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Press Release from MOFA

On 21 February 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on recent development of Myanmar in which the Ministry stated that the Tatmadaw has assumed the responsibilities of State unavoidably in accordance with the State Constitution.

However, some International Organizations, foreign countries, media outlets failed to comprehend the current event taken place on 1 February 2021 and underscored that event as a military coup. They have also portrayed a state of unrest as anti-military dictatorship movement.

As a matter of fact, the Tatmadaw has initiated the

democratic transition of Myanmar since 2011. In 2003, the Tatmadaw laid down the Seven-Step Road Map and the current democratic transition was a result of that initiative. The Tatmadaw invited people's representatives and held the National Convention. Based on its outcomes and principles, the State Constitution was adopted in 2008. In accordance with the State Constitution (2008), the first General Election was held in a free and fair manner in 2010. As the result, the Tatmadaw was able to undertake peaceful transition of the multi-party democratic system. The Tatmadaw rendered all-out assistance to hold similar elections

in 2015, by-elections in 2012 and 2017 respectively.

The Tatmadaw is an architect of multiparty democratic transition in Myanmar and always rendered unwavering support for a development of disciplined and mature democracy. The Tatmadaw is always vigilant against the derailment of democratic system in order to keep it on the right track.

Having found the irregularities of the voter lists of the election which was held on 8 November 2020, the Tatmadaw systematically scrutinized the voter lists.

SEE PAGE-3

Union Minister for Transport and Communications inspects Yangon-Toungoo railway upgrade

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspected the Yangon - Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase 1- upgrade processes of Yangon-Toungoo railway section yesterday.

Firstly, the Union Minister met the respective Myanmar Railways officers of region (5) and (6) at Ottwin, and the project engineers presented the completed and ongoing processes.

Then, the Union Minister discussed the importance of railways in transportation sector and role of railways staff for the country.

He emphasized the detailed study and draft of long-term plan for the development of transportation sector based on the findings, quality infrastructure, technical and investment of local private entrepreneurs in implementing the projects, duties of officials to timely complete the projects implemented with foreign loans and occupational safety.

He also highlighted the effective use of budget, chances to learn the techniques of foreign countries, dutiful manners in respective sectors, efforts to run



Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects Yangon-Toungoo Railway section which is being upgraded. PHOTO: MNA

the trains as usual, and appreciated the participation of Myanmar Railways staff, contractors and companies in operating the work plans to complete in time despite the COVID-19 restrictions.

Then, the Union Minister

inspected the upgrade works with RGC between Pain Za Lote and Taw Kywal Inn railway stations (17.25miles).

The Union Minister and party also went to No (183) bridge between Taw Kywal Inn and

Kanyut Kwin railway stations and scrutinized the bridge construction.

The Union Minister then inspected the Pyu railway station construction and instructed the necessary things to the officials.

Then, he instructed the officials of region No(6) to be able to run Yangon-Mandalay trains as usual and also inspected the No (203) bridge and instructed the necessary things to the officials.—MNA

Actions to be taken against those who disturb reopening of hospitals

CONTAINMENT measures against COVID-19 with 140,000 infection and about 3,200 deaths in Myanmar and the possibility of higher figures due to the crowds in previous weeks, the negative impacts on healthcare services due to civil disobedience movement of health workers, possible legal actions of relevant ministries against those who disturb the reopening of hospitals.

(Excerpt from the speech to the management committee meeting of the State Administration Council made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 26 February 2021)

Announcement of Union Election Commission 28 February 2021

The Union Election Commission inspected the figures of voting lists in Loikaw Township of Kayah State in the multiparty democracy general elections held on 8 November 2020.

The findings in the township was as follows:

Sr	Township and polling station	Figure of township Commission	Figure of MoLIP	Voter lists without any scrutiny cards	Same national scrutiny card found three times and above in voter lists	Same national scrutiny card found two times in voter lists
1	Loikaw Township with 81 polling stations in Kayah State	100,267	94,512	3,375	658	10,094

Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports

Order No.25/2021

28 February 2021

Ministry of Health and Sports, exercising the Sub-section (b) under the Section 21 of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law, issued this order.

- The Ministry of Health and Sports is taking preventive measures against the Coronavirus Disease 2019-COVID-19 in timely manner, and the ministry announced that Rakhine State's townships were imposed under the Stay at Home order as part of efforts to effectively control the infectious disease.
- It is found the following situation in Rakhine State's townships which were placed under the State At Home Order:
 - The number of COVID-19 patients in the townships have dramatically declined since early January, 2021.
 - There is no infection from the patients confirmed by the laboratory test to others and no group infection.
 - Departments and organizations concerned, and the communities were paying heed to educative measures during the Stay At Home programme.
 - Township administrators, health workers from the Health Department and related organizations, volunteers and the people took part in the prevention and control of the disease.
- Now, the townships in Rakhine State are in situation with the points in the paragraph-2 and found progress in controlling the disease. Hence, the Stay At Home order placed on the people in the townships in Rakhine State are removed starting at 4 am, 1, March, 2021.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister

Request to health workers

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has been urging the health workers of respective departments under the ministry to return to their duties with taking the well-being of patients into consideration so far since 8 February 2021 as COVID-19 vaccination plan is being conducted for the public and the real-time healthcare services are required for the people.

Therefore, the health workers can contact the following phone numbers or E-mails if they find difficult returning to their duties at hospitals, university/training schools and offices/ departments.

Phone number — 067-3411508/ 067-3411509/
067-3411144/ 09-882557991/
09-882557992/ 09-882557993

Email — office@e-mohs.gov.mm

Ministry of Health and Sports
28 February 2021

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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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

Five future programmes of State Administration Council

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

Press Release from MOFA

FROM PAGE-1

The results of scrutinizing the voter lists which were approved by the previous Union Election Commission (UEC) have shown that the voter lists of 10,482,116 (over 10.4 millions) would lead to vote rigging. According to the officially released voter lists by the previous UEC, there were 38 million eligible voters. Among them, there are about 10 million voter lists which would lead to vote rigging. Therefore, 25% of eligible voter lists would lead to vote rigging.

When the potential vote rigging was found, the Tatmadaw and political parties asked the previous UEC to address the issue. But the UEC rejected their demands and did not respond to the findings of the Tatmadaw. The UEC also failed to disclose and explain the official voter lists.

Hluttaw representatives of the Tatmadaw and political parties sent a letter to the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to hold a Special Session of the Hluttaw to resolve the elections related issues through dialogue in accordance with the State Constitution. Their request was rejected.

In fact, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw must hold the Special Session when at least 25 per cent of the Hluttaw Representatives called for the Special Session. Under these circumstances, the Tatmadaw sent a letter to the President to hold the meeting of National Defence and Security Council to discuss the issues in accordance with the State Constitution. The request was refused and the meeting was not convened.

Thus, the Tatmadaw has sent a personal letter to the authoritative person who could make final decision.

A representative from the Government discussed the issue with the Tatmadaw and the Tatmadaw explained the situation to him. Even the representative of the Government showed the understanding of the situation and reported back to the decision-maker. But the Tatmadaw did not receive any reply.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw requested again to hold the National Defence and Security Council's meeting. The Tatmadaw received the following reply that “President and the Hluttaw have no mandate to resolve the issue; this issue is related only to the UEC, and the matter should be settled with the UEC”.

Attributing to the leading role of The Tatmadaw in national politics, it has the responsibility to uphold and strengthen in its effort to prevent the derailment of democratic system. The lifeblood of democracy is based on free and fair electoral processes, thus, the Tatmadaw pointed out its finding in accordance with the laws. Moreover, the Tatmadaw tried to resolve the issues through dialogue, which is one of the means of political culture.

Relating to the issue of electoral fraud, while the application for the writ of Mandamus and writ of Quo Warranto to the Supreme Court was in pending, there was an attempt to hold the new Hluttaw session. The President also failed to discharge his constitutional duties to resolve election disputes which was serious breach of the State Constitution. And he failed to comply with the duties assigned by the laws and committed other cases which violated existing laws. Due to these circumstances, the Vice-President-1 was appointed to the vacant post of President as an Acting President in accordance with Section 73 (a) of State Constitution. The

Acting President discussed the situation of the country with the National Defence and Security Council and declared the State of Emergency and transferred the state power to the Commander-in-Chief of the Tatmadaw.

While some countries used forceful measures to address violent protests, the State Administrative Council is exercising utmost restraint to avoid the use of force in managing the violent protests systematically, in accordance with domestic and international laws in order to keep minimum casualties.

Unlike military coups taken place in other countries, the State Administrative Council did not abolish the State Constitution and is complying with it and other existing laws. It has not exercised excessive use of force against the disturbances and unrest. The form of the State Administrative Council's governance is different from the type of military administration and the composition of it starting from central to local administrations includes civilians and national races. An overall picture of the situation has clearly shown that the State Administrative Council took the responsibilities of the State in accordance with the State Constitution in order to maintain the situation of the country throughout the period of the State of Emergency.

After fulfilling the provisions of the State of Emergency in accordance with the State Constitution, the State Administration Council will hold free and fair general elections and will hand over the State responsibilities to the winning political party.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated, 28 February 2021

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon. Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

Administrative officials, security forces make efforts for rule of law

MYANMAR Police Force released a statement that the administrative officials and security forces are making efforts for enforcing the rule of law despite the riots.

The required orders and instructions, which meet the needs of public for stability of state and security, are being issued and public announcements are also being released, the statement said.

It was found that the protesters incite or threaten the youths to accelerate the riots in some places of the country via social media by forming networks on 28 February. Therefore, the administrative officials and security forces are making efforts for the rule of law.

The protesters gathered in front of the General Administration Office in Tatkon township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and the security forces fired sound bombs and .12V gun to disperse the protest crowd and arrested five men.

Moreover, a total of 322 people — 78 men and 244 women were detained in Yangon Region as the protesters gathered at Shu Khin Thar road of Thakayta, Ngamoeyeik street and in front of KBZ bank of Thingangyun, Insein road of Hline, in front of Economic Bank, Hledan market of Kamayut, Aung Zaya street of Yankin (14) Ward and in Kyauktada township. The police dispersed by using sound bombs, .12V gun and tear gas canisters.

The security forces also dispersed the protest crowds in Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun and Mahaangmye townships of Mandalay Region.

Similarly, the police dispersed the crowds in Bago, Pyay and Toungoo townships of Bago Region with sound bombs, .12V gun, tear gas canisters. They also detained 10 men.

Moreover, the police used sound bombs, .12V gun and tear gas canisters



Properties destroyed by rioters in bago.

to disperse the protest crowd in Sagaing and Monywa of Sagaing Region and detained a total of 50 people — 27 men and 23 women.

gun, tear gas canisters in Magway, Pakoku and Gangaw of Magway Region and arrested a total of 61 people — 58 men and 3 women.

The police used sound bombs, .12V

SEE PAGE-5



Blockage made by rioters in Mandalay.



Blockage made by rioters in Yangon.



A car damaged by rioters in Chanmyathazi Township.



Blockage are seen on a road in Pakokku.

Administrative officials, security forces make efforts for rule of law

FROM PAGE-4

The security forces detained a total of 78 people — 49 men and 29 women in Patheingyi, Myaungmya, Maubin, Labutta and Ingaung townships of Ayeyawady Region and another 5 people — 4 men and 1 woman from Kawthoung, Myeik, Dawei and Pulaw townships.

They also detained a total of 7 people — 6 men and 1 woman in Taunggyi

and Lashio of Shan State while 27 people — 16 men and 11 women in Hpa-an, Kawkaik and Myawady of Kayah State.

Similarly, the security forces dispersed the protest crowds in Mawlamyine, Thaton, Thanbyuzayat and Ye of Mon State by using sound bombs, .12V gun, tear gas canisters.

The police detained 3 men in

Taunggyi of Rakhine State while another 3 men in Falam of Chin State.

The unscrupulous groups led to mass gathering and act lawless activities by inciting the youths to attack the security forces, arrest the members, seize the firearms and block the public roads.

Although the security forces conducted soft methods in solving the con-

flicts, they had to do security measures from a certain distance and so some of the protesters as well as the police were injured.

During yesterday case, 4 men from Dawei, 1 man from Thingangyun, 2 men from Bago and 1 man from Pakokku died and the respective township police stations opened cases and is conducting investigation. —MNA



Protesters rioting on streets arrest police, carry out unlawful activities

A POLICE officer namely Nang Lin Aung from Mupon Police Station in Mawlamyine, Mon State, was arrested by a crowd of protesters as he was carrying out security duty with a civilian dress yesterday afternoon. His one point-38 revolver and 18 bullets were also robbed by the protesters.

Following the information on his arrest, local security forces rescued the police officer at 5 pm. On the way back along with the police officer, a mob attacked the security forces with slingshots and stones and the security forces dispersed them.

Measures are also being taken to get the arm and bullets seized by the protesters.

Similarly, four policemen led by Police Officer namely Kyaw Myint from Yangon Region Southern District Police Force were arrested by a crowd of protesters rioting in Thakayta Township on their way back from Thanlyin along with 20 Sound Six Bang and lunch boxes on their car.

They were stopped and searched at the Yanpyay 3 Street

in Thakayta Township by a mob armed with sticks and swords.

After the search, the police were tied and brought to the Office of the Free Funeral Service Association on Yanpyay Street. The rioters make the tyres of the car flatten. After getting information from a local townselder, the security forces went there about 2:30 pm and brought back the police and items seized by the rioters.

Besides, a white light truck ran over a police intentionally as he was working to disperse the crowd near the Mala Bus Stop on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township.

The policeman got injuries and was taken to the Tatmadaw Hospital in Dagon Township.

Similarly, five police in a Mark-II car were attacked by over 200 rioters with stones at the corner of 63rd Street and 107 Street in Mandalay and the car was also stopped.

The car was damaged and the police were held at the a religious building. Following the information on the incident, the security forces arrived at the scene and found the damaged

car along with ammunition in it.

Afterwards, the security forces brought back the police after negotiation. To respond to the rioters who attack the security forces during that incident, the security forces had to disperse the crowd by following the steps and procedures for dispersing crowds with the use of minimum

force. Some members of the security forces got injuries in the incident.

Besides, CCTVs installed in several places of Mandalay are destroyed by rioters.

The protesters rioting on the streets yesterday in towns threatened and detained the police who are enforcing the rule of law for

community peace.

The towns where such incidents happened yesterday have been placed under the Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code which ban gathering of five and above people.

The police are taking necessary measures to arrest those who involved in riots.—MNA ■



Security forces disperse crowd Taninthayi Region Administration Council Office

THE State of Emergency was declared on 1 February 2021 and it was already announced that action will be taken against those who violate the Section 144 of Criminal Procedure and commit incitement to join CDM by force on 26 February.

About 1000 protesters shouting out slogans marched to the Taninthayi Region Administration Council Office in Dawei yesterday morning.

The respective administrative officials and security forces requested the protest crowd to disperse over hand speakers for many times. But the protesters did not disperse and attempted to destroy the security barriers. Therefore, the police dispersed the protest crowd in accordance with the crowd dispersal meth-

ods and the crowd dispersed for a while. Then, about 100 protesters attacked the security forces with stones and so the police fired rubber bullets of .12V gun.

Meanwhile, four rioters who attacked the police from the front side got injuries and died on the way to hospital.

Although the State Administration Council is not willing to take action against the civilians under the existing law, the council released announcements for the public to know the criminal procedures and not to follow the incitement that harm the stability of the state. Therefore, it is requested to the people not to follow the negative incitement of NLD politicians, and to continue to focus on livelihoods.—MNA



Rioters put blockage on a road in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

Security forces disperse protesters rioting on streets in Magway



THE State of Emergency was declared on 1 February 2021 and it was already announced that action will be taken against those who violate the Section 144 of Criminal Procedure and commit incitement to join CDM by force on 26 February.

Currently, the Section 144 of Criminal Procedure has been imposed in Magway Region and about 1000 unscrupulous persons shouting out slogans marched to Htin Tan street and Tatma junction in Pakokku yesterday morning.

The security forces requested the protesters to avoid mass gatherings and follow the regulations released in accordance with the law. But the protest crowd did not disperse and blocked the corner of Htin Tan street and Yoke Sone

Kyaung street with bricks, sand, stone, bamboos and wood, and attacked the security forces with materials that can cause serious wounds. The police dispersed then in accordance with the crowd dispersal methods and the protesters dispersed at about 12:30 pm.

A male protester, aged about 40, died from the .12V gun shot during the incident and the respective township police station opened a case and conducted an investigation. Moreover, the police detained 51 people who led the protest.

It is requested to the people not to follow the negative incitement of NLD politicians, and to peacefully focus on their livelihood and to follow the Section 144 of Criminal Procedure.—MNA

Rioters in Bago detained by law

AS SOME towns have been placed under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code since 8 February, those who violate the Section 144 and who instigate the people to carry out Civil Disobedience Movement-CDM have been warned that actions would be taken against them.

However, about 3000 people gathered near the river crossing bridge in Bago and staged protest yesterday morning without following the Section 144.

To prevent the riots which can lead to harming the community peace and the rule of law, the security forces requested the people to disperse.

As the people did not follow the request, the security forces fire a tear gas canister to the group to disperse the crowd. However, about 1000 people remained there and turned to anarchy mob robbing nearby shops, burning and attacking the security forces with slingshots.

To prevent the anarchy mob by protesters, the security forces dispersed the crowd by following steps and procedures for dispersing crowds in accordance with the law and with minimum force. The crowd dispersed at 12:30 pm.

In the incident, 21 members of the security forces were injured and two men died. A lo-

cal police station concerned has opened a file for the deaths and is investigating into the case.

The video files of anarchy mob in which the rioters were destroyed the nearby shops were found on the social media following the incident.

As the State Administration Council is not willing to take action against the people under the existing laws, the council has issued orders and notifications to the people to understand the criminal laws to ensure that they can avoid from incitement for riots. Hence, the people are requested not to accept the incitement of NLD politicians and to focus on livelihoods.—MNA



Debris are seen on a road in Bago after rioters destroy a shop.

Maritime trade decreases by \$2.28 bln in 2020-2021FY

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade for the period between 1 October and 12 February in the 2020-2021 financial year touched a low of US\$7.997 billion, a drastic drop of over \$2.28 billion compared to the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at \$3.28 billion, imports were registered at \$4.7 billion.

Compared to the same period in the 2019-2020 budget year, imports fell by \$1.53 billion, while exports decreased by \$751 million.

Meanwhile, the value of trade through the border this FY was estimated at \$3.9 billion, a decrease of \$56 million as against a year-ago period.

Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts. The neighbouring countries tightened border security and limited trading time to contain the virus's spread. Pandemic-induced container shortage pushed up the freight rates to almost triple in Myanmar, causing delays for traders.

Additionally, according to



Myanmar's sea trade generated \$26 billion from an overall trade value of \$36 billion in the last FY2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. PHOTO: GNLM/FILE

the Myanmar Mercantile Marine Development Association, some ocean liners suspended cargo transport from Myanmar.

"The halt of ocean liners will undoubtedly affect the maritime trade. The cargo transport will double or triple if we conduct the trade with small

ships," said an official of the association.

The country's total external trade reached \$11.987 billion, which plunged from \$14.3 billion recorded in a year-ago period.

Myanmar's sea trade generated \$26 billion from an overall trade value of \$36 billion in

the last FY2019-2020, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products. At the same time, it imports capital goods,

consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade. It includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port.—MM/GNLM

Myanmar pulls \$672.59 mln in 2020-2021FY

MYANMAR attracted foreign direct investment of more than US\$672.59 million between 1 October and 31 January in the 2020-2021 budget year, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

MIC intends to reach an FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the current FY2020-2021. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) ensures to approve the responsible businesses by assessing environmental and social impacts. The commission is working together with the relevant departments to screen the projects.

Singapore is the top source of foreign direct investments into Myanmar in the first four months of the current FY, DICA's statistics indicated.

China stood as the second-largest investors this FY with an estimated capital of \$139.354 million from 10 enterprises, followed by Hong Kong SAR investing \$87 million in Myanmar.

Those enterprises listed from Thailand, India, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, UK, Viet Nam, Marshall Island and China (Taipei) also made investments this year.

Of 38 foreign enterprises permitted and endorsed by MIC and the respective investment committees between 1 October and 31 January of the current financial year, 20 enterprises pumped FDI into the manufacturing sector.

The power sector received six projects, and the

livestock and fisheries sector attracted five projects. Other service sector drew four projects while the agriculture sector pulled two projects, and one foreign enterprise entered the hotel and tourism sector.

The FDIs stood at \$6.9 million from 158 enterprises in the FY2016-2017, \$6.119 billion from 234 businesses in the FY2017-2018, \$1.94 billion from 89 projects in the 2018 mini-budget year,

\$4.5 billion from 298 enterprises in the FY2018-2019 and \$5.689 billion from 253 businesses in the FY2019-2020, respectively, the DICA's data indicated.

Those enterprises have created over 96,000 jobs in the FY2016-2017, 110,000 jobs in the FY2017-2018, over 53,000 jobs in the 2018 mini-budget period, over 180,000 jobs in the FY2018-2019 and 210,000 jobs in the FY2019-2020, respectively.—MM/GNLM

Livestock, fisheries attract 5 foreign investment projects this FY

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), the livestock and fisheries sector has attracted five foreign investment projects as of January-end in the current financial year 2020-2021 since October, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those businesses brought in around US\$21.4 million, including the expansion of investments by the existing joint ventures.

They are executing layer farm, pig farming and sales of pigs, production and farming

of eggs and shrimp, as per the DICA data.

Since 1988-1989FY, about US\$926 million of FDI have flowed into the livestock and fisheries sector.

At present, 16 countries invested in the livestock and fisheries sector. Among them, Thailand has topped the list of assets, with over \$380 million, followed by Singapore, with about \$130 million.

Myanmar's livestock and fishery sectors are crucial to many vulnerable households' livelihoods and improve their nutritional outcomes.—KK/GNLM

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Be cautious about heat-related illness in summer

The hottest period of our country is coming and will bring record day time temperatures.

Heat waves are common in Myanmar during the months of March, April and May, in the daytime as well as at night. People can potentially experience heat stroke when their body temperature rises to 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

People are urged to be aware of the health hazards posed by the heat that causes the body to lose water through sweating, along with changes in blood viscosity and salt levels.

Multiple studies have found that heat waves are happening more frequently, while cold spells have declined in urban areas in the last 40 years.

Extreme heat can cause heat-related illnesses, such as heat stroke and exhaustion, which can result in increased mortality rates. It can also exacerbate existing health conditions.

There is a fine line between heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include excessive sweating, pale skin, weak pulse and muscle cramps. In this case, it is recommended people get inside and drink water or use a cold compress.

When heat exhaustion gets worse, people may experience an extreme headache, strong pulse, and hot skin prior to losing consciousness. This is when heatstroke can shutdown the body.

Heatstroke can be mistaken for heat exhaustion, in which case emergency services should be contacted immediately.

Heat stress occurs when the body absorbs more heat than is tolerable.

In southern Asia, mortality is likely to rise with the thermometer. Researchers have established a direct link between global warming and heat-related deaths from killer heat waves. The record mercury level of 47.5 degrees centigrade in Chauk on 8th March, last year, the highest temperature in history, has rang the alarm bell to take precautions against heat waves.

The previous record temperature was 47.2 degrees centigrade in 2010 in Myinmu, a town located in upper Myanmar.

Our country experienced record high temperatures last year, which is alarming, since the temperature has increased year by year without EL Nino and La Nina, due to global warming.

We can not afford to shrug off the hottest period of the year, but people need to ensure that they keep themselves protected as much as possible from the heat during the hottest months by keeping away from direct sunlight and drink plenty of water, eat fresh fruits and vegetables, and other high-water-content foods, wear lightweight, light-coloured and loose clothing, sunglasses, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunscreen. But avoid sugary and caffeinated drinks during summer.

‘Industry 4.0’ tech for post-COVID world, is driving inequality: UNCTAD

Developing countries must embrace ground-breaking technologies that have been a critical tool in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, or else face even greater inequalities than before, UN economic development experts at UNCTAD said.

“Very few countries create the technologies that drive this revolution - most of them are created in China and the US - but all countries will be affected by it”, said UNCTAD’s Shamika Sirimanne, head of Division on Technology and Logistics. “Almost none of the developing countries we studied is prepared for the consequences.”

The appeal, which is highlighted in a new UNCTAD report, relates to all things digital and connective, so-called “Industry 4.0” or “frontier technologies”, that include artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, 5G, 3D printing, robotics, drones, nanotechnology and solar energy.

Gene editing, another fast-evolving sector, has demonstrated its worth in the last year, with the accelerated development of new coronavirus vaccines.

Drone aid
In developing countries, digital tools can be used to monitor ground water contamination,

deliver medical supplies to remote communities via drones, or track diseases using big data, said UNCTAD’s Sirimanne.

But “most of these examples remain at pilot level, without ever being scaled-up to reach those most in need: the poor. To be successful, technology deployment must fulfil the five As: availability, affordability, awareness, accessibility, and the ability for effective use.”

Income gap widening
With an estimated market value of \$350 billion today, the array of emerging digital solutions for life after COVID is likely to be worth over \$3 trillion by 2025 - hence the need for developing countries to invest in training and infrastructure to be part of it, Sirimanne maintained.

“Most Industry 4.0 technologies that are being deployed in developed countries save labour in routine tasks affecting mid-level skill jobs. They reward digital skills and capital”, she said, pointing to the significant

increase in the market value of the world’s leading digital platforms during the pandemic.

Innovation dividends
“The largest gains have been made by Amazon, Apple and Tencent,” Sirimanne continued. “This is not surprising given that a very small number of very large firms provided most of the digital solutions that we have used to cope with various lockdowns and travel restrictions.”

Expressing optimism about the potential for developing countries to be carried along with the new wave of digitalisation rather than be swamped by it, the UNCTAD economist downplayed concerns that increasing workforce automation risked putting people in poorer countries out of a job.

This is because “not all tasks in a job are automated, and, most importantly, that new products, tasks, professions, and economic activities are created throughout the economy”, Sirimanne said.

‘Job polarization’
“The low wages ...for skills



Indonesian adolescent girls use their smartphones. PHOTO: UNICEF

in developing countries plus the demographic trends will not create economic incentives to replace labour in manufacturing - not yet.”

According to UNCTAD, over the past two decades, the expansion in high and low-wage jobs - a phenomenon known as “job polarization” - has led to only a

single-digit reduction in medium-skilled jobs in developed and developing countries (of four and six per cent respectively).
SOURCE: UN News

China, India, Russia seek influence through vaccine diplomacy

China, India and Russia are stepping up efforts to expand their influence by providing coronavirus vaccines to developing and middle-income countries, while advanced countries scramble to secure doses of U.S.- and European-made vaccines for their own citizens.

China is donating locally produced vaccines to 53 countries that have requested them, mainly in Southeast Asia and Africa.

“In the recent couple of days we read and heard a lot about Chinese vaccines going overseas and being embraced by many developing countries,” Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a press conference on Feb. 19. “Some media reports said the vaccines became Spring Festi-



A health official receives a dose of Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine in Tehran, Iran on February 09, 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

val presents that these countries wanted the most.”

The first country to get free vaccines from China was Pakistan. China has border issues with

as Sinopharm.

China promised in January to donate 300,000 doses to Myanmar after the Southeast Asian country showed an early interest in procuring vaccines from India.

Eastern European countries, which have developed close ties with China under the latter’s Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, have bought Chinese vaccines. The United Arab Emirates and Indonesia cooperated with China during vaccine trials.

The number of countries that have expressed interest in purchasing Chinese vaccines has reached 27, many of them also administering U.S. and European vaccines to their populations. As its vaccines are taken up around the world, China appears intent on marshalling all available re-

sources to boost its production capacity.

India, which prides itself on being the world’s pharmacy as a result of having produced 60 percent of vaccines needed in developing countries during pre-pandemic times, is competing head on with China in the race to gain influence over the developing world.

The South Asian country has donated 1.7 million doses to Myanmar, while also providing free vaccines to at least 15 countries, including in Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean.

It has so far provided over 36 million doses to other countries, both for free and on a commercial basis.

India has administered to its citizens two kinds of vaccines, a lo-

cally developed one, and the other that was developed by major British drugmaker AstraZeneca Plc and the University of Oxford and produced by a major vaccine maker under the Covishield brand.

India touts them as relatively easy to handle and less expensive than those made by other countries. It is believed to be donating mainly the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to other countries.

“From the people of India to the people of Maldives,” Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said on Twitter after handing over 100,000 additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine to the Maldives on his visit there on Feb. 20. “An extraordinarily deep partnership reaffirmed,” he also tweeted.

SOURCE: Kyodo

Objectives of 76th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

FOR the Tatmadaw to join hands with the entire nation to safeguard democracy, which is the aspiration of all the nationalities of the country, from deviating from its path, in accord with the basic principles of the Constitution, while observing Our Three Main National Causes, which is the national policy;

To protect the people from all dangers including natural disasters at any time and in any situation and to provide all-round assistance for ensuring social security of the people;

To restore eternal peace based on NCA, without deviating from Our Three Main National Causes, as the cessation of armed conflicts is the principal requirement in realizing democracy;

To build a strong and compact Standard Army, which has the combat prowess and combat power, to effectively safeguard the State peace and stability and sovereignty.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7: 00 pm Sunday 28 February 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 1 March 2021: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region and Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 March 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 March 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 March 2021: Generally fair weather.

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Libyan coastguard picks up almost 100 migrants, 20 missing



Almost 100 migrants were rescued off Libya's west coast on Sunday as they made failed attempts to reach Europe, while around 20 were missing, AFP reporters and the coastguard said. **PHOTO: AFP**

ALMOST 100 migrants were rescued off Libya's west coast on Sunday as they made failed attempts to reach Europe, while around 20 were missing, AFP reporters and the coastguard said.

The Libyan coastguard rescued the mostly African migrants as they attempted perilous sea crossings to Italy and brought them to a naval base in the capital Tripoli, where they were met by a team from the

International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The majority of the migrants were from Cameroon, Sudan and Mali, an IOM representative said.

The survivors included six women and two children. Two people in critical condition were transported to hospital in the Libyan capital.

Some 20 people were still missing, according to the coastguard.

"The additional tragedy is that in most cases, there is very little search to recover the bodies of those who drown," Safa Msehli, IOM spokesperson in Geneva, told AFP.

"The sight of bodies washing ashore later has become too familiar."

More than 1,200 migrants and asylum-seekers died while crossing the Mediterranean in 2020, according to the IOM. —AFP ■

New York governor accused of sexual harassment by second woman

A second ex-employee of powerful New York state Governor Andrew Cuomo has accused him of sexual harassment, charges the governor denied on Saturday.

This time the allegations came from 25-year-old former health adviser Charlotte Bennett, who told The New York Times that the governor sexually har-

assed her in the spring of 2020.

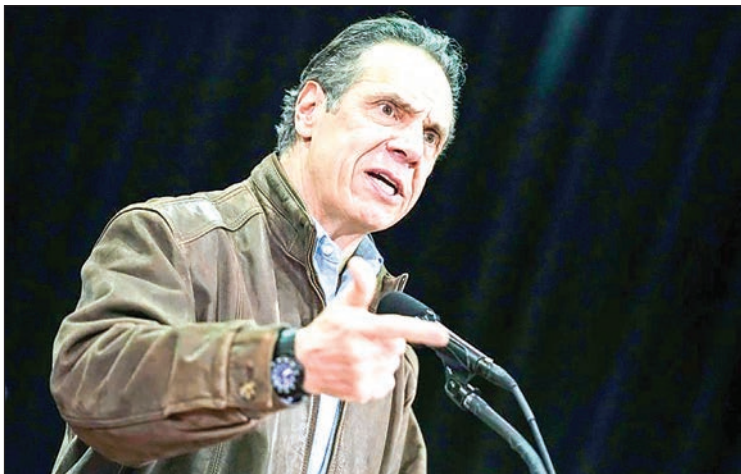
According to Bennett, the 63-year-old politician said in June that he was open to dating women in their 20s, and asked her if she thought age made a difference in romantic relationships, the Times reported.

While Cuomo never tried to touch her, "I understood that the

governor wanted to sleep with me, and felt horribly uncomfortable and scared," Bennett told the paper.

She added that she spoke to Cuomo's chief of staff and legal counsel, who transferred her to another post in another building. Bennett was happy with the new job and decided not to insist on an investigation. Cuomo became a national star last spring with his straight-talking yet empathetic coronavirus briefings that contrasted sharply with then-president Donald Trump's dismissive approach to the pandemic.

But the harassment allegations come as he faces a growing storm over his handling of the coronavirus in nursing homes in his state. In a statement Saturday, Cuomo said he "never made advances toward Ms Bennett nor did I ever intend to act in any way that was inappropriate." —AFP ■



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has denied sexual harassment allegations from a second woman. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hollywood award season kicks off with mainly virtual ceremony

HOLLYWOOD'S award season kicks off Sunday at a very different Golden Globes, with a mainly virtual ceremony set to boost or dash the Oscars hopes of early frontrunners like "Nomadland" and "The Trial of the Chicago 7."

Usually a star-packed, laid-back party that draws Tinseltown's biggest names to a Beverly Hills hotel ballroom, this pandemic edition will be broadcast from two scaled-down venues, with frontline and essential workers among the few in attendance.

Deprived of its usual glamour, the Globes -- which also honor the best in television -- remain a coveted prize, and a high-profile source of momentum in the run-up to the season-crowning Oscars, which were pushed back this year to April.

"Nomadland," Chloe Zhao's paean to a marginalized, older generation of Americans roaming the West in rundown vans, has long been viewed as a frontrunner for the Globes' top prize. —AFP ■



Hollywood's award season kicks off Sunday at a very different Golden Globes, with a mainly virtual ceremony set to boost or dash the Oscars hopes of early frontrunners like "Nomadland" and "The Trial of the Chicago 7." **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Celebrated Turkish actor risks jail for Erdogan 'insult'

MUJDAT Gezen's half-century career as an acclaimed Turkish writer and actor has included awards, a stint as a UN goodwill ambassador and a taste of prison after a 1980 putsch.

Now aged 77, the wry-witted comedian and poet with an easy smile and a bad back risks returning to jail on charges of insulting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

He is in danger of becoming the latest victim in the Turkish leader's years-long battle with what he dismissively calls "so-called artists". "I am even banned from appearing in crossword puzzles," Gezen quipped. Gezen landed in court with fellow comedian Metin Akpinar, 79, over comments the pair made during a television show they starred in on opposition Halk TV in 2018.

In the broadcast, Gezen told Erdogan to "know your place".

"Look Recep Tayyip Erdogan, you cannot test our patriotism. Know your place," Gezen said on air. —AFP ■

Dramatic video shows woman ramming vehicle into petrol station

Police at the scene fired shots at the car, as the 37-year old woman repeatedly smashed into the store. The incident took place around midnight on Saturday in Rymań, West Pomerania.

The video footage shows the moment when the woman reverses out of the petrol station store, before rushing forward again. Local media report that policemen were present and tried to take control of the situation.

In the recording, posted on Facebook, bystanders can be heard shouting "Leave the car, shoot the tires!" After shots can be heard firing at the vehicle, someone shouts "don't shoot at the driver!" —AFP ■

Israel clears Greek tanker over Mediterranean oil spill

ISRAELI authorities said Sunday they had cleared a Greek tanker of suspicion in relation to an oil spill that caused massive tar pollution on the Mediterranean coastline, devastating marine life.

It is seen as Israel's worst maritime pollution incident in decades. Powerful winds and unusually high waves pummeled Israel's entire Mediterranean coastline on February 17, with tonnes of tar staining 160 kilometres (96 miles) of beach from its borders with the Gaza Strip to Lebanon. Volunteers have teamed up with authorities to clean the beaches, while officials from the environmental protection ministry launched an investigation into the source of the spill.

After an Israeli media report had named the Greek oil tanker *Minerva Helen* as a possible culprit, the ship's owner, *Minerva Marine Inc.*, firmly denied any involvement. On Sunday, the ministry said that "following an inspection conducted in Greece on the *Minerva Helen* tanker, it has



Israel volunteers clean the contaminated HaBonim beach, south the port city of Haifa. PHOTO: AFP

been cleared of suspicion of involvement in the severe tar event on Israel's beaches". The ship's owner said the Israeli media report was an "unfounded and inaccurate allegation". It stated that the ship had been in the Mediterranean in the days before the

storm, "without any cargo on board" and therefore could not be linked to a spill.

The company also pledged to "cooperate with any relevant authority" interested in the *Minerva Helen's* movements.

On Saturday in the Greek

port city of Piraeus, Israeli inspectors conducted "an extensive examination" of the *Minerva Helen* that "positively ruled out the vessel as the source of the pollution," the environmental protection ministry said in a statement.

—AFP ■

Japan's Mizuho Bank reports large-scale ATM system failure

MIZUHO Bank said Sunday a glitch affecting more than half of its 5,400 automated teller machines had prevented customers from withdrawing cash.

The system failure apparently occurred nationwide, one of Japan's largest banks said. In some cases, ATMs stopped functioning and cash cards

were not returned.

Its internet banking service also failed to complete some transactions.

The system started to recover after being rebooted, but the work was not completed as of 9 p.m., the bank said.

Mizuho was informed of problems with its ATMs from

Sunday morning. Of the 5,395 ATMs, 2,956 had stopped functioning by 7:40 p.m.

"We apologize for any inconvenience," the banking arm of Mizuho Financial Group Inc. said on its website, asking customers to use the ATMs of its partner banks if they need money immediately. Mizuho

Financial has experienced large-scale system failures in the past.

In April 2002, when its affiliated banks were reorganized, problems at ATMs resulted in 2.5 million electronic withdrawals and other transactions being delayed. — Kyodo News ■

The simple 'seedballs' giving Kenya's forests a helping hand



Green shoots: Seedballs are helping new growth in Kenya forests, devastated by colonial clearing and agriculture production.

PHOTO: AFP

At first glance, the round black pellets could easily be mistaken for animal dung. But these

hardy little balls contain acacia seeds that are helping regrow Kenya's depleted forests.

In a tranche of razed forest bordering the Masai Mara wildlife reserve, a team of rangers scatter generous handfuls of "seedballs" around the bald clearing to give nature a fighting chance to regenerate.

It takes just minutes for the eight rangers from the Mara Elephant Project, a conservation group, to toss some 22,000 seedballs across this ravaged corner of the Nyakweri forest.

"It is very simple," said Jackson Maitai, whose rangers discovered that loggers had illegally cleared this land during their routine patrols to protect elephants in the area.

"The seedballs are not actually heavy. We just throw

them away everywhere we see there is deforestation, so it is not a big deal."

Humble though they may be, seedballs are tackling a century-old problem in Kenya.

Trees were felled en masse by colonial administrators to fuel a train across East Africa, while land today is cleared for agriculture and charcoal production as Kenya's population grows upward and outward.

The forests bordering the Masai Mara, the legendary wildlife haven and savannah wilderness in the country's southwest, are no exception, chipped away for pasture, crops and charcoal, a cheap fuel. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Roman chariot unearthed 'almost intact' near Pompeii

AN ORNATE Roman chariot has been discovered "almost intact" near Italy's buried city of Pompeii, the archaeological park announced on Saturday, calling it a discovery with "no parallel" in the country.

The four-wheeled processional carriage was found in the portico to stables where the remains of three horses were unearthed in 2018, including one still in its harness.

Pompeii was buried in boiling lava when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, killing between 2,000 and 15,000 people.

"A large ceremonial chariot with four wheels, along with its iron components, beautiful bronze and tin decorations, mineralised wood remains and imprints of organic materials (from the ropes to the remains of floral decoration), has been discovered almost intact," a statement issued by the archaeological park said.

"This is an exceptional discovery... which has no parallel in Italy thus far - in an excellent state of preservation." —AFP ■

Bangladesh police fire rubber bullets, tear gas at opposition protesters

DOZENS were injured Sunday as Bangladeshi police fired rubber bullets and tear gas in a third day of protests sparked by the death of a prominent writer and government critic in jail.

Mushtaq Ahmed, 53, collapsed in a high-security prison and died late Thursday, 10 months after being arrested under a "digital security" law that critics say is being used to silence dissent in the country of 168 million people. Live footage on Sunday from local television station Channel 24 showed a road and footpath in front of the National Press Club -- a favourite protest site in Dhaka -- turning into a battleground as police beat protesters with batons to disperse them. —AFP ■

Emirates operates first flight serviced by fully-vaccinated frontline teams

HONOURING its commitment to the health and safety of its employees and customers, Emirates has become among the first airlines in the world to operate a flight with fully-vaccinated frontline teams servicing customers at every touchpoint of the travel journey.

On February 21, the full airport and onboard customer experience for flight EK215, which departed Dubai at 8.30am for Los Angeles, was safely supported by check-in, security, business and first class lounge and boarding gate employees, as well as engineers, pilots and cabin crew who made the choice to be fully vaccinated.

Also supporting the flight's operations were fully-vaccinated aircraft appearance, loading and special handling teams from dnata, as well as



Emirates has become among the first airline in the world to operate a flight with fully-vaccinated frontline teams. **PHOTO: AFP**

SkyCargo teams working on the cargo and logistics requirements for EK215.

The Emirates Group rolled out its vaccination drive at pace just over a month ago and since then, close to 26,000 or 44 per cent of the group's UAE frontline aviation workforce have received

both doses of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Sinopharm vaccines.

Adel Al Redha, chief operating officer, Emirates Airline said: "Our operational workforce is at the aviation frontline, helping people get to where they need to be and moving essential

goods to global communities. Protecting our people with vaccinations is important – for them, for our community, for the smooth running of our operations and also for our customers as it introduces an additional layer of protection when they travel with us. —AFP ■

EU consumer prices rise for first time in six months

EUROSTAT'S harmonised index of consumer prices climbed by 0.9 per cent year-on-year in January, reversing a 0.3 per cent fall in December, and increasing for the first time in six months since July, when the index was up 0.4 per cent.

Excluding energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, core inflation accelerated to 1.4 per cent from 0.2 per cent. In January, the highest contribution to the annual inflation rate came from services, followed by non-energy industrial goods, food, alcohol and tobacco and energy.

Month-on-month, consumer prices gained 0.2 per cent. A year earlier, the rate was 1.4 per cent.

The German econo-

my expanded more than initially estimated in the fourth quarter driven by construction investment and exports. Gross domestic product grew 0.3 per cent in the fourth quarter compared to 0.1 per cent initial estimate.

However, this was much slower than the 8.5 per cent rebound seen in the third quarter due to the renewed lockdown at the end of the year. On a yearly basis, the decline in German GDP slowed to 3.7 per cent from four per cent.

Due to the second lockdown, private consumption dropped 3.3 per cent but this was far less than the 11 per cent fall posted during the first lockdown. Government spending also decreased 0.5 per cent.

—AFP ■

Hollywood, history combine in Churchill art auction



Gallery workers pose with Winston Churchill's 'Tower of Koutoubia Mosque' during a photocall at Christie's auction house in central London. **PHOTO: AFP**

HOLLYWOOD'S Angelina Jolie and Britain's iconic wartime prime minister Sir Winston Churchill, a keen artist who took inspiration from the Moroccan city of Marrakesh, are combining for a March 1 date at Christie's auction house in London.

"The Tower of the Koutoubia Mosque", an oil painting Churchill produced during a World War II visit, is tipped to fetch between £1.5 million and £2.5 million (\$2 million and \$3.5 million), according to a Christie's estimate. Put up for auction by Angelina Jolie, it is vaunted in Christie's catalogue as "Churchill's most important work. Aside from its distinguished provenance, it is the only landscape he made" during the war. A career army officer before entering politics, Churchill started to paint relatively late, at the age of 40. His passion for the translucent light of Marrakesh, far from the political storms and drab skies of London, dates back to the 1930s when most of Morocco was a French protectorate, and he went on to make six visits to the North African country over the course of 23 years. —AFP ■

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Moe Mynn Thu (LL.B, LL.M, M.Res)
Rouse Myanmar
for PRONTO CORPORATION
Email: myanmar@rouse.com
Dated: 1st March 2021



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Moe Mynn Thu (LL.B, LL.M, M.Res)
Rouse Myanmar
for SUNTORY HOLDINGS LIMITED
Email: myanmar@rouse.com
Dated: 1st March 2021

Europe less at risk of inflation and rate fears: analysts

INVESTORS are watching inflation carefully, worried that a boiling over of prices will ruin the expected strong pandemic recovery although analysts believe Europe faces much less of a risk than the United States.

Fears that US President Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan -- which was passed by the House of Representatives on Saturday -- will stoke up the economy too much have

unnerved investors in recent weeks. A rise in yields on 10-year US Treasury bonds -- a key indicator of expectations -- shows the markets believe prices are set to rise much more sharply than last year's gain of 1.4 percent, which could force the US Federal Reserve to hike interest rates earlier than it says it plans to do.

Bond yields have risen elsewhere too, with 10-year French government

bonds turning positive on Thursday for the first time in months while the benchmark 10-year German Bund has also risen although it remains negative.

European inflation data for January showed a jump in prices of 0.9 percent compared to a minus 0.3 percent reading in December, as increased costs of raw materials fed through into services and industrial goods.—AFP



The US Federal Reserve is in the hot seat as investors are edgy about an earlier rise to interest rates than the central bank has indicated. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

In pandemic e-work, Greece sees chance to reverse brain drain



'Our work shows that Greece can lead in research as well,' says Nefeli Lagopati, a 37-year-old postdoctorate researcher in biology and nanomedicine. PHOTO: AFP

THE pandemic was a wake-up call that reminded Christophoros Xenos of what he misses most in London -- the Greek sun and pleasant Mediterranean way of life.

The 36-year old risk manager left Greece in his early 20s for Britain, aiming to complete his studies, gain professional experience abroad and come back. This never happened, as the decade-long Greek crisis that

followed killed thousands of jobs. But during the first coronavirus wave, Xenos took advantage of remote work to return to Greece for three months -- and homesickness hit him hard. "I worked for three months from Athens and the Greek islands and really enjoyed the weather, the quality of life, the return to the homeland," he told AFP.

With thousands of

employees like Xenos capable of working remotely, Greece sees an opportunity to bring back some of the minds the country lost during the past decade. "We want you back," Alex Patelis, chief economic adviser to Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, said at a recent Delphi Forum online event. "Open offices, set up new companies or move part of your busi-

nesses to Greece. We have the sun, the technology, and we are by your side," he said. Some 500,000 people moved abroad during the Greek crisis. The economy shrank by a quarter and unemployment skyrocketed to 28 percent. Since then, job figures have improved, but unemployment remains more than double the European Union and eurozone average. —AFP ■

Women fight for funding in man's world of tech startups

LAUREN Foundos has excelled at just about everything she has put her mind to, from college sports and Wall Street trading to her Forte startup that takes workouts online.

Being a woman in the overwhelmingly male world of venture capital was still a barrier -- but, like many other female entrepreneurs, she only worked harder to succeed.

"In some cases, before I even spoke, they were asking me if I would step down as chief executive," Foundos said of encounters

with venture capitalists.

"This was a whole new level."

Men would speak past her in meetings, discussing whether she could emotionally handle the job as if she wasn't there, or wondering out loud who would take care of the books.

"When that happens, I tell them I am right here," Foundos said. "I am the finance guy; I worked at big banks for more than 10 years. I've been the best at everything I have ever gone into." Startups can only get by so long rely-

ing on friends, family or savings before eventually needing to find investors willing to put money into young companies in exchange for a stake in the business. Money invested in startups in their earliest days, perhaps when they are no more than ideas or prototypes, is called "seed" funding. When it comes to getting backing for a startup it is about trust, and that seems to be lacking when it comes to women entrepreneurs, according to Foundos and others interviewed by AFP.—AFP ■

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No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg Type	Reg;No.
1	Zapronil 5 SC	Fipronil 5% SC	Full	F2017-1230
2	Zaman 50 WP	Dimethomorph 50% WP	Full	F2018-1857
3	Zighter 51.5 EC	Chlorpyrifos 46.5%+ Cypermethrin 5% EC	Full	F2018-1546
4	Zuper 85 WP	Copper Oxychloride 85% WP	Full	F2019-2104
5	Zadifen 325 SC	Azoxystrobin 20%+ Difenconazole 12.5% w/v SC	Provisional	P2018-4369

JJ Pun Trading Co., Ltd.
TEL : (95) 1 368 7790-96

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No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg Type	Reg;No.
1	Agrothaconil 75 WP	Chlorothalonil 75% w/w WP	Full	F2014-711
2	Zalphamethrin 5 EC	Alpha Cypermethrin 5% EC	Full	F2011-722
3	Rebel 85 WP	Carbaryl 85% WP	Full	F2011-723
4	Ultratap 50 SP	Cartap Hydrochloride 50% SP	Full	F2011-732
5	Agromectin 1.8% EC	Abamectin 1.8% w/w	Full	F2014-724
6	BP Hopper	BPMC 50% EC	Full	F2016-1094
7	Acetagro	Acetamidiprid 20% SL	Full	F2019-1869
8	Zagribac 10 SC	Bispyribac Sodium 10% SC	Full	F2019-2002
9	Zaking 25 SL	Fomesafen 25% SL	Full	F2019-2004
10	Progib Z	Gibberellic acid 20% w/w	Full	F2019-2005

JJ Pun Trading Co., Ltd.
TEL : (95) 1 368 7790-96

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No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg Type	Reg;No.
1	Zafate 75 SP	Acephate 75% w/w SP	Full	F2016-1224
2	Zachlofos 48 EC	Chlorpyrifos 48% w/v EC	Full	F2016-1228
3	Crunch 41 SL	Glyphosate IPA 41% w/w SL	Full	F2016-1231

JJ Pun Trading Co., Ltd.
TEL : (95) 1 368 7790-96



Sal Taung Pyae pagoda

A visit to **Taikkyi**, a tour destination with many attractions (2)

Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp

The people can feed or ride the elephants at the Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp located at Phalone village of Taikkyi. I once wrote about this place in details. The place has its attractions as it does not have perfect facility. It is located near the forest. You can stay at the natural building and enjoy the village style food. The visitors can study the nature of

Thiha Lu Lin (Thiha, the Traveller)
Photos : Min Hsann, Thiha Lu Lin
Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung,
Khine Thazin Han

Gone Lin Taung Monastery

There is a road signboard to Gone Lin Taung on the way to Gyo Phyu reservoir. If you climb up the hill from the small lane, you can enjoy the nature of forest and motions. There are monastery, Bo Min Khaung statues and Buddha statues at the top of the mountain. I reached the summit by motorbike.

Three-layer waterfall (Gone Lin Taung)

After 10 minutes ride, you will reach at Three-layer waterfall. It is not a very high waterfall. Although there is high water volume in the rainy season, the amount becomes lesser in winter and summer. It is such a nice recreation place for the local residents. It is not convenient for the vehicles. The road is not

wide enough for two cars. There is also cliff. Therefore, walking is the best to get there. If you cannot walk, you can hire motorcycles at K5,000 for a round trip. Although it is not a fair price, you should support the residents. You have to go down to reach the waterfall. There is a small shop and you can order food. The road to waterfall is slippery when it rains. You can slip and fall even this season. The waste issue becomes worse. The visitors easily throw their waste. They even throw the masks which are new waste. If the shop owners and motorcycle taxi drivers collectively collect the garbage or put the dustbins, the environment will be better than before. The visitors also should keep their waste or throw into the dustbins.



Thar Taw Myar pagoda

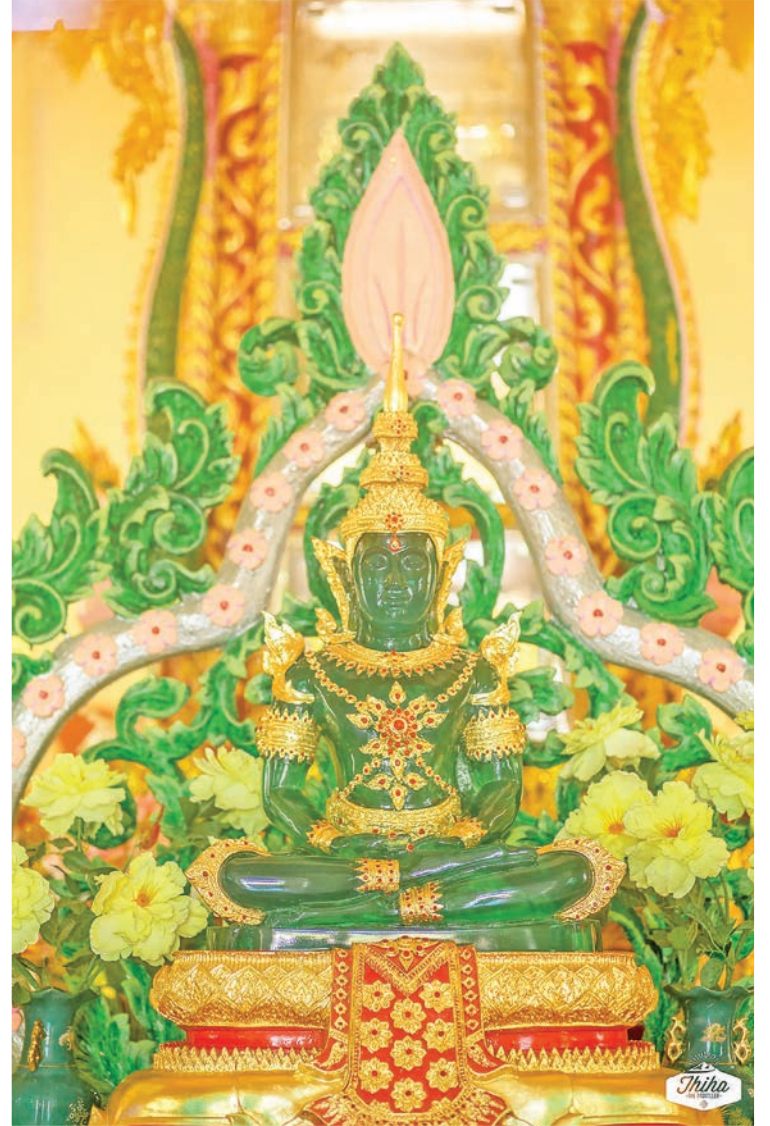
clever elephants and have a talk about the life of mahouts or elephant caretakers. If so, you can have proper knowledge regarding with the relation between the mahouts and elephants including their skills in training and experience with wild elephants. There is also a housing for mahouts and also a dining dormitory. You can have breakfast, lunch and dinner there. The dormitory can accommodate about 12 people. There are more than 30 elephants including newly born elephants and over 60-years old.

It will take about 30 minutes from Phalone to the camp. The 4X4 Drive vehicles are more convenient for this road. The motorcycle taxi fare is about K5,000.

Maha Myat Muni Pagoda and Myanmar Aye Pagoda

Taikkyi Maha Myat Muni Buddha image located along Yangon-Pyay road is supposed to be similar with Mandalay Maha Myat Muni Buddha image. There are also nat shrine and thaik shrines. The stairway is more than hundreds of years.

are monastery and school, the people pay a visit to the pagoda on the mountain. The pagoda is located on the mountain and so the Yangonites will enjoy such mountaineering. The mountain is not too high and the scene from the mountain is very picturesque. You can also enjoy the beauty of river, greenish view and rubber tree forest. It will take about 45 minutes from the Toll Gate of Taikkyi. You can also see the gardens along the way. The road is not rough. It will take you a little longer to Pan



The Buddha statues made of gems are seen in the compound of Thar Taw Myanmar pagoda



Thamee Taw Myar Pagoda



Now, the stairway is renovated.

Taikkyi Myoma market

The market is big and very alive. It is crowded with buyers and food vendors especially in the early morning.

Taikkyi Ang Gong Chinese Temple

You will see Ang Gong Chinese Temple near the Myoma market. It is famous among the visitors from Yangon. The temple was closed when I reached there.

Pyi Lone Chantha Pagoda

Pyi Lone Chantha Pagoda is located in the opposite side of the Chinese temple. The pagoda is put in the glass case and the Enlightened Buddha images are curved on the ceilings and walls.

Pan Ta Pwint Taung Monastery

Pan Ta Pwin Taung located between Taikkyi and Hmawbi is famous until now. Although there

Ta Pwint Taung.

You can also pay a visit to Pyi Lone Chantha Moe Kaug pagoda, Hman Pya Taung and Myinmo Taung near Shwe Nyauing Pin village.

How to get there

You can go to Taikkyi by your own car or taxi. You can also get car rental service like Gold Tripper via 09-421085898. I also made

a trip with Gold Tripper.

Those who are tiring of living in the Yangon cities can make a short day trip to Taikkyi.

May all you have a safe trip!



The market is crowded with buyers and vendors in early morning

ONE Championship: Fists of Fury II to be launched on 5 March

A special event of the ONE Championship named "Fists of Fury II" featuring bouts of world-class

fighters will be held on 5 March at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore, according to the ONE Championship.

There will be a total of six fights and all the bouts will be for men. In the main card of the event or Heavyweight bout, Amir Aliakbari of Iran will take on Kang Ji Wong of South Korea.

In the co-main bout or another Heavyweight fight, Alexandre Mechado of Brazil will fight against Anatoly Malykhin of Russia.

In the Featherweight bout, Ryogo Takahashi of Japan will fight with Tang Kai of China.

In the other Featherweight bout, Yoshiki Nakahara of Japan will face Ruslan Emilbek Uulu of Kyrgyzstan. In the Flyweight fight, Roshan Mainam of India will take on Aziz Calim of Indonesia.

In the last fight or Bantamweight bout, Mark Fairtex Abelardo of New Zealand will fight with Emilio Urrutia of the United States. The ONE Championship Fights will be broadcast live free on ONE Super Application and ONE Championship YouTube Channel, according to the statement with the ONE Championship.

The first two fights will also be streamed live on ONE Championship Facebook page, officials stated. —GNLM ■



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Ronaldo scores as Juventus held in Verona



Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 19th goal this campaign but champions Juventus settled for a 1-1 draw at Hellas Verona in Serie A on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 19th goal this campaign but champions Juventus had to settle for a 1-1 draw at Hellas Verona in Serie A on Saturday.

The draw gives leaders Inter Milan the chance to pull 10 points clear of Juventus when they play mid-table Genoa at the San Siro on Sunday.

Juventus are third and three points adrift of second-placed AC Milan who travel to Roma, two points behind the champions in fourth, on Sunday.

"We managed to take the lead, which was the hardest part, it's a pity not being able to hold it," said Juve coach Andrea Pirlo.

Pirlo's side paid for their many absences and a redesigned defence with Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini out injured and Danilo suspended.

Also missing were Juan Cuadrado, Arthur and Paulo Dybala to injury with Alvaro Morata recovering from a viral infection.—AFP ■

Alvarez crushes Yildirim to retain super middleweight crown

SAUL "Canelo" Alvarez demolished Turkey's Avni Yildirim in three rounds to retain his WBC and WBA super middleweight titles by knockout on Saturday.

Mexico's Alvarez dominated underdog Yildirim from the opening bell and sent the Turk crashing to the canvas with a crisp left-right combination in the third round at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium.

The outclassed Yildirim then failed to emerge from his corner for the fourth round as Alvarez once again demonstrated why he is regarded as the



Saul "Canelo" Alvarez celebrates after crushing Turkey's Avni Yildirim in three rounds at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

best pound-for-pound fighter in boxing.

"I wanted to have a great fight here and I did what I had

to do," Alvarez said.

"I needed a knockout and that's what I did. It doesn't matter if they're taller, if they've got

more reach, or they've got a good trainer.

I came to do my job, I came here to win." Alvarez, who improved to 55-1-2 with 37 knockouts, had got back into the ring on Saturday a little over two months after beating Britain's Callum Smith in December. After the fight, promoter Eddie Hearn said the 30-year-old Mexican star will next seek to add the World Boxing Organisation belt to his collection with a May 8 fight against Britain's Billy Joe Saunders.—AFP ■

Murray, Campos share lead atw Puerto Rico Open

GRAYSON Murray fired a seven-under-par 65 to grab a share of the lead at the US PGA Tour's Puerto Rico Open on Saturday.

The 27-year-old from North Carolina bounced back from a bogey on the 17th to finish with a birdie on the last to join local hope Rafael Campos at the top of the leaderboard on 14 under heading into Sunday's final round.

Murray's closing birdie capped a sparkling round which erupted early on with four birdies and three pars in his first seven holes at the Grand Reserve Golf Club in Rio Grande.

A 10-foot birdie put on the ninth took him to five under for the round before two more birdies on the 12th and 14th pushed him into the lead.

A bogey on the 17th threatened to sour his round, but Murray recovered to birdie the par-five 18th to ensure a share of the lead alongside Campos.

Campos meanwhile -- ranked 666th in the world -- put himself in the frame for a fairytale first tour victory with a five-under-par 67.

The 32-year-old made his PGA Tour debut at the Puerto Rico Open as an amateur in 2008 and has posted two top-10 finishes at the event in the years since.—AFP ■



Grayson Murray sets up a birdie on the 18th to take a share of the lead at the Puerto Rico Open. PHOTO: AFP