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Insulting and speaking ill of others to garner support is dishonest politics: Senior General



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses Council meeting 5/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The State Administration Council held a meeting 5/2021 at the meeting hall of the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, General Maung Maung Kyaw, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Mahn Nyein Maung, U Thein Nyunt, U Khin Maung Swe, Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moungh Har, U Sai Lone Hsaing and Saw Daniel, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dway and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-

Gen Soe Htut.

In his speech, the Senior General said although the situation in the first week when the State Administration Council started the assumption of the responsibilities was normal, protests were staged from then on, so the Council solved such issue in accord with the practice of democracy. Protests were staged in more than 200 townships till the last week. As of 28 February, it was found that they committed violent acts, attacking security personnel with knives, iron hooks, catapults, nuts, percussion lock firearms and home-made guns as well as setting fire as destruction. Some riotous protesters were arrested but arrangements are being made to release some of them. The softest procedure was exercised in performing the rule of law and security measures. Destructive acts killed one police member and wounded 101 members. In tackling the riots

Health staff need to provide medical treatment to patients regardless of enemies or friends. They turn a blind eye to such a point. In fact, medical doctors break their oaths which are not appropriate for the people.

in accord with the law, 29 men and five women were dead and 85 men and four women injured. It was found that dead cases of a woman each in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw were caused by an arm outside the scenes, not the arms of police members.

It was assumed that CDM did not happen immediately and it might be arranged in ad-

vance. As financial assistance was found to support the CDM, sources of currency flow are put under investigation. Such news was released yesterday. Although protests are staged in the international community, protesters target the government and administrative bodies without harming the economy. However, protests in Myanmar

intend to harm factories, industries, transport, currency circulation and production.

The closure of hospitals by medical doctors is worse. Health staff need to provide medical treatment to patients regardless of enemies or friends. They turn a blind eye to such a point. In fact, medical doctors break their oaths which are not appropriate for the people. The relevant ministry must strive for the opening of hospitals as quickly as possible. Waterway transport is being operated as usual. In the near future, trains will be run along the Yangon-Mandalay railroad. Just some private banks were reopened. It is necessary to strive for the reopening of all private banks as quickly as possible, and security forces must take security measures of the banks. These banks must be reopened for the sake of the people.

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Announcement of Union Election Commission

8 March 2021

- Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voters lists and the casting of votes of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region.
- According to the inspection findings, the previous election commission released 190,602 eligible voters in Patheingyi Township of Mandalay Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 176,305 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 18,537 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 794 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 14,772 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- Findings in the inspection were as follows:-

Findings on scrutinized voting list

Sr	Township and number of polling stations	List of township sub-commission	List from immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny card	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list two times holding one CSC
1	139 polling stations in Patheingyi Township of Mandalay Region	190,602	176,305	18,537	794	14,772

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region, together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrator according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.
- According to inspection on the ground, a total of 139 poll stations in Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region took out 201,838 ballot papers. It used 145,559 ballot receipts. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective poll stations. The findings were as follows:

On the ground inspections on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Patheingyi Township

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
						Shortage	Extra
1	Ward/Village - tract ballots	196,900	144,905	51,995	45,157	8,239	1,401
2	Township advance ballots	639	654	-	-	-	15
3	Township remaining ballots	4,299	-	4,299	4,423	-	124
Total		201,838	145,559	56,294	49,580	8,239	1,540

- It was also found that the township remaining ballot and the ballots in 13 poll stations are higher than the numbers of ballots issued by UEC. The findings are as follows:

Sr	Ward	Poll station	Issued	Used	Remaining on the ground	Missing	Extra	Remark
1	Myoma Ward	6	10,850	8,117	2,750		17	
2	YayHwat	4	7,250	5,469	2,310		529	
3	Yankin Taung	4	6,000	4,357	1,402	241		
4	Yaykyi	3	3,500	2,316	840	344		
5	Thamatataw	2	5,700	4,159	1,424	117		
6	Toetatkon	2	2,850	2,027	325	498		
7	Banttat	1	600	420	80	100		
8	Latthit	1	750	543	57	150		
9	Ainegyi	2	2,650	2,196	634		180	
10	Thalaegon	2	3,150	2,557	280	313		
11	Kyaukme	3	3,200	2,450	654	96		
12	Ngwe Taung	3	4,100	3,317	794		11	
13	Seitaw	2	2,500	1,792	690	18		
14	Kyuwon	2	2,200	1,532	575	93		
15	Ohnchaw	8	17,650	12,456	4,144	1,050		
16	Shwesayan	3	7,950	5,809	1,880	261		
17	Hnan Gyi	2	2,550	2,104	496		50	
18	Shin Taw Kon	4	6,200	3,920	1,500	780		
19	Aung Chan Tha	4	6,300	4,479	1,682	139	20	
20	Nandar	4	3,750	3,004	690	56		
21	Kyanikan	1	2,200	1,465	285	450		
22	Kaungmon	2	1,450	1,103	211	136	23	
23	Dahattaw	5	7,650	6,059	1,830		239	
24	Kangyi	1	1,100	867	246		13	
25	Kanpyin	2	1,600	1,318	115		33	

26	Eingyin	2	2,000	1,585	325	100		
27	Minkan	3	2,650	2,353	294	3		
28	Boke	2	1,500	1,242	272		14	
29	Sin Bhwut	2	1,750	1,435	298	17		
30	Kyal Yay Kon	1	1,800	1,170	777		147	
31	Sin Ywar Gyi	3	4,450	3,150	1,000	300		
32	Nayyitsaya	2	2,750	2,328	443		21	
33	Nyein Chan Thazan	2	2,100	1,646	453	1		
34	Manaw Yama	3	2,950	2,265	385	300		
35	Ywarthit	2	1,450	994	56	400		
36	Pauk Mying	4	5,000	3,546	1,405	49		
37	Donekon	1	300	215	35	50		
38	Arlaung	1	850	590	110	150		
39	Bagantup	1	800	749	83		32	
40	Bohlakon	2	2,250	1,803	397	50		
41	Gyeikgyi	1	750	619	81	50		
42	Thayattapin	4	3,750	3,243	622		115	
43	Hinyatsu	1	1,100	924	26	150		
44	Zee Cho Kon	2	2,500	1,788	578	143		
45	Mae Kin Kon	4	10,350	6,802	3,050	498		
46	NanOoLwin	7	15,950	9,222	5,583	1,145		
Total			180,700	131,505	42,357	8,239	1,401	
Township Advance ballots			639	654			15	
Township remaining ballots			4,299		4,423		124	
Total			185,638	132,159	46,780	8,239	1,540	

Insulting and speaking ill of others to garner support is dishonest politics: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

In a democracy, protests are staged in the international community. If protesters commit violent acts but protests, protesters are shot to be cracked down. The Council softly solves the problem. However, the media do not mention violent acts of riotous protesters and full tackling of security forces in accord with the law. Those media spotlight some necessary plots as they like and broadcast them severally so as to cause misunderstanding to the people and the international community.

An attempt of Sean Tunnell, foreign economic adviser to the previous government, to evade from Myanmar was banned in time, and economic data at the secret level of the country were found from him. With regard to him, the action is taken against Union-level officials in accord with the law. It was found that some Union ministers spent money, not in line with the financial rules and disciplines, so they were summoned to solve these issues. But, they evaded away. It showed their incorrect acts. Likewise, corruption cases were found in investigating region and state chief ministers and those above the

Union level, so preparations are being made to take action against them.

The Union Election Commission announced that according to findings on the voter lists in 18 townships, 350,770 people cast their votes without having citizenship scrutiny cards. The five future programmes of the State Administration Council includes the re-holding of a disciplined, free and fair election. To ensure that every person of voting age votes in accord with the law, CSCs or identity cards must be issued. Under a special project, it is necessary to issue CSCs and identity cards in various regions and states.

As for the peace process, efforts will be made to ensure that all the ethnic armed organizations that have yet to sign the NCA become signatories. Efforts will also be made for achieving eternal peace. Council members need to prioritize this point.

The Tatmadaw has been taking steps to end armed conflicts since 1948. As the country is sandwiched between the countries with far greater populations, there must be strength and readiness for national defence and security. When the country is calm and

stable, the implementation of the people's military service law adopted in 2010 must be considered. So, council members are urged to study the law. As per Section 386 of the Constitution (2008), every eligible citizen has the duty to undergo military training and serve in the military, the Senior General said.

Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win and council members U Thein Nyunt, Mahn Nyein Maung, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Khin Maung Swe and Daw Aye Nu Sein reported on a collection of taxes from social platform pages, exposition of technologically manipulative organizations for taking action, the abolishment of the laws contrary to the Constitution, exposition of and taking of action against those involved in the illegally formed CRPH and other organizations, the launch of political campaigns for those used as a tool in riots and protests, the need to promptly publicize voting fraud and other illegitimately handled issues, taking of action against the printing houses publishing posters and signboards designed to jeopardize State stability, the need for the ministry concerned to

issue household registrations and CSCs in accord with the law, re-opening of monastic education schools, ceasefire and peace efforts, health affairs and progress of mine clearance.

In response to their reports, the Senior General said measures are being taken to abolish the laws contrary to the Constitution. Scrutiny measures are also being taken to take action against those belonging to CRPH. Some persons have made contacts saying they don't belong to it. Likewise, some medical doctors have said they are not participating in the CDM. Plans are being made to arrest those running away after getting involved in issues contrary to the civil service law. Educative measures are also being taken to prevent young people from being abused in politics. Investigations show that some young people involved in protests were on drugs. Rakhine and Shan states have only a few service personnel joining the CDM. Effective action will be taken against those threatening non-CDM participants and humiliating them on social networks. All responsible officials need to ensure the rule of law and security for the public.

Measures must be taken to operate banks regularly as they are a major driving force of the national economy. Foreign investment and technologies must be invited while SMEs need to be encouraged. For boosting domestic production, the manufacturing sector based on agriculture and livestock must be encouraged. Regarding the education of children, plans are underway to open schools simultaneously in accord with the COVID-19 rules and guidelines. The monastic education schools that have proposed to reopen will also be allowed in accord with the COVID-19 rules and disciplines.

When it comes to electoral fraud and embezzlement cases, a press conference on the findings will be held for public knowledge. Doing politics requires sincerity. Insulting and speaking ill of others to garner support is dishonest politics, causing many losses to the State. The present situation has surfaced due to such insincere political activities. In the time of the Council, measures must be taken in an honest manner for the good of the country, the Senior General said.—MNA ■

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture inspects National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw)



Union Minister U Ko Ko is viewing around the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko inspected artifacts displayed at the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday.

Before the inspection, Director-General of the Department of Archaeology and National Museums reported to the Union Minister on the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

Afterwards, the officials of the ministry conducted the Union Minister around the museum which has Primates and Fossils Exhibition Room, Prehistoric Period Exhibition Room, Protohistoric Period Exhibition Room, Historic Period Exhibition Room, Lion Throne Exhibition Room, My-

anmar Art Gallery, Myanmar Performing Arts Exhibition Room, Arts and Crafts Exhibition Room and ASEAN Exhibition Room.

Following his tour of inspection, the Union Minister held a meeting with the staff of the museum and has called on the Department of Archaeology and National Museums to work together with the History, Research and National Library Department in conservation of findings discovered by the archaeologists.

He also called for cooperation with ethnic organizations in doing research and discovering the culture of the ethnic people.—MNA

Myanmar's traditional martial art

THE State Administration Council has adopted five future programmes. Production must be boosted to improve the economic sector. The region, state, district and township councils must encourage regional production. Agriculture can be less affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, and it is a business that earns money easily. So, local farmers need to be encouraged to work hard on agricultural undertakings. Political, social and economic objectives have also been adopted. The social objectives include an objective such as enhancement of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation. To contribute towards public health, nationwide outdoors sports and games must be held again. Myanmar's traditional martial art should be among national sports. It is a kind of self-defence sport without the need for spare part equipment in training. Therefore, traditional sports should also be encouraged.

(Excerpt from the speech to the 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 2 March 2021)

MSWRR celebrates International Women's Day

MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement celebrated International Women's Day for 2021 yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday through an online system.

It was attended by members of the State Administration Council: Daw Aye Nu Sein and U Sai Lone Sai, wives of the members of the SAC U Moung Har and Saw Daniel, Union Minister for SWRR Dr Thet Thet Khine, Union Attorney-General Dr Thidar Oo, Judge of the Union Supreme Court Daw Khin May Yi, Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khaing, member of the Union Civil Service Selection Board Daw Khin Myo Myint, members of the committees on Women's Affairs in Myanmar, governmental officials and diplomats.

First, Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered the video message.

(The message of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is covered separately.)

Next, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine delivered a



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine makes a speech on the occasion of International Women Day yesterday.

speech. In her speech, she said in accordance with the UN conventions on women rights, Beijing declaration, the sustainable development goal-5 and the UN resolution-1325, the country is promoting the rights of women and preventing discrimination against women.

The Union minister said women's affairs committees at the region and state level will be re-formed as part of efforts for speeding up the current efforts

for women affairs under the leadership of the State Administration Council.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement continues to draw the Phase II of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women-NS-PAW, she added.

She continued to say that the ministry continue to implement the national-level project for prevention of sexual exploitation against women in conflicts

as the national-level committee and working committee has been formed to implement the six priorities for women declared in the joint communique on prevention and response to sexual exploitation against women in conflicts signed in 2018.

The ministry has been operating the 24-hour helpline services for women since 2016 and provided cash assistance for the court hearing and livelihood to victims.

The ministry opened five One-Stop Women Support Centre-OSWSCs in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Lashio and Kayah respectively to provide care to the women who faced sexual exploitation, she said.

Myanmar, which is a member of the UNCEDAW, has formed a committee to work on submitting the sixth report on the implementation of tasks for eliminating discrimination against women.

The ministry is participating in reviewing the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women-RPA EVAW while working as a country-level focal point of the ASEAN Committee for Women and ACWC.

In her concluding remark, the Union Minister pledged that no one would be left behind in post-COVID-19 recovery as the ministry is implementing the tasks for the development of the women.

The ceremony came to an end with the message from the UN Secretary-General read by Director-General of the Social Welfare Department Dr San San Aye.—MNA

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

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

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sends message to International Women's Day which falls on 8 March

All the distinguished guests attending International Women's Day 2021 ceremony, I wish you all health and happiness and auspiciousness.

Women, who represent over 50 per cent of the global population, is the main force of the world's countries. In 1975, the United Nations officially recognized 8 March as International Women's Day in honour of the people of feminine gender.

When we look back our history, we will notice many heroines who took part in the independence struggle together with their male counterparts. Moreover, Myanmar women who were brilliant in various fields including political, economic, social, intellectual, academic and cultural fields emerged throughout the successive periods.

Women represent 52 per cent of our country's population of about 54.9 million. The role of women in the multiple fields and sectors is further improving, and they are now serving the national defence and security duties as military personnel and police members, alongside men.

In this regard, global countries celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March every year in honour of the women-kind including those of Myanmar of the world. Likewise, Myanmar celebrates the day on a national scale to reflect the important role of women.

The international community including Myanmar has left no stone unturned in



striving from all angles in collectively solving the problems women are facing and improving their capacities.

Our country has set up the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA) and local committees at different levels in striving to enhance the role of women. The implementation of National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022), drafting the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Bill, and the implementation of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) are providing better foundations for Myanmar women.

The additional programmes for national economic recovery such as the Myanmar Econom-

ic Recovery and Reform Plan (MERRP) for post-Covid-19 period will be implemented from the combined perspective of gender equality and women's capacity building.

The UN adopted the theme "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world" for International Women's Day 2021. It is found that the endeavours of our country are within the scope of the theme.

Moreover, the theme has also spotlighted an important role of women including those of younger age in rehabilitating the multiple sectors that are facing deterioration due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will have to respect and acknowledge the values of families and human communities and societies, aside from recognizing

the individual value of women of all ages to ensure true equality.

It is emphasized in the UN Charter that everyone regardless of gender or country shall enjoy fundamental human rights and equality. The political, economic, social and cultural rights of women are stipulated in the UN Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women approved by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1979.

Moreover, the Fourth World Conference on Women held in 1995 in Beijing, China, approved the Beijing Declaration which covers 12 development sectors for women.

To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls is one of the 17 sustainable development goals and Myanmar

is taking existing measures in combination with the goal.

As all of you know, world countries today are encountering the outbreak of COVID-19. In the face of the pandemic, Myanmar is taking measures to rehabilitate the various sectors affected by the pandemic. I am proud of and glad to see women participating in the revival efforts energetically and earnestly together with men and I would like to appreciate and praise them.

Meanwhile, the State is making efforts to protect and promote the rights of women of Myanmar in the various sectors as much as possible. I would like to request the public and organizations to cooperate in the various sectors.

In doing so, women will be able to play a greater role in building the Union based on genuine and disciplined democracy and federalism being implemented by the Tatmadaw and to contribute greatly to the development of the country.

In conclusion, I wish Myanmar women to be able to enhance their capacity by overcoming challenges and difficulties of today including the COVID-19 pandemic in the same way as they served the interests of the people and the country in successive eras as a major force in Myanmar society.

May all of you be women who achieve success in all sectors.

Thank you.

COVID-19 vaccination works ongoing in Nay Pyi Taw

VACCINATIONS for the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing in Nay Pyi Taw and relevant states and regions according to the officials.

A total of 12,922 people from Kachin State, Kayin State, Mon State, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region and Nay Pyi Taw yesterday were injected the COVID-19 vaccination.

A total of 1.3 million doses of the vaccination out of 3.5 million have already reached in Nay Pyi Taw and different states and regions according to the authorities.

Healthcare workers, staff, religious persons including monks and nuns, and over 65-year-old persons have received the vaccination, said officials.—MNA

Five media banned from publishing: MoI

MINISTRY of Information has banned five media agencies.

With the order No. 1/2021 yesterday, the ministry revoked the licences of the Mizzima, DVB, the Khit Thit Media, the Myanmar Now and the 7 Day starting yesterday.

In the order, the State Administration Council has granted the authority to the Ministry of Information in accordance with Article 419 and 420 of the Constitution.

The announcement of the Ministry of Information stated that the aforementioned media have been banned from publishing or broadcasting with the use of a kind of media or technology.—MNA

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs receives Japanese Ambassador

U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr Maruyama Ichiro, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, at 10:30 am on 8 March 2021 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters related to the maintenance and enhancement of the existing friendly relations between Myanmar and Japan. Moreover, Union Minister

apprised the Japanese Ambassador of the voting irregularities that occurred in the general elections held on 8 November 2020, the newly-formed Union Election Commission's efforts to scrutinize voter lists of the general election of 2020, the five-point prioritized programme to be undertaken by the State Administration Council and the utmost restraint and minimum use of force by law enforcement personnel to ensure the prevalence of law and order for public safety. —MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Maruyama Ichiro yesterday.



Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs holds meeting on implementing ethnic literature and culture

ETHNIC Literature and Culture Department of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs held a meeting to report on tasks of the department in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint stressed the need to continue the department's fundamental works and attended to the needs for current works and future plans.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung said he would give suggestions to trans-



Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint chairs the meeting on ethnic literature and culture yesterday.

lating the COVID-19 awareness and health guidelines into ethnic languages.



the Union Minister called on the department to give priority to

local ethnic people when teaching assistant and language assistant are appointed and to increase their salaries.

He also stressed the need to get national scrutinizing cards with correct ethnic tribe name, to celebrate the significant days of ethnic people, to conduct vocational training institutes for creating jobs, to re-open the Union National Races Village (Yangon) and to establish a research unit at the ministry.—MNA

Actions to be taken when printing and copying services mislead political points of view

ACTIONS will be taken against the printing and photocopy services and shops across Myanmar if they are misleading the political points of view and opposing the government, according to a statement released by the Myanmar Police Force.

Authorities have found people are writing big captions about serious political words on the road, outbreaks of riots, candling and protesting at night, posting photographs of gov-

ernment senior officials on the roads and walls while protesting daytime these days.

For such unlawful wrongdoings of the people, printing services and photocopy shops who are providing services or helping to print out those kinds of illegal documents and vinyl will be taken action under Section (505-ka) which was amended on 14 March 2014.—MNA

Actions to be taken when people attempt to tarnish Sasana

AUTHORITIES will take actions against those who will attempt to tarnish Sasana, according to an announcement released by the police force.

Authorities has found people hanging women's clothes and sanitary products on the road while they

are protesting in Yangon Region especially in Sanchaung Township on 8 March 2021 and such doings are deliberate acts to disrespect monks and tarnish Sasana.

People who are making the same wrongdoings again will be taken actions by the authorities.—MNA

Fake explosive devices found in Pyinmana

POLICE found fake explosive devices near Nyaung Pin Thar Village of Pyinmana Township on 8 March, according to the township police force.

During the interrogation, the security forces stopped and searched motorcycles driven by Myat Thu Min, Khant Min Ko and Thwin Ko Ko Zaw (alias) Phoe Thar and found fake explosive devices including unknown powders which were put into nine be-

tel cases and short sticks attached to the cases.

The police are taking action against the three men named Thwin Ko Ko Zaw (alias) Phoe Thar 29-year-old from Shwe Kout Ward, Pyinmana, Myat Thu Min, 25 year-old from Yan Aung Ward and Khant Min Ko, 27-year-old from Shwe Kyi Ward, Pyinmana under the law, according to the police force.—MNA



Decorated bullock-cart operators face financial hardship in Kyaukse

THE operators of the traditionally-decorated bullock-carts in Zayet Phyu village, Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region are struggling financially as the festivals and events are shut down, a cart operator U Kyaw Myint stressed.

“I make, repair and rent the decorated bullock-carts. Nowadays, this traditional business is not popular and the rent is rarely seen. We are experiencing financial hardships,” he added.

We used to rent a large

number of the decorated bullock-carts this time of the previous years. at present, the donation ceremony, ordination ceremony and other festivals are closed down. Therefore, we turn to the bullock-carts for farmers to earn the livings, U



For bullock-cart races, a cart is worth K500,000, while a decorated cart costs K570,000 and the bullock-carts used in agriculture is estimated at K680,000.



The carts are made with teak, Padauk and other woods.

Kyaw Myint explained.

The carts are made with teak, Padauk and other woods. The price varies on the customer edition and order. For bullock-cart races, a cart is worth K500,000, while a decorated cart costs K570,000 and the bullock-carts used

in agriculture is estimated at K680,000. The decorated cart for the ordination ceremony is priced at K1.8 million for golden accessories and K1.6 million for silver. The decorated cart displayed in front of hotels and motels stands at around K2 million.—Thet Maung/GNLM

Myanmar to export 1 mln tonnes of corn to Thailand under zero-tariff

MYANMAR intends to reach an export target of one million tonnes of corns to Thailand this year, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association (MCIA).

At present, Myanmar exports the corn to Thailand through Myawady and Tachilek land border. About 5,000-6,000 tonnes of corns are daily sent to Thailand through Myawady, while the Tachilek border does not see a regular export.

Myanmar is allowed for corn export between 1 February and 31 August with Form-D, under zero tariff.

Myanmar corn exports were exempted from tax between February and August. Thailand imposed a 73 per cent of tax on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corns are imported during the corn season of Thailand. The maximum tax rate of 73 per cent is put under the notification of the World Trade Organization regarding corn import of Thailand, said a corn exporter.

With the local corn consumption growing, Myanmar's corn export to foreign markets is expected to reach 1.6 million tonnes in the current FY2020-

2021 (Oct-Sep), the association stated.

“Thailand needs 2 million tonnes of corn as per its market data. We, however, do not know their purchase volume. Last year, Thailand partners asked if Myanmar corn suppliers can provide 3 million tonnes during negotiation with the association. We cannot tell the exact volume. Nevertheless, about 1 million tonnes of corns are possibly to flow into Thailand,” the MCIA chair elaborated.

Myanmar's corn exports are solely relying on the Thailand market as the exports to Singapore, Malaysia and Viet Nam are halted. A tonne of corn fetches US\$250.

Myanmar exported 2.2 million tonnes of corns to the foreign market in the past Financial Year 2019-2020 ended 30 September, with an estimated value of \$360 million, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayah states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corns.—NN/GNLM

Elephant foot yam factory in Mon State suspended due to lack of raw material

THE lack of fresh elephant foot yam in Mon State led to the closure of the elephant foot yam processing factories, a factory stated.

All the yams are out of stock in Mon State. The yams are harvested between August and mid-December. Moreover, the processors cannot purchase the raw materials from other areas owing to the transaction problem amid the closure of private banks.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, the price of fresh yams reached the maximum of K2,300 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg). This year, it fell to K1,700 per viss in early January.

There are currently about ten factories for drying elephant foot yams in Myanmar. Myanmar's elephant foot yams are primarily purchased by China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Japan offers higher prices than China for the yams.

“Japan and China produce them by adding value to snacks, noodles and medicines, etc. It is low-fat food and has many health benefits. There is valued-added production of elephant foot yam in Myanmar as well. However, the yams are not that popular in the country as local people do not know the health benefits of elephant foot yams,” U Nyi Nyo Lwin, a factory owner elaborated.

Elephant foot yam production has become a lucrative business. Therefore, value-adding technology is crucial for boosting elephant foot yam production and expanding its market, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

According to the association, Myanmar is mostly exporting only raw yam, and value-added products made from yam will help the market grow in the long term. Myanmar is

only producing semi-processed yam at present.

Elephant foot yams are the main product of Chin State, where they are cultivated on over 8,800 acres of land. The Kanpetlet, Mindat, and Matupi townships produce about 1 million visses (a viss is equal to 1.6 kg) of elephant foot yams. Elephant foot yams can be planted across the country. In addition to Chin State, yams are being grown in Kayah, Mon, and Shan states, and Taninthayi and Bago regions.

Yams produced in Chin State are getting a higher price than those from other regions as they have better quality and taste, said the traders.

Myanmar exported 4,200 tonnes of elephant foot yams in the 2014-2015 financial year, 1,300 tonnes in the 2015-2016FY, and 20,000 tonnes in the 2016-2017FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.—KK/GNLM

Women, girls deserve more equal future, recovery from COVID-19 pandemic

Women from across the South-East Asia Region have played a vital role in the COVID-19 response and must continue to be empowered to help shape a more equal future and recovery from the pandemic.

Regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in our country, no one would be left behind. This means that women, children and vulnerable communities would also receive vaccines and assistance.

To be able to continue current efforts for development of women, women committees at region and state level would be reformed and this step would ensure that no one would be left not only in responding the COVID-19 pandemic but also in their livelihood and living standard.

Regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in our country, no one would be left behind. This means that women, children and vulnerable communities would also receive vaccines and assistance.

They are central to the Region's efforts to eliminate measles and rubella by 2023 and to end cervical cancer.

The World Health Organization has stressed the need to empower women-led organizations in the coming weeks and months to promote community buy-in and overcome gender-related barriers to vaccine access. Women's leadership will help bring this pandemic to an end.

On International Women's Day, we pledge to take action to elevate women's leadership and voices in the health sector and beyond, and at all stages of the pandemic response and recovery.

We must grasp the opportunity to drive real change and build a fairer, healthier "new normal" that outlives the current crisis. A gender-equal Region and world is possible. Together we must act.



Coronavirus: Latest global developments

These are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

Worst tourist year ever
Last year was "the worst year in tourism history" and nearly a third of the world's tourist destinations are still completely closed to international travellers, the United Nations tourism body says.

International tourist arrivals fell by one billion, or 74 percent, the UNWTO adds.

Russian roulette' with jobs
A top EU medicines regulator warns countries not to give emergency authorization to Russia's Sputnik V vaccine without more data, saying they would be playing "Russian roulette".

"We could have Sputnik V on the market in future when we've examined the necessary

data," says Christa Wirthum-er-Hoche.

However, Hungary has already started using it while the Czech Republic and Slovakia have also ordered doses and Austria may follow suit.

England back to school
English children go back to school for the first time since January.

Restrictions are easing as 23 million people in Britain have received at least a first jab, bringing down case numbers and easing pressure on hospitals.

Israel jabs Palestinians
Israel launches a campaign to vaccinate some 100,000 Palestinians in the West Bank who hold permits to work in Jewish settlements and inside the Jewish state.

Home isn't what it was

Home sides are winning less in South America since football matches have been played inside empty stadiums, according to AFP analysis.

In Brazil, a country that lives and breathes football, clubs won 202 times at home in 2018 but only 171 times this season without their fans.

Close to 2.6 million dead
At least 2,593,872 people have died of coronavirus since the outbreak began in December 2019, an AFP tally from official sources at 1100 GMT showed.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 525,035 deaths followed by Brazil (265,411), Mexico (190,604), India (157,853) and Britain (124,419).

SOURCE: AFP



(FILES) In this file photo taken on February 12, 2021, vials with Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against the coronavirus (Covid-19) are pictured at the South Pest Central Hospital of Budapest. PHOTO: AFP

Global players brainstorm to boost Covid vaccine output

Global players are gathering online from Monday to brainstorm ways to rapidly boost vaccine production and fight a still-virulent coronavirus that has hobbled the world for 14 months.

Meeting impetus to the meeting is a warning from the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO) that the pandemic will not end unless poor countries can keep up with accelerating mass vaccination campaigns in rich nations.

Meeting online Monday and Tuesday will be partners of the Covax vaccine distribution initiative, led by the Gavi vaccine alliance and backed by research arm the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations as well as the WHO.

Government delegates, scientists and representatives of the pharmaceutical giants as well as smaller drug makers from developing countries will also participate.

The aim is "to shine the light on the gaps that we have currently in the supply chain, of reagents, of raw material, of products that you need to make vaccines", WHO's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan told a news conference on Friday.

The pharmaceutical industry aims to produce 10 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses this year, which is double the 2019 manufacturing capacity for all kinds of vaccines.

Manufacturing these jabs requires not just an unprecedented quantity of ingredients, but also items such as glass for the vials

and plastic for their caps -- at a time when global supply chains have been disrupted by the pandemic, Swaminathan said.

"So the summit is really focusing on that upstream area, the gaps, how they can be filled and for solutions to be found."

Such interventions "can make a difference in the short term" even as WHO and others are already eyeing the longer-term course of the pandemic, she added.

Setting rivalries aside
Pressure from governments and public opinion has helped push the pharma groups, who usually jockey for a competitive advantage, into deals to produce more vaccine doses.

With its own vaccine development lagging, France's Sanofi

will produce both the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Johnson & Johnson versions.

Merck will also turn out the J&J shots, Switzerland's Novartis will make doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Curevac vaccine, while Germany's Bayer is also set to help Curevac.

Such deals are "very welcome", Swaminathan said.

"We would like to see more of this happening and in more parts of the world."

"We need to explore the fill-and-finish capacity in Asia, in Africa and Latin America and use those facilities to increase supply," Marie-Paule Kieny, research director at France's National Institute of Health and Medical Research, noted that "there are many generic drug manufactur-

ers who have a high record... and good manufacturing practices, which could also help in this process".

But cooperation poses challenges over how to share or license the precious intellectual property pharmaceutical firms have invested heavily to create -- albeit often with significant state aid -- so they can at least recoup their costs.

Despite pressure from aid groups and the WHO, a proposal from India and South Africa at the World Trade Organization to temporarily suspend vaccine patents appears stalled.

Unequal race
Efforts at boosting vaccine production should help the worst-off nations -- who lack the cash to buy direct from pharma com-

panies -- get their people immunized. The ambitious Covax initiative is aiming to supply vaccines to dozens of countries in the first 100 days of 2021.

It hopes to distribute enough doses -- around 1.3 billion -- to vaccinate up to 27 per cent of the population in the 92 poorest participating economies by the end of the year.

But the first Covax shots have only been distributed in recent days, with around 20 million reaching 20 different countries. Wealthy nations meanwhile, have been vaccinating since December.

With more than 14 million more doses to be delivered next week, "this is encouraging progress", said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

SOURCE: AFP



A Red Cross volunteer stands on March 8, 2021 at a Covid-19 vaccination centre located in Termini station in Rome, on the its official presentation day. PHOTO: AFP

Italy to run "Covid-free" trains on Rome-Milan route

Italy's state-run railways will operate "Covid-free" high-speed trains on the Rome-Milan route starting next month, its chief executive said Monday.

Gianfranco Battisti hailed the initiative -- a European first, according to his company -- as a way of reviving travel after more than a year of coronavirus curbs.

"We will introduce a Covid-free train in early April ... initially between Rome and Milan," Battisti said during an event at Rome's main train station.

All staff and passengers will be tested for coronavirus before boarding "with the help of the Red Cross", he said. After the Rome-Milan route, "we will adopt this solution especially for

tourist destinations" like Venice, Florence and Naples, he added.

Italian airline Alitalia had a similar idea last year, launching Covid-tested flights on selected domestic and international flights. Before the pandemic struck, tourism accounted for 14 per cent of Italy's economy, Prime Minister Mario Draghi told parliament last month.

Lockdowns and other coronavirus restrictions have had a devastating impact on the industry, with hotels and restaurants forced to shut for months. Overnight stays by foreign tourists were down by almost 70 per cent, year-on-year, in January-September 2020, according to official data released in December.

SOURCE: AFP

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 Monday 8 March 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MOON OF THE 9 March 2021: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Northern Shan, Chin, Kayah, 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, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 March 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 March 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 March 2021: Generally fair weather.

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Despite the threatening, we serve the country with loyalty

By Maung Moe Nyo

CIVIL service personnel are the employees who are appointed to a position in the constitution of an organization approved by the Union Government and provided salary as well as fringe benefits from the State Budget Account. Civil Service Personnel include all employees from the workers on daily wages to the Director-General position.

Recruiting employees

In recruiting employees, workers on daily wages and non-gazette officers are appointed with the approval of the head of the relevant department and the mid-level senior officers are selected by the approval of the Civil Service Board. Department officials who have higher ranks are directly appointed by the President.

The approved subordinate staff are selected following the relevant laws and regulations of the State civil service personnel as well as with the required staff qualifications and ethics. Higher-level employees are even more selective. In the past, a background check was conducted to confirm his appointment as a civil servant.

In addition to striving to meet the required qualification, a civil servant must respect and obey the prescribed civil service law and code of conduct.

“We will keep royalty and respect to the State. We will work to prevent the disintegration of the Union and the unity of the ethnic nationalities. We will uphold sovereignty. We will serve the country as civil service personnel and be free from

party politics. We will perform the duties and orders given by the State.” These are the six commitments of civil servants.

Since civil servants have to obey and practise the facts mentioned above, it can be seen that it is not easy to become a good civil servant. Nevertheless, they perform the duties of civil servants to serve the country with their knowledge and skill and for the benefits of the people as well as to be able to live with dignity.

Good civil servants

Successive governments have selected and appointed good civil servants when we look at the history of civil service personnel of Myanmar. There were also civil servants who were taken legal actions when they broke the laws and regulations and ethics of civil service personnel or when they committed a crime. It can be found that heads of the relevant departments who can administer their employees in accordance with elders' ethics are committed to their duties for the benefits of the State, people and the departments.

In doing so, there were some department heads who were taken legal action for their breach of departmental disciplines, ethics and they were dismissed from their duties and appointments. The head of the department is the person who has to give special loyalty and respect to the country, unlike the other employees.

In the history of civil service personnel, there were senior officials with strong emo-



Besides, they betrayed the country and rebelled. Civil servants perform their duties to serve the country and people. They are not working for the stability of the government. They have to complete their duty to serve the country no matter what the government changes but they can resign from their work if they do not like a government.

tions who bravely resigned from their work according to the civil service regulations and law if they did not like it professionally or personally. It is obvious there is no betrayal of the country although they resigned from their work to express their dissatisfaction.

At present, a stigma has emerged in the history of civil service caused by the previous government. It started from the previous government's ignorance of the fact “civil servants must be free from party politics”. During the previous regime, the employees were influenced by party politics. Civil servants must be free from party politics although they have the freedom to vote. The government splits in the history of Myanmar has proved the unstable government system when the public servants are associated with party politics as

an instance of past experiences in the parliamentary era in Myanmar.

Performing the State's duties diligently

Some senior officials appointed by the previous NLD government broke the Civil Service Code of Conduct with a strong obsession with party politics. Besides, they betrayed the country and rebelled. Civil servants perform their duties to serve the country and people. They are not working for the stability of the government. They have to complete their duty to serve the country no matter what the government changes but they can resign from their work if they do not like a government.

A medical expert, who was an official, and an ambassador betrayed the country, against the existing government. It was suspected while this medical expert was conducting a public awareness campaign on COVID-19 prevention, as a politician. He acted as the community leader while he was the deputy chief of the medical department and when the government changes, he has become the illegitimate union minister for three ministers, working together with the illegal CPRH for the 2021 spring revolution.

He has led to escalate the protest into the uprising in the country and foreign dependen-

cy by consistent incitements on social media with fake news and illegal statements.

He has been inciting the public that the CDM has fully succeeded and giving various ways to succeed CDM and to speed up the riots. Finally, he has made the right thing into wrong one, true into false and justice into injustice. Civil servants currently working were threatened with the statement saying that if they did not involve in the CDM, they don't need to work starting from 8 March. He also said that 10 days of public holidays will be announced to commemorate the fallen employees and people. Besides, he threatened those who did not participate in the CDM would be announced as those who were detrimental to the benefits of the people on social media. Offices, schools and hospitals have been informed to contact them and there were also instigations to stockpile the food supplies for at least 10 or 15 days.

Despite the intimidations and pressures, civil service personnel are still working with a smile for the people who live under the military regime and they are the good civil service personnel who serve the country and people with loyalty no matter which the government is.

In doing so, there were some department heads who were taken legal action for their breach of departmental disciplines, ethics and they were dismissed from their duties and appointments.

Translated.

Participation in public duties with goodwill

By Ko Tun Khin

“WE can do no great things; only small things with great love,” said a Roman Catholic nun Mother Teresa. It means we should not do everything finding great things but should do small things with great love and a pure mind. Only then, can they be great things.

She dedicated her life to serving the poor

The winner of the Nobel Peace prize and other awards was born in the city of Macedonia in 1910. When she turned 18, she left her parental home, and cared for the war refugees, patients with leprosy and tuberculosis and abandoned children all around the world. Her heart is full of pure and peaceful love and she also dedicated her life to serving in altruism.

your life. If you do not have goodwill, your good fortune will not come to you. If you have a bad will, there might be bad luck. If your goodwill is noble, your fortune will be also noble as well as your life,” according to the Mountain Ranges Buddha Missionary Sayadaw.

Therefore, you should do everything with goodwill and so you will achieve the benefits of good karma. Although everybody needs to work for a living, they should do with goodwill in careers like teaching, medical services, cleaning, riding trishaw or cooking.

Work with goodwill

If you are a private company staff or government employee, you will get a proper salary and so you should do with goodwill. If you serve the duties without thinking of the

Being a government employee, he must be responsible for the ethics like allegiance to the State, the Constitution and existing laws and rules, interests of the State and people, free of party politics and respect to the people, and he must dutifully serve the duties without fail at any time and any circumstance.

must dutifully serve the duties without fail at any time and any circumstance.

All the medical experts

duty. Therefore, medical professionals must provide medical services to the people as per their ethics regardless of any circumstance.

According to a teacher's duties, “They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline, they see that they grasp their lessons well, they instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter and they introduce them to their friends and associates,” preached by Thingazar Sayadaw, the teachers must do these ethnics for their pupils and students. The teachers do not change their mind depending on a certain situation nor time. They train their pupils and students to be educated persons.

Target the government staff

Some of the people intentionally commit incitements

and threats to stop the government mechanism targeting the government workers to fail in their duties.

The government employees fail to do their duties due to the moves that affect the individuals' rights, freedom and integrity. Some have to join in such movements as they could not afford to deny the threats.

Therefore, the State Administration Council released a statement to take action against those who commit coercion and intimidation to join the CDM under the law. So, there is a chance to do the right things even if they do something wrong.

As the civil service personnel are educated and far-sighted persons, they should keep doing public services with full of responsibilities in accord with the current trend and circumstance.

Translated

When she turned 18, she left her parental home, and cared for the war refugees, patients with leprosy and tuberculosis and abandoned children all around the world.

She is the embodiment of kindness and altruism in the world. Altruism means the willingness to do things that brings advantages to others. The “parahita” is just a willingness to do something for others regardless of living standards or social status without thinking of any distinction among others.

It was noted that there are two kinds – “attahita” and “parahita”. The self-development for the welfare of oneself (attahita) and the welfare of others (parahita).

Benefits of good karma

“Whatever you do with goodwill, you will have good fortune. If you have good fortune, you will have good benefits in

upper hand between the employers and employees, there would be signs of progress in every operation.

The number of government staff is 1.4 per cent of the country's population. The civil service personnel and public officials are the ones who get the salaries provided by the people and so they must have loyalty to the people. Full of goodwill, they should perform their duties in the public services sectors.

Being a government employee, he must be responsible for the ethics like allegiance to the State, the Constitution and existing laws and rules, interests of the State and people, free of party politics and respect to the people, and he

also must take the Hippocratic Oath in their convocation ceremony. They pledged like “We shall while caring for a patient, regard responsibility to the patient as a paramount

The government employees fail to do their duties due to the moves that affect the individuals' rights, freedom and integrity. Some have to join in such movements as they could not afford to deny the threats.

Ex-member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee charged for manipulating CDM

U MIN THU, an ex-member of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee, has been charged under Section 505-a of the Penal Code at the Pattar Area Police Station in Pobbathiri Township for manipulating the Civil Disobedience Movement-CDM.

He was arrested at the Shwegondine Hotel in the Hotel Zone-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 February.

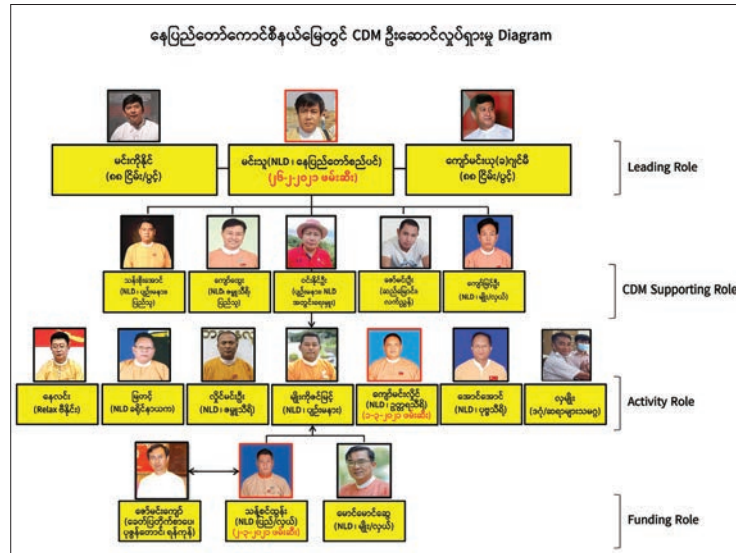
During interrogation, he confessed that he worked together with Min Ko Naing, Kyaw Min Yu (a) Jimmy to instigate the civil service persons in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to join CDM.

He said he held a meeting with 10 members of district-level NLD offices on 15 February and formed a CDM supporting team following an instruction letter from U Aung Kyi Nyunt, NLD Central Executive Committee Member, on 14 February. In the letter, U Aung Kyi Nyunt

instructed the NLD members in townships to assist in the formation of CDM Supporting Teams which will organize the civil service personnel joining the CDM movement.

He confessed that the CDM Supporting Team was comprised of U Maung Maung Swe (Amyotha Hluttaw Representative of Constituency-9, Mandalay Region), U Kyaw Htwe (Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Zabuthiri Township), U Win Naing Oo (Secretary of Pynmana Township NLD), U Kyaw Myint Oo (Amyotha Hluttaw Representative of Constituency-10, Mandalay Region), U Than Soe Aung (Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Pynmana Township) and U Zaw Min Oo (Junior Engineer, Department of Agriculture).

To carry out the CDM activities linking with the aforementioned team, U Nay Lin (Relax Vinyl), U Mya Tint (Patron of the



district committee of NLD), U Zaw Min Kyaw (Owner of Khit Pya Taik Publishing House in Yangon), U Hla Myo (Myanmar Teachers Union) and U Thant Zin Tun (Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, Dekkhinathiri Township) also joined with the team, he said. The team also received cash assistance from local and

foreign donors. Besides, U Min Thu linked with leaders of protests in Nay Pyi Taw namely U Win Naing Oo (Pynmana Township NLM Secretary), U Myo Ko Zin Myint (Member of Nay Pyi Taw Youth Working Committee, NLD,) U Kyaw Min Hlaing (Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Ottara-

thiri Township), U Hlaing Min Oo (Joint Secretary of Zabuthiri Township NLD) and Aung Aung (Chairman of Pobbathiri Township NLD) and manipulated the protests in Nay Pyi Taw. He also joined with the protestors and instigated the protestors to turn to riots.

Measures were taken to arrest the men in connection with the case and U Kyaw Min Hlaing was arrested on 1 March and U Thant Zin Tun on 2 March respectively. Measures are being taken to arrest the remaining persons.

U Min Thu was charged under Section 505-a of the Penal Code on 7 March. U Kyaw Min Hlaing and U Thant Zin Tun were also charged under the same section at Phayagone Police Station in Ottarathiri Township and at Tharwutti Police Station in Lewe Township respectively on the same day. —MNA

Notice to workers and farmers

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has been consulting with the employees' organizations and employers' organizations formed in conformity with the Labour Organization Law, and settling the difficulties and hardships daily facing the workers and farmers that the State relies while the five roadmaps being implemented by the State Administration Council during the state of emergency.

Thirty-four labour disputes at the Workers Consultation Committee-level, 99 at the Township Counciliation Body-level, 38 at the Labour Tribunal-level, and 24 at the Arbitration Council-level have been settled from January to February 2021.

It is here announced that the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population will continue to consult with the employees' organizations and the employers' organizations formed in conformity with the Labour Organization Law and settle the labour disputes the latter are encountering.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Employees' Organizations and Employers' Organizations founded according to the Labour Organization Law (2011) and labour-related council and committees

Sr	Organization	Number
1	Basic employees' organizations	2,878
2	Basic employers' organizations	27
3	Township employees' organizations	161
4	Township employers' organizations	1
5	Region/state employees' organizations	24
6	Employees' Federations	9
7	Employers' Federations	1
8	Confederation	1
9	Workers Consultation Committee	3,587
10	Township Counciliation Bodies	325
11	Labour tribunals	15
12	Arbitration Council	1

Request to Public

1. Democracy practices have granted the public freedom of speech, practices and living. Such freedoms should not harm others. Diverse views of others should be understood, but should not be disturbed or harassed. However, with the reason for human rights, some persons are now under pressure, harassed and threatened in breaching the laws. Undisciplined acts could lead to tarnishing the image of democracy.
2. For preventing destructive actions against the stability of the State, the safety of the public and the rule of law, it is also required to take proper actions in line with the law.
3. All the people who favour justice, freedom, equality and safety are requested to oppose breaching the laws and prevent such actions for the benefit of country and people.

Public information

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

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council



Cyprus, Israel, Greece to link electricity grids

CYPRUS, Israel and Greece on Monday signed an initial agreement on laying the world's longest undersea power cable linking their electricity grids.

The memorandum of understanding on the 1,200-kilometre (745-mile) EuroAsia Interconnector was signed in Nicosia by Cyprus Energy Minister Natasa Pilides and her Israeli counterpart Yuval Steinitz, while Greece's Kostas Skrekas joined them by videoconference.

The three ministers, in a joint statement, said they agreed "to promote cooperation to examine

the possibility of planning, as well as the potential development and implementation of the project".

It was a "major step forward" in integrating renewable energy sources, they said, without giving cost estimates.

Steinitz said it would allow Israel "to receive electricity backing from the power grids of the European continent in times of emergency and... significantly increase reliance on solar power generation".

The project aims to connect the electricity grids of Israel, Cyprus,



A handout picture provided by the Cypriot government's Press and Information Office (PIO) on March 8, 2021 shows (L to R) Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz, Cyprus' Minister of Energy, Commerce, and Industry, Natasa Pilides, and Greece's Minister of Environment and Energy Kostas Skrekas giving a joint press conference after signing a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in relation to the "EuroAsia Interconnector" Project. **PHOTO: AFP**

and Crete in Greece undersea cable. The first phase is expected to be operational by 2025, linking the three countries to

energy grids in Asia and Europe, said Pilides.

The European Commission had acknowledged it as a key "Project of Common Interest", making it eligible for EU financing.

The power cable would boost "energy security" for Europe and end the isolation of Cyprus as the only non-interconnected EU member state.

Israel, Greece and Cyprus have forged a regional alliance based on energy as the three countries also aim to explore and exploit natural gas resources. —AFP ■

Japan's Feb. economy watcher sentiment posts biggest rise in 8 months

BUSINESS sentiment among workers with jobs sensitive to economic trends in Japan posted the largest rise in eight months in February, as the government began lifting its latest coronavirus state of emergency in stages amid a decline in infections, government data showed Monday.

The diffusion index of confidence in current conditions compared with three months earlier among "economy watchers" such as taxi drivers and restaurant staff rose 10.1 points from January to 41.3, according to a survey by the Cabinet Office.

The February index logged its first rise in four months, following a de-

crease of 3.1 the previous month, and its sharpest gain since June when the index gained a record 23.3 points.

The office upgraded its assessment of the economy for the first time in four months, saying that "although the coronavirus pandemic still has a severe impact, there are signs of picking up". But the index remained below the boom-or-bust line of 50 for the fourth consecutive month. A reading below 50 indicates that more respondents reported worsening conditions than improving.

Restaurants operators and some other businesses were asked to shorten their operating hours when

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared a second state of emergency for one month on Jan. 7 for the Tokyo metropolitan area. The premier expanded it later to a total of 11 prefectures.

The emergency declaration was lifted for Tochigi a month later and then for Aichi, Gifu, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo and Fukuoka at the end of February. With the Tokyo metropolitan area remaining under a recently re-extended state of emergency through March 21, concerns have grown over another resurgence of infections as the pace of decline has slowed recently.

There was a slight uptick in confidence across a myriad of sectors, with

a convenience store employee saying in the survey that sales were recovering from January. However, the pandemic continued to negatively affect some others despite a decrease in infections, with the second state of emergency "leading to an increase in closed shops," according to a real estate agent. A restaurant worker said that customers had steadily returned after the request for shorter business hours was removed but people continued to "be inclined to refrain from going out".

The office polled 2,050 workers from Feb. 25 to 28, of whom 1,812, or 88.4 percent, responded. —Kyodo News ■

EU banking regulator hit by Microsoft email hack

THE European Banking Authority, a key EU financial regulator, says it was among the victims of a hack of Microsoft's email system which the US company blames on a Chinese group.

Microsoft said last week that a state-sponsored group operating out of China was exploiting previously unknown security flaws in its Exchange email services to steal data from business and government users, believed to number in the tens of thousands so far.

The "Hafnium" group was a "highly skilled and sophisticated actor", it said.

Hafnium has previously targeted US-based companies including infectious disease researchers, law firms, universities, defence contractors, think tanks and NGOs, it added.

In a statement on Monday, the EBA said its investigation had found no data theft so far.

"At this stage, the EBA email infrastructure has been secured and our analyses suggest that no data extraction has been performed," the statement said.

"We have no indication to think that the breach has gone beyond our email servers." —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (110W/111E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (110W/111E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (117N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (117N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2021** 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
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (053W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (053W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE., LTD.

Trio of Thai pro-democracy leaders denied bail

THREE prominent Thai pro-democracy figures were denied bail in a Bangkok court Monday after being charged with insulting the monarchy, as the government escalates a legal row with a youth-led movement that emerged last year.

The three activists -- Panusaya "Rung" Sithijirawattanakul, Panupong "Mike" Jadnok and Jatupat "Pai" Boonpattaraksa -- were charged with violating royal defamation laws over a rally in central Bangkok in September, Prayut Pecharakun, a spokesman for the attorney-general, said. They were also charged with sedition alongside 15 other pro-democracy protesters, the spokesperson added.

All three face other royal defamation charges.

At the peak of the protests, tens of thousands massed in the streets of Bangkok demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha's government and a new constitution.

The movement also broke long-held taboos by calling for reforms to the monarchy, in a



Pro-democracy activists Panupong "Mike" Jadnok (L), Panusaya "Rung" Sithijirawattanakul (C) and Jatupat "Pai Dao Din" Boonpattaraksa (R) hold flowers given by supporters outside the Office of the Attorney-General, as they arrive to be indicted on charges of violating Thailand's royal defamation law, in Bangkok on March 8, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

country where the royal family is considered untouchable and has been treated with reverence for decades.

The monarchy is protected by the kingdom's harsh lese majeste laws -- referred to as "112" by its penal code section -- which carry penalties of up to 15 years per charge.

The activists marched to a

Bangkok criminal court Monday morning flanked by scores of supporters carrying flags and posters of other detained protest leaders. Jatupat posted on Facebook on Monday afternoon that he, Panusaya and Panupong had been remanded in custody.

"Fight on everyone," he wrote.

Fourteen activists on sedi-

tion charges were granted bail, but another one faced legal action over a separate incident and remained in custody.

Riot police were deployed to the court compound, as dozens of protesters chanted for the release of the trio, but later dispersed.

Earlier Panusaya, who is facing eight other royal defamation charges, said the pro-democracy

movement would continue to exist although most of the leaders could end up behind bars.

"No matter how many people are locked up, people outside will continue fighting, they do not need us," she told reporters.

"I am not concerned at all that the movement will stop."

In February, four other protest leaders were also indicted on lese majeste charges. They have been repeatedly denied bail.

They included Parit Chiwarak, also known as Penguin, and human rights lawyer Anon Numpa -- arguably the two most well-known faces of the movement. Penguin is facing 17 charges of lese majeste for his role in the protests, while Anon has been charged 11 times so far.

The continued detention of the four sparked rallies in Bangkok last month including one where police used rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannon on protesters.

At least 57 other protesters face royal defamation charges in Thailand, including three minors.—AFP ■

Lebanese block roads to protest currency crisis



Anti-government demonstrators block a highway in the town of Jiyeh, south of the Lebanese capital on March 8, 2021, during a protest against the deteriorating value of the local currency and dire economic and social conditions. PHOTO: AFP

DEMONSTRATORS blocked key roads across Lebanon on Monday in protest at the country's political paralysis after the Lebanese pound hit record lows on the black market.

Black smoke billowed up from overturned rubbish dumpsters and tyres set ablaze by protesters at various entrances to Beirut from the early morning.

Lebanon is in the grips of its worst economic crisis in decades, compounded by the coronavirus pandemic. The value of the Lebanese pound has plunged by more than 80 per cent, sending pricing

soaring, and more than half the population are living below the poverty line. "We've closed off all the roads today to tell everyone: It's over, we have nothing left to lose. We've even lost our dignity," said Pascale Nohra, a protester blocking the northern road into Beirut. She said it was time to revive the mass cross-sectarian protests of late 2019 against the political class. "We want everybody to show solidarity and come out on the street to demand their rights. The economic crisis touches all Lebanese and religious sects," said the former worker

in real estate. "We need to return to the streets and revive our revolution," she said.

The value of the local currency has hovered at an all-time high of nearly 11,000 pounds to the greenback on the black market in recent days, even though the official exchange rate remains 1,507. Lebanese fear the government will soon lift food subsidies, and footage has circulated of fighting over cheaper, subsidised baby milk in a supermarket. Mohammad Faour, a research fellow in banking and finance at University College Dublin, said the pound's ongoing free fall was "a mere continuation of a clear downward trend in the exchange rate since the very beginning of the crisis, and the concurrent policy inaction". The protests came on the same day as Lebanon entered a new phase in easing up a lockdown to keep Covid-19 infection rates in check. Lebanon has been without a fully functioning government since a massive blast in Beirut last summer that killed more than 200 people and ravaged swathes of the capital.

The government stepped down after the disaster, but a deeply divided political class has since failed to agree on a new cabinet to replace it.—AFP ■

Instagram-ready: Vietnamese influencer teaches art of posing

HOW to smile, where to place a hand, which direction to face: young Vietnamese social media users are snapping up a popular influencer's course on posing for the perfect photo.

In communist Vietnam, where 70 per cent of the population is under 35, the classes are particularly popular with young women.

Instructor Pham Kieu Ly -- who has hundreds of thousands of followers on Instagram and TikTok -- set up the \$130 course in Hanoi after women began asking her how to look their best in photos, largely for social media.

The lessons also teach aspiring amateur photographers how to take snaps themselves.

Ly told AFP she saw women in the class who wanted "to learn how to pose and take photos to help their work, while others wanted to build confidence".

Since the first class in September 2020, Ly's day-and-a-half-long tutorial has

amassed a substantial following, attracting around 500 people from a range of professions, including online merchants and estate agents.

"The image I am aiming to create is one of a successful businesswoman," said 29-year-old Nguyen Thi Thanh Loan, who works at an insurance company, and also wants to boost her photography skills during the course.

Other participants said they were convinced beautiful photos would help them sell products on Facebook, which has more than 53 million users in Vietnam -- over half the population. The platform has become a crucial marketing tool for local business.

Nguyen Huong Tra, 29, who runs a homewear shop and sells candles and scented oils online, said: "In the past I didn't pay much attention to my images or number of followers on social media, but then I realised they are important to my business." —AFP ■

Indonesia receives 2nd coronavirus vaccine from Britain, after China

INDONESIA on Monday received its second coronavirus vaccine, one made by a British biopharmaceutical company under the scheme of the World Health Organization-led global vaccine distribution platform COVAX.

The 1.11 million doses of vaccine developed by AstraZeneca Plc and the University of Oxford are part of the first batch of 11.7 million doses that Indonesia has secured from the British drug-maker.

The vaccine is the second one Indonesia has received, after one made by China's Sinovac Biotech Ltd.

Since January, the country has received five batches of 38 million doses of the Sinovac vaccine in various forms, including ready-to-administer ones and vaccine bulk. They are part of



A photojournalist receives a dose of a COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine in Depok, West Java on March 4, 2021. PHOTO:AFP

around 143 million doses ordered from the company.

"The arrival of these vaccine doses from the multilateral channel is a part of cooperation...with

various international parties," Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi told a virtual press conference.

She said that Indonesia will continue its "vaccine diploma-

cy" in order to "help the government's efforts to build health resilience and economic recovery."

During the same occasion, WHO Country Representative

Navaratnasamy Paranietharan hailed Indonesia's "decisive action to initiate a COVID-19 vaccination program." Noting it is one of few developing countries to do so, he said, "That shows the exemplary leadership at the national level to make such a bold decision and move forward with that."

Indonesia began its vaccination drive in January, with medical workers and elderly citizens being prioritized. It aims to vaccinate about 182 million of its 270 million people. Besides Sinovac, the government has been in talks with other vaccine producers, including China's Sinopharm and U.S.-based Moderna Inc. and Pfizer Inc. It reported 6,894 new virus cases on Wednesday, bringing its total cases to 1,386,556 with 37,547 fatalities.—Kyodo News ■

U.S., S. Korea start joint drill scaled back due to virus

SOUTH Korea and the United States started a joint military exercise on Monday that has been scaled back due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the South Korean military said.

North Korea has long railed against U.S.-South Korea military exercises, categorizing them as preparations for an invasion. A South Korean military official said this year's smaller-scale drills are also intended to "support diplomatic efforts" toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The joint exercise, the first since U.S. President Joe Biden took office in January, is aimed at responding to contingencies on the divided peninsula. This year, a com-

mand post exercise involving computer simulations is being conducted rather than operational exercises involving a large number of troops.

It will run through March 18. The annual springtime joint exercise was canceled last year due to the pandemic.

The United States and South Korea normally conduct large joint military exercises in spring and summer. However, the administration of Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, scaled down military exercises with South Korea after he held a first-ever U.S.-North Korea summit with leader Kim Jong Un in June 2018.—Kyodo News ■

Japan eases access to parts of town near crippled Fukushima plant

JAPAN relaxed its restrictions Monday on access to parts of Okuma, one of the towns hosting the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, due to lower radiation levels through decontamination work.

Residents can now freely enter and leave the estimated 320-hectare area without having to seek government permission, but the evacuation order will still be in place for the area. People still cannot live there and overnight stays will not be allowed.

The latest relaxation covers residential and farm areas near the original town center. The measure to relax the comings and goings within the town is the second of its kind since one implemented in March last year.

At 9 a.m., when a gate dividing the area from the road was opened to the public, vehicles

including that of patrol police were seen entering the area. In front of the gate, a road sign reading that access to the area is restricted was removed.

The town aims to secure lodgings for its residents to stay overnight around fall, once progress is made in infrastructure work and dismantling of houses.

The entire town was subjected to the evacuation order following the nuclear accident at the Fukushima plant.

In April 2019, the government partially lifted its mandatory evacuation order on parts of Okuma. The order was also lifted for more areas the following year.—Kyodo News ■



An official opens a gate barring entry to the northeastern Japan town of Okuma on 8 March, 2021. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Delhi's female-only liquor store helps women buy drinks in good spirits

PRIYA Sharma drove more than 30 kilometres to get to an exclusive boutique in a teeming New Delhi residential district -- a women-only liquor store.

Inside a shopping mall, the store provides a safe environment for women to buy alcohol in a city where harassment and discrimination is a daily battle and many women fear going

out at night.

Buying a bottle of wine or whisky on a Saturday night in the Indian capital has always been a fight for position inside a hot and cramped store, where customers -- mostly men -- scream orders at stressed-out staff.

"I have always avoided going into an alcohol store,"

said Sharma, whose name was changed so that her family would not know where she had been.

"I usually ask someone to get it for me," she told AFP inside the store with a sign on its glass door reading "Exclusively for ladies".

"Men judge when women buy and drink alcohol. I can't

deny it," said a man who accompanied Sharma to the door. The store does let couples in but they are rare.

"That is why we specifically came to this store so that Priya can decide what she wants in an environment where she doesn't feel uncomfortable."

The gang-rape and murder of a young woman on a Delhi

bus in 2012 sparked weeks of protests and put the spotlight on the treatment of women in India.

Criminal law was toughened for offences against women and across India, while reserved seats for women on buses and metro trains have also become a common sight in cities.—AFP ■

Pandemic vaccinations start for Indonesian SEA Games squad

THE Indonesian South East Asian Games (SEA) squad received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccinations the previous week as the team are aiming to collect higher points plus medals during the 2021 SEA Games

which will be held in major cities of VietNam at the end of this year.

The Indonesian SEA Games squad coaches are conducting intensive training for their team in preparation for the upcoming SEA Games, according to the

football federation of Indonesia. "A big thank you to the government for providing this vaccination. The vaccination process is conducted well and the health procedures are strict," said Indra Sjafrri, the FA of Indonesia (PSSI)

Technical Director.

"We urge all Indonesians not to be afraid of being vaccinated. We hope that the Covid-19 pandemic will pass. And even though we have been vaccinated, we must always maintain a healthy

lifestyle", the PSSI Technical Director added.

The second dosage of the vaccines for the SEA Games squad will be injected within two weeks, according to the ASEAN Football Federation. —GNLM ■

Juve's McKennie, a rare American making waves in Serie A

WESTON McKennie is a symbol of a new generation coming through at Juventus along with Dejan Kulusevski, Federico Chiesa and Matthijs De Ligt.

The 22-year-old Texan became the first player from the United States to play for the Turin giants when he arrived from Bundesliga club Schalke last summer on loan.

Coach Andrea Pirlo has hailed the young international as "a rock" in a difficult period for the Italian champions with an ongoing injury crisis.

Juventus trail Portuguese club Porto 2-1 going into the second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie in Turin on Tuesday.

Forward Chiesa, 23, pulled a goal back for the Italians late in Portugal, for a precious away goal as they look to avoid crashing in the last 16 for a second consec-



Juventus' American midfielder Weston McKennie (2ndR) celebrates after scoring the third goal during the Italian Serie A football match Juventus vs Crotona on February 22, 2021 at the Juventus stadium in Turin. PHOTO: AFP

utive year.

McKennie helped Juventus out of the group stage with a goal in a 3-0 win at Barcelona in December having lost the home leg 2-0.

It was the second Champions

League goal for McKennie having previously scored one for Schalke.

The Italians have won the European title twice, but not since 1996, and Pirlo warned that the Porto game was a "decisive match we can't mess up". —AFP ■

Gerrard targets more glory after Rangers win Scottish Premiership

STEVEN Gerrard has his sights set on more silverware with Rangers after leading the club to their first Scottish league title for 10 years.

The former Liverpool and England midfielder celebrated his first managerial trophy on Sunday after Celtic's goalless draw at Dundee United ended their chances of retaining the Premiership.

Gerrard's men have not lost a single game in the league in their successful quest to end Celtic's record-equalling run of nine consecutive Scottish league titles.

Rangers were not even in the top flight for four of those seasons after they were demoted to the fourth tier following liquidation in 2012 due to financial troubles.

"It is very difficult to put into words right now," Gerrard told the club's website. "I'm on a real, emotional high and it has been a journey that is not finished.

"There is more to come and the next thing for me, when you win, it is always about what is next, and I am so proud of the players first and foremost -- they are the most important people inside

the club."

The 40-year-old added that he wanted his players to "keep delivering" until the end of the season.

Rangers face Slavia Prague in the first leg of their Europa League last-16 tie on Thursday and they will meet Cove Rangers in the third round of the Scottish Cup on April 3.

After spending so long in the shadow of bitter rivals Celtic, Rangers have been crowned champions with six games to spare.

Thousands of jubilant fans flouted the coronavirus lockdown to celebrate in Glasgow on Sunday, prompting an angry response from Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Rangers chairman Douglas Park hailed an "absolutely unbelievable" achievement, adding on RangersTV: "We've achieved 55, we've won the league. I couldn't be more happy for the club, the supporters and everyone.

"It's been a hard, hard road getting there, but we've got there and obviously we want this to be the start of many." —AFP ■

'I love sport and money': Millionaire Saudi prince to buy French club

A self-confessed lover of "sport and money", millionaire Saudi Prince Abdullah bin Mosaad is about to become the owner of humble French second division club Chateauroux.

Already the owner of Premier League strugglers Sheffield United, Beerschot in Belgium, India's Kerala United and Al Hilal United in the UAE, the 56-year-old will soon have a new team in his portfolio.

"We have been interested in Chateauroux for some time, and negotiations have taken a long time," Prince Abdullah told AFP in a Zoom interview.

"The club's position in the second division table is now very difficult, but I am optimistic about its future."

Chateauroux are currently bottom of the French second division with just four wins all season in 28 games.

The third division is beckoning.

The prince, who once held the sports portfolio in the Saudi cabinet, has given the green light for the purchase of the club to his company United World.

"I love sport and money," added the man whose personal fortune is estimated at 200 million euros (\$240 million).

"When I invested in England and Belgium, I was happy. But for France, I have a special feeling because it's a country that reminds me of childhood.

"My memories are nu-

merous and my brother (the prince) Abdulrahman was born there.

"I know that Chateauroux is not far from Paris (about 270 kilometres), another reason to please me when I am in France, besides the restaurants, the cafes and walks in beautiful Paris."

He added: "Under normal circumstances, I would visit the club (at the time of acquisition), especially since I really like France, but because of the travel conditions, I can't go."

United World's chief executive Abdallah Al-Ghamdi "saw the last game and reached an agreement with club officials and the board of directors", Abdullah said. —AFP ■



Rangers' English manager Steven Gerrard PHOTO: AFP