shwe Htay Aung elaborated.

The roofed turtles hatching succeeded in ten years after the

Department of Forest under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, WCS and TSA jointly conducted roofed turtle conservation and research, he continued.

Those Burmese roofed turtles which can be found only in Myanmar is the second most critically endangered species in the world. Four female roofed turtles out of 54 reportedly laid

eggs in artificial sand in January and February this year. A baby turtle hatched on 12 April 2021, while the other two turtles came out of eggs on 19 April. Then, one on 22 and four on 25 April were born respectively. In addition, 26 more turtles hatched between 8 May and 17 July 2021. Mating happened in October 2020, explained U Shwe Htay Aung regarding turtle hatching

at the sanctuary. The officials establish nursery farms for the roofed turtles to systematically and separately breed them from the star tortoises.

The Forest Department, WCS and TSA cooperatively carried out research on sexual maturity, turtles mating, egg-laying and hatching times. The staff of the sanctuary and voluntary staff conserved and successfully

researched the Burmese roofed turtles until hatching in the past ten years, under the medical care of Vet Dr Tin Lwin.

The Burmese roofed turtles are found in Yadanabon Zoological Gardens, Yangon Zoological Gardens and Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary. Those turtles which have been sent to Singapore has not been reproduced yet, said Dr Kalayar, regional director of TSA. "I believed the reproduction of roofed turtles will improve like the rare start tortoises kept at the sanctuary", U Shwe Htay Aung Stated.

Those Burmese Roofed Turtle (*Batagur trivittata*) can be discovered in Ayeyawady, Chindwin and Sittoung rivers and tributaries. Those roofed turtles are herbivores. They were listed in CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) appendix ii in 2010, categorized as critically endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2012, completely protected by MWL in 2018. — KPD/GNLM



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Images depicting oxygen gas and liquid oxygen-carrying vehicles via land border trade posts



Pictures show daily arrivals of lorries carrying oxygen gas and liquid oxygen imported by business persons through land borders.



Toyota launches fuel-efficient Aqua hybrid with better acceleration

TOYOTA Motor Corp. on Monday launched its new hybrid compact Aqua, boasting enhanced acceleration performance and about a 20 per cent improved fuel efficiency in the first full-model change in about a decade.

With a suggested retail price starting from 1.98 million yen (\$18,000), the Aqua hybrid is equipped with a nickel hydrogen battery system that has twice as much power output as the previous model, enabling longer travel on electricity without the use of gasoline.

Toyota reduced the number of parts used

for the nickel hydrogen battery to increase its capacity. The latest model can travel 35.8 kilometres per litre when powered by gasoline.

One major feature of the new Aqua is the parking assist system that only requires the driver to press a button to park, the first time it has been installed in a nonluxury Toyota car.

Toyota, which had received orders for about 15,000 new Aqua units as of last Thursday, is aiming to sell 9,800 units a month.

So far, Toyota has sold about 1.87 million Aqua compact cars globally



Photo shows Toyota Motor Corp.'s new hybrid compact Aqua. PHOTO: KYODO

since the first model was launched in December 2011.

Automakers are shifting their attention to greener cars in line with the global trend toward

decarbonization. Toyota, the leader in hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles, is aiming to bolster its lineup, which includes hybrids and electric vehicles.—Kyodo ■

Nippon Steel Engineering wins new Thai natural gas contract

NIPPON Steel Engineering Co. has won a large-scale, long-term contract for a new phase of an offshore natural gas development project from a Thai state-run company.

The Tokyo-based firm will construct about 40 wellhead platforms and lay around 280 kilometres of pipeline in the Gulf of Thailand over five years under the 100 billion yen (\$910 million) deal signed between its local unit, Thai Nippon Steel Engineering & Construction Corp., and PTT Exploration and Production Public Co.



Photo shows offshore wellhead platform installation work during Phase 2 of the bundled natural gas development project in the Gulf of Thailand. PHOTO: NIPPON STEEL ENGINEERING CO./NNA/KYODO

It will be the third phase of the bundled project in the gulf for Nippon Steel Engineering, which

had undertaken the five-year scheme from 2011 and is engaged in the ongoing segment scheduled to be completed this year. The Thai subsidiary will carry out designing, procurement and construction of locally built wellhead platforms as well as reconstruction of existing platforms, Nippon Steel Engineering said. The parent company, for its part, will be engaged in ocean transport and offshore installation of platforms while designing, procuring and installing pipelines, it said.—Kyodo ■

2 Americans get jail terms for helping ex-Nissan's Ghosn flee Japan



Former US special forces operative Michael Taylor was sentenced to two years, while his son Peter received a sentence of 20 months. PHOTO: AFP

TWO Americans were found guilty Monday in

Tokyo of helping former Nissan Motor Co. Chair-

man Carlos Ghosn jump bail and flee Japan in 2019, a high-profile case that allowed him to escape the trial he could face for alleged financial misconduct. The Tokyo District Court sentenced Michael Taylor, a 60-year-old former Green Beret, to two years in prison, and his son Peter, 28, to one year and eight months in prison. The maximum penalty in Japan for helping an accused flee is three years in prison. In hand-

ing down the ruling, Presiding Judge Hideo Nirei said there is no prospect of holding Ghosn's trial as a result of his escape. "In light of the seriousness of the consequences and maliciousness of the crime, the prison sentences are unavoidable," he said.

The pair had pleaded guilty and apologized for their roles in Ghosn's escape. Their defence team had called for suspended sentences.—Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

West Bank markets mired in depression ahead of Eid al-Adha

JUST days ahead of Eid al-Adha, one of the most important festivals for Muslims in a year, the markets in the West Bank are still seeing no sign of a business boom.

On one side, business owners have to increase the prices of their goods because the costs are rising quickly. On the other side, most of the Palestinians have so little in their wallets that they have to practise frugality even though the sacrifice festival is around the corner.

Palestinian economists said the sluggish economy in the West Bank is largely caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent strict preventive measures. Many Palestinians believed that the lockdown measures slowed down not only the spread of the virus but also the economy.

In the markets, only a small amount of customers could afford a sheep. The rest of them came here just to check the prices and were shocked by the inflation rate.

Ahmed Abu al-Amer from the city of Al-Bireh said he could not believe the rapid rise in livestock prices, which rose by 25 per cent in the past weeks.

"The price for one sheep has become equivalent to the full salary of a government employee, which means they cannot buy a sheep to practise the rituals of sacrifice on the Eid," said Amer, a father of three.—Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0179N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU0179N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-7-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0238-689N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0238-689N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-7-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

Be Aware of and Protect Against the Risks of COVID-19's Third Wave

BY **Aung Shinn**

FOR the question of what is now the more crucial matter than any other in the world, the answer would be to succeed in overcoming the COVID-19 crisis as early as possible. At present, all countries putting their differences aside are now joining hands and working together to overcome the crisis. Myanmar the first case of COVID-19 was found in Myanmar on 23 March 2020. There were 143,318 COVID-19 infected patients in total in the first and second waves of the deadly pandemic and 140,102 out of them recovered. 97.7 per cent of the patients recovered from the COVID-19 after having immunity against the virus.

In the Third Wave started from 27-5-2021 in Myanmar, up to 15 July, there were 65,766 confirmed cases out of the 300,533 tests and the deaths reached 1,048. If the death toll of the COVID-19 is calculated in percentage, it accounted for 3.7 per cent in the First Wave (nearly five months), 2.2 per cent in the Second Wave (over nine months) and 1.59 per cent in the Third Wave (over one and a half month). According to the current figures, the new variant of the virus has a high rate of infection and accordingly, the death toll is likely to increase.

Why is its infection rate so high?

If it is questioned why the infection rate of the COVID-19 third wave is so high, the simple answer would be due to its new mutations of the virus. The variants of the virus found in Myanmar are Delta Strain and Alpha Strain which include in the category 'variant of concern'. Although the reproduction or R0 number for the COVID-19 virus is between 2.4 and 2.6, the R0 numbers of Alpha and Delta are from 4 to 5 and from 5 to 8 respectively. To be clear, if the R0 is 2, its infection rate multiplies from 1 to 2, then 2 to 4, 4 to 8 and then 8 to 16 persons. Most Asian countries including neighbours of Myanmar are witnessing the recorded high infection rate due to the new variant of Delta-coronavirus.

People in Myanmar were also heedless of the risks of COVID-19 in the time of political change and considerably weak in following the precaution rules. From the perspective of pandemic protection, the rally of thousands of people is totally unacceptable. Moreover, the healthcare services weakened by the CDM campaigns also limited the preventive activities of COVID-19 infections.

COVID-19 control, prevention and treatment activities in the time of State Administration Council

As the State Administration Council had anticipated the nature of coronavirus and its possible infections, the COVID-19 prevention appears as

Tatmadaw has rendered assistance in pandemic prevention and treatment activities in the past and now is intensifying utmost efforts to assist in the area. As human resource contribution, 5,818 military health workers including 339 medical specialists have been exclusively assigned to carry out COVID-19 treatment activities and they are now joining hands and working together with civilian health workers.

the second task of its Five-Point Road Map. The Council also made necessary preparations using the lessons learnt from the situations of the previous COVID-19 outbreak.

The State Administration Council is using various means by integrating all available powers for the COVID-19 control, prevention and treatment activities which are prompt to be carried out. For the nationwide emergency responses, the State Administration Council has made the following preparations to accommodate COVID-19 infected patients:

- 933 quarantine centres (civilian) (44,784 patients)
- 182 centres for infected patients (civilian) (10,239 patients)
- 338 treatment centres (civilian) (16,452 patients)

Total: 1,453 centres (71,475 patients)

- 1,193 quarantine centres (Tatmadaw) (32,104 patients)
- 23 centres for infected patients (Tatmadaw) (2,998 patients)
- 61 treatment centres (Tatmadaw) (3,870 patients)

Total: 1,278 centres (38,972 patients)

It is also observed that preparations have also been made to turn the indoor sports halls, schools and cyclone shelters as well from 74 townships included in the Stay-at-Home programme into quarantine centres in case of emergency need.

Tatmadaw has rendered assistance in pandemic prevention and treatment activities in the past and now is intensifying utmost efforts to assist in the area. As human resource contribution, 5,818 military health workers including 339 medical specialists have been exclusively assigned to carry out COVID-19 treatment activities and they are now joining hands

and working together with civilian health workers. 19,145 doctors and health staff of good civil servants who do not participate in CDM are reportedly serving in the COVID-19 treatment activities. Regarding the transport, 1,080 civilian-used ambulances and 100 military-used ambulances are in place. Moreover, for the transport of preventive and treatment equipment, military aircraft are also being used as needed.

Daily integrated activities of the Myanmar Police Force, departmental officials, civil philanthropic associations, and volunteers can also be seen across the country such as waging mask-wearing campaigns, distributing free masks, and awareness pamphlets. Although the previous administration led by NLD had difficulties distributing about sixty thousand free masks to the public, the State Administration Council had distributed about 12 million free masks to people just in a single month of June. Plans are also underway to distribute over 10 million masks to the public and another 5 million masks to health workers per month. The government has allowed an unlimited budget for defeating the COVID-19 pandemic and also bought three RT-PCR system machines which can undergo 140 tests within one and half hours from Russia.

So far, over 3.37 million people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Myanmar. COVID-19 vaccines have also been purchased from India and Russia. Myanmar has already agreed with Russia to buy 2 million doses of vaccines and another 5 million with China. The vaccines



A bowser of liquid oxygen is seen as part of the efforts to meet the oxygen needs for the COVID positive patients.

will arrive in Myanmar in July.

Plans are underway to jointly produce COVID-19 vaccines with Russia and a Russian observatory team will arrive in Myanmar soon. Moreover, the government is also planning to produce vaccines in the Ready to Fill Bulk (RTF) system cooperating with China and has already discussed with the officials from the producing company.

Pandemic should not be politicalized

Despite the various efforts to control and contain the COVID-19 infections, internal/external news agencies and social media pages are incorrectly comparing the situations of the COVID-19's third wave with of first and second waves.

The disgusting thing is some people are taking political advantage of the pandemic while people are facing health difficulties with great worries. It can be sadly seen that they even launched terror attacks targeting the COVID-19 health checking places and innocent civilian volunteers besides spreading various

The root causes of the current oxygen problem are the anxieties and worries of people provoked by the surge of the infection and the change of the quarantine system. According to the nature of the pandemic, most infected people have mild common symptoms and recover in a certain period of time. It is serious only for the elderly and the people who have other serious health problems. Using oxygen is a matter to be decided by the medical experts even for patients with serious symptoms.

However, due to anxieties and worries, people buy and collect oxygen cylinders. The oxygen demands immediately rise as an impact of misinformation on social media leading to a situation in which oxygen cannot reach the people who really need it in time. It is found out that the percentage of oxygen demands is considerably higher than the percentage of infected patients who really need oxygen supply.

Although the oxygen production capacity is apparently mounted to the real need on the ground, people are worry and anxious that oxygen is insufficient

The disgusting thing is some people are taking political advantage of the pandemic while people are facing health difficulties with great worries. It can be sadly seen that they even launched terror attacks targeting the COVID-19 health checking places and innocent civilian volunteers besides spreading various misinformation to harass the COVID-19 prevention and treatment activities.

misinformation to harass the COVID-19 prevention and treatment activities.

Moreover, with an intent to raise the prices of health-related items in the markets and to create public panics, they even spread a fake government statement on social media saying that the government stopped importing COVID-19 preventive gears and oxygens. Such acts are the foolish political infamies of political extremists intentionally to disrupt the State Administration Council. The political extremists are trying to gain political advantages by using the health predicaments of people. During the time of pandemic when we all should join hands to overcome it, using the surge of COVID-19 infection as a political attack is apparently an awful and unacceptable move.

Using the COVID-19 disease as a political weapon, spreading misinformation on social media and other acts intentionally to worsen the infections are directly threatening the lives of people. Therefore, such acts amount to 'bioterrorism'. Hence, it is very important for people not to be deceived in such fake news and misinformation.

Current oxygen crisis

because the unscrupulous persons are doing sabotages using the surge of COVID-19 infection as a political scandal. Therefore, the State Administration Council is taking necessary measures to fulfil the requirements of oxygen by doing detailed calculations on the conditions of infected patients, patients who really need oxygen support, the capacity of oxygen production, the possible oxygen needs.

In a bid to fulfil the oxygen



A liquid oxygen tank is imported from foreign countries as part of the measures to fight against the COVID third wave.

To draw a conclusion, it is not a time of political differentiation and fighting and only if the government and people cooperate in COVID-19 control, prevention and treatments activities assuming as a national duty by joining hearts and hands, we can successfully overcome and defeat the deadly pandemic.

requirement of people in time, an oxygen plant that has the capacity of producing 1,440 oxygen cylinders per day is being built targeting to be finished within a month. The Ministry of Commerce is also granting permits for importing COVID-19 prevention medicines and related materials in a timely manner. Oxygen Concentrators can be imported without applying for FDA approval and import licence. Therefore, at present, oxygen liquid and oxygen cylinders are being imported via the border checkpoints of China and Thailand and distributed to the places in need. Moreover, it can be seen that Tatmadaw and Civilian factories has increased oxygen production and also installed additional plants.

Another point is the changes in the quarantine system due to the sudden surge of infection and a limited number of health workers. As the first step, those who had close contact with COVID-19 patients are to separately live in their homes. As the second step, the COVID-19 confirmed patients are placed at the relevant public hospitals and COVID-19 treatment centres for medical treatment. For the final step, emergency patients with serious symptoms are provided special medical treatments at hospitals. Hence, positive patients are being rejected by hospitals and sent back home is just misinformation. The locations of treatment are decided, depending on the seriousness of the symptoms. The management system is formulated in line with international standards and norms to

avoid unnecessary burdens on treatment activities.

Cooperation of People is crucial

Medical experts remarked that the current surge of COVID-19 infections in Myanmar is due to the nature of the new variant of the virus coinciding with the time when people became heedless of the pandemic. Hence, to contain and reduce the infection rate in Myanmar cannot be succeeded individually because it is a matter that requires the integrated efforts of all associations and national people inside the nation. That is the certain matter to be tackled with awareness and consciousness for the entire nation instead of assuming as the matter of mine, my family, my community and township.

All people must abide by the ways of prevention against COVID-19 without fail. Particularly, systematically wear masks whenever go outside, take adequate distance from each other as much as they can (at least six feet), avoid the crowds and do not go outside unnecessarily. That is also important to have healthy foods that would increase immunes, to take sound rest and take physical exercise at least 30 minutes daily. Concerned officials are fully taking necessary measures to control and contain the infections and proving healthcare services.

The instigations covered with political colours to give rise to misconceptions among people pose as the obstacles in the attempts to repeal and defeat the COVID-19 pandemic. However, seeing the integrated efforts of non-CDM doctors, health workers and doctors from other private hospitals/clinics cooperating in unity to repeal the Third Wave of the pandemic without any personal interests is really heart-touching and honourable. Even some senior medical experts are volunteering for COVID-19 prevention activities although that is not their area of the expert.

To draw a conclusion, it is not a time of political differentiation and fighting and only if the government and people cooperate in COVID-19 control, prevention and treatments activities assuming as a national duty by joining hearts and hands, we can successfully overcome and defeat the deadly pandemic.

US tennis teen Gauff to miss Olympics with COVID-19 positive



American teen tennis star Coco Gauff will miss the Tokyo Olympics after testing positive for Covid-19, she announced on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

AMERICAN teen tennis star Coco Gauff will miss the Tokyo Olympics after testing positive for Covid-19, she announced on Sunday.

Gauff, coming off a run to the fourth round at Wimbledon, tweeted her sadness at missing out on “a dream come true” at age 17.

“I am so disappointed to share the news that I have tested positive for

COVID and won't be able to play in the Olympic Games in Tokyo,” Gauff tweeted.

“It has always been a dream of mine to represent the USA at the Olympics and I hope there will be many more chances for me to make this come true in the future.” Gauff, who reached her first Grand Slam quarter-final at this year's French Open, became the latest tennis standout and US athlete

to miss the Olympics.

World number 25 Gauff will be forced into Covid-19 quarantine and isolation protocols.

“I want to wish TEAM USA best of luck and a safe games for every Olympian and the entire Olympic family,” Gauff tweeted.

Gauff won her second WTA singles title in May at Parma. She captured her first in 2019 at Linz. — AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

English FA commission independent probe into Euro final mayhem

THE English Football Association have commissioned an independent investigation after ticketless fans fought their way into Wembley before the Euro 2020 final.

It has been reported that thousands of supporters gained entry to the stadium by storming the gates prior to Italy's win against England. There were ugly scenes in the stands and concourses during the game as fans with tickets clashed with those who had broken in.

Outside Wembley, it has been estimated that 200,000 people were in the area for a match with a 67,500 capacity, with the drunken and violent scenes marring the show-piece event.

FA chiefs on Monday said they had informed the

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) of the review over the weekend and vowed to identify those responsible for the “disgraceful scenes” both before and during the match.

“We are determined to fully understand what happened outside and

then inside Wembley Stadium at the UEFA EURO 2020 Final on Sunday 11 July 2021,” the statement said.

“We informed DCMS at the weekend that an independent review led by Baroness Casey of Blackstock has been commissioned to report on the

facts and circumstances involved. It will speak to all parties concerned and include external experts.

“A key emphasis of the findings will be to ensure that lessons are learned and such disgraceful scenes are never able to be repeated. — AFP ■



The English Football Association have commissioned an independent investigation after ticketless fans fought their way into Wembley before the Euro 2020 final. PHOTO: AFP

Benfica to face Spartak Moscow in Champions League qualifying



Benfica have been drawn to face Spartak Moscow in qualifying for the Champions League. PHOTO: AFP

TWO-time former European champions Benfica were paired with Spartak Moscow in the third qualifying round for this year's Champions League, in the draw in Nyon, Switzerland on Monday.

Scottish champions Rangers will face Malmo or HJK Helsinki while their Glasgow rivals Celtic will play PSV Eindhoven or Galatasaray if they beat Midtjylland in the second qualifying round.

In other fixtures Genk meet Shakhtar Donetsk while 2004 runners-up Monaco take on either Rapid Vienna or Sparta Prague.

Sides that win at the third qualifying round stage progress to the play-off round, the draw for which takes place on 2 August. Losing sides at the third qualifying round stage drop into the Europa League play-off round. — AFP ■