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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) Further development of production based on agriculture and livestock breeding through modern techniques and all-round development of other

sectors of the economy as well

- (b) Stability of market economy and inviting international investments to develop the economy of entire ethnic people
- (c) Encouragement of local businesses to create employment opportunities to be able to produce many products of the State

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar will be placed on track of democracy to become a peaceful, stable, disciplined democratic country after restoring peace and stability: Senior General

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Deputy Minister for Defence Colonel-General Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin of the Russian Federation, who will attend the ceremony to mark the 76th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, at the parlour of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

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 Maung Maung Kyaw and Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Russian Deputy Minister was accompanied by Chair of the Presidential Council for Civil Society of the Russian Federation and Information Adviser to the President of the Rus-



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Deputy Minister for Defence Colonel-General Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin of the Russian Federation in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 March 2021.

sian Federation Mr Pavel Gusev, Head of Moscow Buddhist Society Mr Bair B. Tsympilov, Russian military and senior civilian officers and Military Attaché of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Col Sergey S. Kurchenko.

At the meeting, the Senior General expressed his pleasure for the Russian delegation's attendance at this year's 76th An-

niversary of Armed Forces Day that will combine with the 2020's Diamond Jubilee Armed Forces Day, which could not have been observed due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The Senior General heartily welcomed the attendance of the Russian delegation amid the outbreak of COVID-19 and political changes in Myanmar and pledged to further

cement mutual respect of both countries despite a far distance.

The Russian Deputy Minister for Defence expressed his thanks for the warm welcome of Myanmar. He continued to say that Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation Army General Sergei Kuzhygetovich Shoigu sent a message of congratulations for the 76th Anni-

versary of Armed Forces Day of Myanmar Tatmadaw. On behalf of the Russian Minister of Defence, the Deputy Minister welcomed the 76th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day of Myanmar Tatmadaw. In observing the history of Myanmar, Myanmar Tatmadaw has been much relating to the

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HAILING 76TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Five future programmes of State Administration Council

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

Military medical corps provide healthcare in township hospitals



Officers from Innma station seen providing foodstuffs to local patients at Lapadan public hospital.

THE Tatmadaw medical teams comprising Tatmadaw doctors, specialists, and nurses, have been providing necessary medical treatments to the patients in military hospitals and public hospitals.

The Tatmadaw medical team continued to provide healthcare services such as surgery, dental and oral healthcare, osteoporosis, obstetrics, otorhinolaryngology, gynaecology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in healthcare services difficulties in Thazi Township Public Hospital, Hanza hospital, Yinmabin hospital, Tagaung Public Hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Sintgaing hospital in Kyaukse township, Yintaw hospital in Pyawbwe township, Pintale hospital

in Wantwin Township, Myinttha Township Public Hospital, Welaung hospital in Taungtha Township, Public hospital in Kyaukpadaung Township, Public Hospital in Kyauktaga Township, Donzayit hospital in Shwegyin Township and Public hospital in Latpadan township yesterday.

Similarly, the Tatmadaw medical team provided healthcare services to patients at Nyaungyan Hospital in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region.

Officials from respective commands also inspected the hospitals' medical services. They comforted the patients by providing food aids and necessary things. Locals are reportedly satisfied with the medical support of Tatmadaw. — MNA

Military hospitals continue providing healthcare to civilians

MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states keep providing medical treatments to the people to solve their healthcare services difficulties. A total of 979,952 outpatients and 4,100 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 4,542 major operations and 2,419 minor operations. The senior doctors treat serious cases. These hospitals managed for the birth of 6,127 babies while bringing 6,127 pregnant women to the respective military hospitals. Of those, 2,454 cases are done in caesarean section and 3,673 cases in ordinary delivery.

Officials from the respective commands also provided the patients with foods, and medical workers were provided with cash assistance. — MNA



North Western Command Commander Brig-Gen Phyto Thant and party seen encouraging local patients at station hospital in Monywa.

Officials free 322 protesters from Insein Prison

THE protesters detained at Insein Prison under Section 505(a) were released yesterday evening. They sent them back to their respective townships in YBS buses.

A total of 322 people -- 249 men and 73 women -- were freed yesterday.

Before their release, Yangon Region Administration Council Member Colonel Win Tint and Secretary of Council U Soe Soe Zaw made their remarks at the sports hall of Insein prison.

Moreover, 628 people -- 360 men and 268 women -- were also released from Insein Prison on 24 March. —News and photo by Lin Latt



Released protesters are seen listening to the remarks made by the YRAC member and secretary.

Myanmar will be placed on track of democracy to become a peaceful, stable, disciplined democratic country after restoring peace and stability: Senior General

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country. Myanmar Tatmadaw has been defending the country against local and foreign dangers in successive eras. So, Myanmar can sustain peace and stability. Russia and Myanmar are in the same histories with the same times of Armed Forces Day. He thanked the Senior General in person for attending the military parade to mark the 75th Victory Day of the Great Patriotic War of the Russian Federation, which fell in 2020.

In his discussions, the Senior General said in looking back at the history of Myanmar, one can see an essential role of Myanmar Tatmadaw. Anyone cannot deny that the Tatmadaw has been striving to prevent the country's disintegration in successive eras since the time when the country had regained its independence amid the difficulties of armed conflicts. Although the Tatmadaw paved the way for multiparty democracy for the country according to the people's demand, anticipation could not be true as expected. People have aspired for free and fair democratic politics. However,



The Senior General and Russian Deputy Minister for Defence are viewing the weapons used in riots.



The Senior General presents the honorary medal to Russian Deputy Minister for Defence.

corrupt politics were shaped in the 2020 election so as to grasp the power of the State in unfair ways. That is why the Tatmadaw assumed State responsibility. The Tatmadaw is taking responsibilities in a short time to ensure genuine democracy and disciplined and endured democracy. After restoring peace and stability, Myanmar will be placed on track of democracy to become a peaceful, stable, disciplined democratic country.

Furthermore, both sides

cordially discussed cooperation in military technology between two armed forces of both countries, cooperation in two countries and two armed forces, social, economic, education, training and all sectors, sending of trainees, exchange of preventive medicines and technology in prevention, treatment and containment of COVID-19, and exchange of goodwill visits.

After the meeting, the Senior General presented an hon-

orary medal and an honorary sword to the Deputy Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation to further promote bilateral relations and military cooperation between the two countries and the two armed forces.

The Russian Deputy Minister for Defence presented the medal "For Strengthening of Combat Companionship-in-Arms" to Vice-Senior General Soe Win, General Maung Maung Kyaw, Lt-Gen

Moe Myint Tun, Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, General Maung Maung Aye and Admiral Moe Aung.

The Senior General and party cordially greeted those attendees.

Afterwards, the Russian Deputy Minister for Defence and party, together with Russian media, viewed round home-made arms and equipment used in riots that happened in Myanmar. The Senior General conducted them around the displays. — MNA

State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gives interviews to news agencies of Russian Federation



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Russian Information Adviser to the President and gives interviews to the Russian Federation news agencies.



CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing separately received Mr Pavel

Gusev, Chair of the Presidential Council for Civil Society of the Russian Federation and Information Adviser to the President, and news agencies from the Rus-

sian Federation at Hsinbyutaw Villa, here, and replied to queries.

At the interviews, the Senior General gave full clarification

on political changes in Myanmar, voting frauds in the 2020 election, efforts of the Tatmadaw for the peace process and future plans, further enhancement of

Russia-Myanmar economic cooperation, future tasks for prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19 and additional information they asked. — MNA

The council temporarily takes responsibilities to ensure genuine democracy and disciplined and firm democracy

THE Tatmadaw is carrying out political, social and economic development by assuming State responsibilities in accord with Sections 417 and 418 of the Constitution (2008) as of 1 February 2021 and forming the State Administration Council in line with Section 419. The council temporarily takes responsibilities to ensure genuine democracy and disciplined and firm democracy. Tatmadaw members need to conscientiously try hard for their works in individuals and must strive for uplifting the prestige of the Tatmadaw, the State and the nationality while improving their individuals and military units

(Excerpt from the speech to the 6/2021 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 16 March 2021)

The 16th ceremony of receiving words of advice from venerable Ovadacariya Sayadaws from Uppatasanti pagoda board of trustees

THE 16th ceremony of receiving words of advice from venerable Ovadacariya Sayadaws from the Uppatasanti pagoda board of trustees was held yesterday evening in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by venerable Sayadaws led by Chairman Sayadaw of the Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Ovadacariya of the Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing, the Permanent Secretary and Directors-Gen-



Union Minister and officials receive words of advice from the venerable monks led by the Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw.



eral and officials attended to receive the words of advice from the venerable monks.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman presented religious matters.

The Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and the Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw, delivered words of advice.

The Union Minister, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and attendees donated offertories to the venerable Sayadaws.

The words of advice of the Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee

and the Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustee were also delivered, and the ceremony was concluded after receiving the teachings of Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa Sayadaw. — MNA

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win joins ASEAN finance and central bank deputy governors' meeting online

DEPUTY Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win joined the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputy Governors' virtual meeting hosted by Brunei Darussalam yesterday afternoon from Nay Pyi Taw.

This year's ASEAN Summits are chaired by Brunei Darussalam, with the theme "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper". The meeting focused on regional economic recovery, despite the regional and global economy's instability this year, especially COVID-19 immunizations and coordination among ASEAN countries.

The meeting also discussed the importance of the cooperation between the ASEAN Fi-

nance and Central Bank for the regional economy and long-term measures for promoting recovery programmes and sustainable development; matters to be implemented under ASEAN Blueprint 2025, and status on financial cooperation among ASEAN nations.

ASEAN Financial Cooperation includes ASEAN capital account liberalization, capital market development, financial services liberalization, implementation of the ASEAN Financial Cooperation Framework Agreement, inclusion in the financial sector and the development of payment and clearing systems.

The Deputy Minister also joined the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputy Governors' meeting with the Ministry of Fi-



The MoPFI deputy minister joins the online ASEAN finance and central bank deputy governors' meeting yesterday.

nance of the United States, the relevant meeting of the ASEAN Finance and Deputy Governors' meeting.

At the meeting, the United States discussed cooperation in response to the effects of the

COVID-19 pandemic in ASEAN, a key trading partner of the US; financial planning on the economic and social impacts of climate change, adding that it will spend the US\$1.9 trillion as an Economic Stimulus Package.

The Deputy Minister explained the status of implementing the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) in Myanmar and the implementation of Economic Objectives.

The decisions of the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputy Governors' Meeting will be submitted to the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting on 30 March for approval.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Ministers and Vice-Chairmen of the ASEAN Finance and Central Banks and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat. Cambodia will host the 2022 ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputy Governors' Meeting in 2022. — MNA

Part of Bhumi Phassa Mudra sitting marble Buddha image conveyed for fifth time



The modular trailer is conveying part of sitting Buddha image in Nay Pyi Taw Yesterday.



Senior military officers and disciples led by the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw sprinkled scented water on the part-4 rock of the Buddha image

A ceremony to convey the part of Bhumi Phassa Mudra sitting marble Buddha image for the fifth time took place at the Maha Mingala pavilion in Buddha park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The ceremony was graced

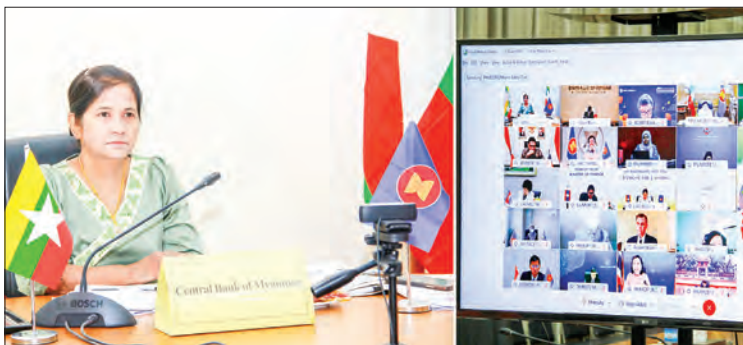
by members of the Sangha led by Chairman of Lewe Township Sangha Nayaka Committee MyoU Dhammayon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggacara, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin, Lt-Gen Kan Myint Than of the Office of the Command-

er-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Myo Tin and guests. Members of the Sangha recited Gathas to disperse Metta. Senior military officers and disciples led by the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman

Sayadaw sprinkled scented water on the part-4 rock of the Buddha image and recited Jaya Mangala victorious verses. Then, the marble rock to be carved into the sitting Buddha image was conveyed to the venue where it will be paid homage. Part-2 re-

serve rock for the Buddha image weighing 563 tonnes and part-4 rock weighing 800 tonnes were conveyed by the modular trailer from Simikhon port on 20 March. They arrived at the Mingala venue of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 25 March. — MNA

Deputy CBM Governor attends Meeting of US Treasury-ASEAN Deputy Finance Ministers and Deputy Governors of Central Banks



The CBM deputy governor takes part in the US Treasury-ASEAN Deputy Finance Ministers and Deputy Governors of Central Banks yesterday.

THE Meeting of US Treasury-ASEAN Deputy Finance Ministers and Deputy Governors of Central Banks virtually took place yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by officials of the US Treasury, ASEAN Deputy Finance Ministers and Deputy Governors of Central Banks, including Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor Daw Than Than Swe.

During the meeting, Deputy Assistant Secretary of US Treasury Mr Robert Kaproth exchanged views on the US's economic recovery plans and responses regarding with COVID-19 pandemic, climate changes, and budget priorities of the US. At the same time, the ASEAN Secretary-General Office

and ASEAN Deputy Finance Ministers and Deputy Governors of Central Banks briefed about their performances, priority sectors and further work plans.

The officials kept holding the AFCDM at noon and Brunei briefed about priority sectors in 2021 while the ASEAN Secretary-General about ASEAN Financial Roadmap and 2021 ASEAN Financial Integration Monitoring Report, Capital Account Liberation (CAL), Capital Market Development (CMD), Financial Services Liberation (FSL), ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF), Financial Inclusion (FINC), Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) to be implemented

in 2021-2022FY.

Then, Deputy CMB Governor Daw Than Than Swe discussed financial services liberation, the close relationship between central banks of ASEAN regarding banking and payment services, subsidiary licences and Equity Participation, the invitation to ASEAN regions, and international organizations in governmental sectors for the development of financial flows.

She also presented financial regulation and restructured for Financial Integration, inbound/outbound retail payment remittance, QR Code Myanmar Standard for Real-Time Retail Payment System (RTRPS), technical aids from the Monetary Authority of Singapore and Thai Central Bank and other work plans of the government to meet the priorities of ASEAN 2021.

Then the attendees to the meeting coordinated the discussion,

The meeting also focused on a joint statement to be submitted to the 7th AFMGM (ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting) to be held on 30 March. — MNA

Security measures conducted to ensure community peace

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

Tatmadaw, police and

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



Tatmadaw, Police Force and Fire Brigade take joint security measures at night.

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Announcement of Union Election Commission

25 March 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Htantabin Township of Bago Region and Chauk Township of Magway Region.

2. Findings in respective township were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CSC
1	94 polling stations in Htantabin township of Bago Region,	96,592	81,776	17,625	735	10,977
2	258 polling stations in Chauk township of Magway Region,	164,145	175,994	12,117	1,250	17,696

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Htantabin Township of Bago Region and Chauk Township of Magway 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.

4. A total of 352 polling stations in these two townships took out 300,392 ballots and used 189,549 ballots. It left 107,797 ballots instead of 110,843 ballots. The difference was 3,521 and it found 475 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Htantabin	94	109,766	64,559	45,207	43,162	2,520	475
2	Chauk	258	190,626	124,990	65,636	64,635	1,001	
	Total	352	300,392	189,549	110,843	107,797	3,521	475

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw election of Htantabin Township

5. According to the inspection, a total of 94 polling stations in 29 village-tracts of 6 Wards in Htantabin Township of Bago Region took out 109,766 ballots and used 64,559. It left 43,162 ballots instead of 45,207. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village tract ballots	101,450	64,081	37,369	35,259	2,520	410
2	Township ballots	8,316	478	7,838	7,903	-	65
	Total	109,766	64,559	45,207	43,162	2,520	475

6. It found 2,520 ballots were missing at the polling stations in 11wards/village-tracts of Htantabin Township and also found 410 extra ballots at 5 ward/village-tract polling stations. It also found 7,903 ballots instead of 7,838 at township election sub-commission and so there were 65 extra ballots.

7. Findings in Htantabin Township were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village tract	Total polling station	Withdrawal	used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Aung Mingalar	1	1,600	885	715	865		150
2	Thiri Haymar	1	1,950	1,475	475	475		
3	Thiri Yatanar	1	750	557	193	153	40	
4	Aung Thukha	1	2,100	1,563	537	537		
5	Aung Chantha	1	700	620	80	180		100
6	Seik Gyi	1	2,100	1,533	567	567		
7	Yay Kyaw	1	1,100	772	328	278	50	
8	Chaung Wa	9	7,350	4,624	2,726	2,726		
9	Chan Gyi	1	1,250	847	403	253	150	
10	Ta Pyay	1	1,800	1,257	543	593		50
11	Shar Say Bo	1	2,950	798	2,152	2,002	150	
12	Pyin Gan	2	1,650	990	660	760		100
13	Nat Ywar	1	3,850	2,357	1,493	1,493		
14	Kyee Taw	1	2,150	1,363	787	787		
15	Inn Yar Gyi	3	2,350	1,641	709	709		
16	Ohn Pin	3	2,600	1,942	658	658		
17	Pwe Thar	3	2,000	1,382	618	618		
18	Ze Phyu Thoung	3	3,100	1,869	1,231	1,231		
19	Dar Dauk	2	1,200	838	362	212	150	
20	Inn Kyaw	1	800	535	265	265		

21	Lay Thit	2	3,450	1,734	1,716	1,716		
22	Myo soe	4	2,050	1,153	897	817	80	
23	Sabar Kye	4	2,600	1,902	698	698		
24	Zayat Gyi	7	10,200	6,799	3,401	3,251	150	
25	Kin Moon Choung	4	6,150	3,576	2,574	1,524	1050	
26	Gyo Pin Thar	1	1,800	1,158	642	642		
27	Bon Ma Tee	2	1,950	1,268	682	682		
28	Thayet Tan	1	2,450	1,606	844	844		
29	Hlelan Kue	2	2,350	1,389	961	711	250	
30	Talai Ai	3	3,800	2,346	1,454	1,254	200	
31	Me Balan	8	5,600	3,621	1,979	1,989		10
32	Moe Kaung	5	5,900	3,139	2,761	2,511	250	
33	Kyein Taw Myaung	5	3,450	2,373	1,077	1,077		
34	Ngar Si Laung	5	4,200	2,780	1,420	1,420		
35	Zalout Gyi	3	2,150	1,389	761	761		
	Ward/village tract ballots	94	101,450	64,081	37,369	35,259	2,520	410
	Township advance ballots		8,316	478	7,838	7,903		65
	Township Total	94	109,766	64,559	45,207	43,162	2,520	475

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Chauk Township

8. According to the inspection, a total of 258 polling stations in 51 village-tracts of 20 Wards in Chauk Township of Magway Region took out 190,626 ballots and used 124,990. It left 64,635 ballots instead of 65,636. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/Village tract ballots	170,500	124,207	46,293	45,295	998	
2	Township advance ballots	926	783	143	143		
3	Township remaining ballots	19,200		19,200	19,197	3	
Total		190,626	124,990	65,636	64,635	1,001	

9. A total of 998 ballots were found missing at 258 polling stations in 71 wards/village-tracts of Chauk Township. It found only 19,197 ballots instead of 19,200 at township election sub-commission, and so 3 ballots were missing.

10. Findings in Chauk Township were as follows:

Sr	ward/ village tract	Total Polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact Remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	No (1) Ward	5	2,750	2,191	559	523	36	
2	No (2) Ward	2	1,050	875	175	175		
3	No (3) Ward	2	900	677	223	223		
4	No (4) Ward	4	2,700	2,013	687	687		
5	No (5) Ward	4	3,600	2,591	1,009	967	42	
6	No (6) Ward	5	3,200	2,553	647	647		
7	No (7) Ward	4	2,450	2,001	449	449		
8	No (8) Ward	4	2,200	1,703	497	497		
9	No (9) Ward	2	1,250	1,018	232	232		
10	No (10) Ward	5	4,050	2,766	1,284	1,284		
11	No (11) Ward	2	1,300	900	400	400		
12	No (12) Ward	2	1,900	1,332	568	568		
13	No (13) Ward	2	2,050	1,510	540	503	37	
14	No (14) Ward	5	4,250	3,342	908	908		
15	No (15) Ward	5	5,250	3,975	1,275	1,229	46	
16	No (1) Sala	1	950	685	265	265		
17	No (2) Sala	1	800	557	243	243		
18	No (3) Sala	1	1,000	786	214	214		
19	No (4) Sala	1	1,400	978	422	422		
20	No (5) Sala	2	1,650	1,227	423	423		
21	Padaytha	1	1,450	1,085	365	365		
22	Dat Myay	2	1,500	1,303	197	197		
23	Ma Kyee Gan	1	600	497	103	103		
24	Let Pan Kyun	3	2,400	1,672	728	728		
25	Oo Yin	3	2,500	1,942	558	558		
26	Nyee Su	2	1,600	1,104	496	496		
27	Ya Thit	3	3,150	2,256	894	894		
28	Ye Twin	2	2,000	1,663	337	337		
29	Chaung Tet	4	2,400	2,087	313	313		
30	Ma Kyee Gone	3	1,850	1,332	518	518		
31	Taung Tha	3	1,900	1,499	401	401		
32	Zaung Taw Kan	4	2,750	2,335	415	415		
33	Pa Khan Nge	8	5,450	3,847	1,603	1501	102	
34	Salin Taung	6	3,950	2,907	1,043	993	50	
35	Sue Yit Kan	4	2,750	2,222	528	528		
36	Myay Padon	4	2,800	1,975	825	825		
37	Lay Pin Gone	5	2,550	1,946	604	604		

38	Nyaung Chaung	3	2,300	1,692	608	607	1	
39	Taung Balu	4	1,700	1,014	686	686		
40	Kyauk Ye	3	1,850	1,366	484	484		
41	Sar Lel	4	3,600	2,681	919	919		
42	Myay Son	7	3,100	2,117	983	943	40	
43	Kyaung Yar Taw	5	2,800	1,878	922	922		
44	Tan Bo	11	5,000	3,477	1,523	1,153	370	
45	Gway Pin	7	4,700	3,569	1,131	1,131		
46	Swel Paukkan	4	3,300	2,127	1,173	1,129	44	
47	Wa Thae San	3	1,800	1,509	291	291		
48	PotPa Kan	9	4,400	3,013	1,387	1,387		
49	Ywama	3	1,500	1,220	280	280		
50	Naung Zin	2	1,350	888	462	462		
51	Na Ywel Taw	6	2,450	1,602	848	829	19	
52	Se Kan	2	1,000	651	349	340	9	
53	Lin Ta Kai	2	1,050	690	360	360		
54	Gway Pin Gyi	2	2,150	1,465	685	685		
55	Htein San	3	2,400	1,766	634	634		
56	Thalone Thway	4	2,200	1,544	656	616	40	
57	Twin Lap	4	2,600	1,621	979	979		
58	Gyobin	4	1,850	1,278	572	572		
59	Htein Kan	5	3,850	2,597	1,253	1,253		
60	Pyae Pin	2	1,700	1,317	383	383		
61	Thway Nat	5	3,150	2,183	967	939	28	
62	Ohn Hmyar Gyi	3	1,700	1,304	396	396		
63	Kyauk Tan	4	1,750	1,132	618	618		
64	Panbe	3	1,150	645	505	459	46	
65	Gway Cho	4	3,800	3,038	762	762		
66	Ze Pwar	4	2,750	1,842	908	908		
67	Thit To Kan	5	3,100	2,109	991	991		
68	Kywee Tap	2	1,800	1,241	559	559		
69	Ozar Taw	4	2,200	1,482	718	678	40	
70	Sar Taung	4	2,400	1,563	837	837		
71	Ma Kyee Kan	4	1,750	1,234	516	468	48	
Ward/village tract total		258	170,500	124,207	46,293	45,295	998	
Township advance ballots			926	783	143	143		
Township Remaining ballots			19,200		19,200	19,197	3	
Township Total		258	190,626	124,990	65,636	64,635	1001	

Union Election Commission

19 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 March, total figure rises to 142,359

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 142,359 after 19 new cases were reported on 26 March 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 3,206 died, 131,786 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Encouraging ethnic languages to preserve their living culture

MYANMAR is home to over 135 ethnic groups, and their spoken and written languages are the cultural treasures of our country.

The ethnic languages are also the intangible culture of our country. Therefore, the languages should be treated equally and respectfully; they should be cherished, scientifically protected, and fully utilized.

As article 22 of the 2008 Constitution guarantees to encourage the ethnic languages, literature and culture, we need to create opportunities to continue speaking and writing their mother languages,

Today, it is found that ethnic languages speaking are decreasing even in respective ethnic areas, and this situation has shown that some languages are in danger.

We have seen some improvements in dealing with this situation thanks to the cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of National Races Affairs in recent years.

Still, there are gaps between the salaries of the ethnic language teachers and those of teachers of the Ministry of Education. Bridging this gap is one of the remedies for encouraging the speaking and writing of ethnic languages in ethnic areas. When it comes to appointing ethnic language teachers and assistants, priority must be given to local ethnic people, and their salaries must be increased. Not only the Ministry of National Races Affairs but also the Ministry of Education should seek ways possible to support ethnic language teachers and assistants nationwide.

As article 22 of the 2008 Constitution guarantees to encourage the ethnic languages, literature and culture, we need to create opportunities to continue speaking and writing their mother languages, which indirectly means being part of a living culture and community.

A language represents a community's culture, history, kinship and patrimony. In other words, language and ethnicity are closely connected, and thus, the continuous use of mother languages evokes a sense of belonging to the community.

These are the important reasons why we are committed to encouraging ethnic languages.

Mother languages are usually lost because many will switch to a common language for communication when inter-ethnic marriage or migration takes place. These are natural.

Due to our geographical location, our country is located between the countries with huge populations, and their culture and language can influence our communities.

For those living in rural areas, the loss of their languages indicates the loss of identity and life.

Therefore, it is crucial to encourage the speaking of mother languages.

India slows vital vaccine exports as cases soar

INDIA, the "pharmacy of the world", has put the brakes on exporting Covid-19 vaccines as it battles a new wave of infections at home and a faltering inoculation drive.

As a major supplier, the development is a blow to vital vaccination programmes in poorer countries under the Covax global inoculation initiative led by the World Health Organization and the Gavi alliance.

So far, India has sent more than 60 million doses to 76 countries, mostly AstraZeneca shots manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine maker by volume.

On Thursday, Gavi said vaccine deliveries planned for the rest of March and April "will face delays" because of "increased demand of Covid-19 vaccines in India".

An Indian government source said late Thursday it had "not imposed any ban on exports of vaccines unlike many other countries".

"We remain committed to help the world with vaccines, including through Covax... Given our current manufacturing capacity and requirements of national vaccination programmes, there may be a need to calibrate the supply schedules from time to time."

Serum were not immediately available for further comment. An industry source said it was "not clear how long it will take to resolve the delays".

"Covax is in talks with the

government of India with a view to ensuring deliveries as quickly as possible," the Gavi spokesperson said.

Former national health secretary Sujatha Rao said the government was "caught in a bind as infections are rising and it simply cannot afford a lockdown policy".

"It has to fall back on rapidly scaling up its vaccination coverage to stem transmission. So I think it's tough to expect too much accommodation from India," Rao told AFP.

The WHO on Monday branded the growing gap in immunisation rates between rich and poor countries in the pandemic "grotesque".

Worldwide more than 488 million doses have been administered, according to an AFP count, 55 per cent to high-income countries accounting for 16 per cent of the global population.

Just 0.1 per cent have been given in the 29 lowest-income nations, home to nine per cent of the world's people.

The Covax scheme aims to distribute enough doses to vaccinate up to 27 per cent of their population by the end of the year.

It was supposed to deliver some 238 million doses by the end of May, including 237 million doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine manufactured in India and South Korea.

So far it has shipped more than 31 million doses.

UNICEF said Thursday it was "expecting an additional 40



Indian authorities are aiming to vaccinate 300 million people by August. PHOTO: AFP

million doses to be available in March, and up to 50 million doses in April".

Some rich countries are also relying on Serum. Last week, the British government blamed delays in its vaccination rollout on a supply shortfall from the firm.

Rising infections - But India, home to 1.3 billion people, is experiencing a new wave of cases after infections slowed sharply after September,

dashing hopes the pandemic might be over. India's strict lockdown im-

posed last March was steadily eased during 2020, with most activity, including weddings, religious festivals and some cricket matches, back to normal.

Now curbs are returning, particularly in the hard-hit western state of Maharashtra where officials have launched random virus checks in crowded areas in the local capital Mumbai -- with those tested having to pay.

"Just to enter a mall, you have to give 250 rupees (\$3.50) over here, (and) that too with a queue

of one hour," said irate Mumbai resident Mohit Jain as he lined up to enter a shopping mall.

"It will cause a lot of inconvenience for the malls as well as for the customers also," he told AFP.

Meanwhile, India this week decided to allow all over-45s to be inoculated as it attempts to vaccinate 300 million people by August. So far it had administered 53 million shots -- fewer than it has exported. Each person requires two shots.

SOURCE: AFP

Sakura selfies: Tokyo enjoys cherry blossoms despite virus warning

PEOPLE in Tokyo flocked to admire cherry blossoms in full bloom at parks, shrines and rivers on Friday, despite coronavirus warnings against holding traditional parties under the delicate flowers.

Annual festivals have been cancelled, fluorescent tape used to cordon off picnic spots, and signs put up urging people to "refrain from gathering to enjoy the cherry blossoms".

But many people, mostly wearing masks, decided to make the most of Friday's clear blue skies to snap "sakura" selfies, stroll down blossom-lined paths or take boat rides under the pink-and-white blooms.



Many people decided to make the most of Friday's sunny weather and clear blue skies to snap 'sakura' selfies. PHOTO:AFP

Despite a third wave of Covid-19 infections over the winter, Japan has had a comparatively small outbreak overall with around 9,000 deaths and has not imposed the blanket lockdowns seen in other countries.

The Japanese government

this week lifted a virus state of emergency in the Tokyo area but city governor Yuriko Koike has warned residents to "avoid cherry blossom viewing parties" to prevent a resurgence of the disease.

The number of coronavirus cases in Tokyo is gradually rising, with 394 new infections recorded on Thursday.

"We fear there may be a sudden spread of infections -- bigger than the third wave -- if the number of people going out increases, as it does each year with cherry blossom viewing, welcome parties (for new employees and students) and graduation trips," said Norio Ohmagari, director of Japan's Disease Control and Prevention Centre, on Thursday.

Japan's sakura or cherry blossom season is feverishly anticipated by locals and visitors alike,

although this year foreign tourists have been kept away by virus border restrictions.

Cherry blossoms symbolise the fragility of life in Japanese culture as full blooms only last about a week before the petals start falling off trees.

It is traditionally celebrated with hanami, or viewing parties, with picnics -- and sometimes boozy festivities -- organized beneath the trees. The season is also considered one of change as it marks the start of the new business year, with many university graduates starting their first full-time jobs and older colleagues shifting to new positions.

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.

သတင်းစာတစ်ပြည်သူများအနေဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်း ကြေးမုံ၊ The Global New Light of Myanmar ရောင်းစုံသတင်းစာများ မာယုပတ်ဂျာနယ်နှင့် သတင်းစာများရောက်ရှိမှု မရှိခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် အခက်အခဲများဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်-

- > သတင်းနှင့်စာအုပ်စီမံခန့်ခွဲရေး ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံအခြေခံဥပဒေ (မိုးချို)၊ အပြည်တော်။ ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၄၁၂၁၀၊ ၀၉-၄၅၀၀၃၅၆၂
- > အပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက်(ဧရာဝတီရိပ်မြို့နယ်) ဖုန်း-၀၆၇-၃၆၁၀၇၊ ၀၉-၄၂၀၀၀၆၈၇
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- > The Global New Light of Myanmar (ရန်ကင်း) ဖုန်း-၀၁-၈၆၀၄၅၂၊ ၀၉-၉၈၃၉၂၅၉၃၁
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Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects hotels in Shan State



The MoHT Union Minister and officials are inspecting hotels' operations in Shan State.

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by officials, visited Shan State and inspected hotels' operations as per the COVID-19

rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports on 25 and 26 March.

During his inspection tour to Shan State, the Union Minis-

ter inspected Villa Inle Resort, which received the Travel Life Gold award and Aureum Palace Hotel in Nyaungshwe Township, and Global Grace Pindaya Hotel

in Pindaya Township.

The Union Minister also discussed the hotels and tourism sector's development with Myanmar Hotelier Association in Southern Shan State and responsible persons from the hotels.

At the meeting, he called on cooperation among the associations of the hotels and tourism sector to continue to develop the Community-Based Tourism (CBT) and to resume tourism following health rules and regulations for the people who have been suffocated due to the COVID-19 since the disease can be considered adequately controlled.

He added the COVID-19 vaccination plan to the hotel staff, the need to cooperate for the tourism sector's operation the six months extended period for the loan assistance, adding that the State Administration Council Chairman pays special attention to the Hotels and Tourism Sector.

The meeting also discussed

prioritizing domestic tourism, the training for Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocols (HSP) and arrangement to set level under international standards, and the necessity to pay attention to environmental conservation in the Inle lake area and to use Hotel Guest List Management System. The Union Minister also paid homage to Phaung Taw Oo pagoda and Shwe U Min pagoda and donated cash assistance to the pagodas' trustees.

He also met Shan State Administration Council Chairman Dr Kyaw Tun and Danu Self-Administered zone Administration Body Chairman U Arkar Linn. He discussed COVID-19 immunization to the people from the hotels and tourism sector, developing new travel destination and tourist attractions and resumption of the hotel and tourism sector's operation following the COVID-19 rules and regulations. — MNA

Violent thugs attack police stations

THE violent people armed with homemade bombs and petrol bottles attacked the police stations in some townships.

At about 3:15 pm on 26 March, a black car (still investigating) threw a homemade bomb into a police station located on Insein road at No (13) Ward of Hline Township, causing damage to a vehicle of security forces.

Similarly, two men (still investigating) committed an arson attack with petrol bottles by throwing them into the police housing in Myeik yesterday noon. The dry grass in the police

station compound caught fire, and it reported no damages after being extinguished.

Moreover, two men (still investigating) threw homemade bombs into the police station located 76th street, between 4th and 5th streets in U Poke Taw Ward of Aungmyaythazan Township.

Similarly, two men threw a handmade bomb in Kannar road in Ohebotaung Ward, Monywa and another two men threw a handmade bomb on the road near the bank of the Myittha river in Myoma Ward, Gangaw



Damages to the police station and vehicle of security forces are seen after violent attacks.

Township. The two handmade bombs exploded on the roads, and no casualties.

One of the bombs exploded,

and the police kept an unexploded bomb.

Therefore, the police make efforts to take action against

those who intentionally attack police stations and government buildings according to the law. —MNA

Sarpay Beikman Literature Award and Pakokku Literary Award ceremonies to be held

THE 2019 Sarpay Beikman Literature Award and Pakokku Literary Award established by Pakokku U Ohn Pe have been announced in state-owned newspapers. The award ceremony will be held on 1 and 2 April.

The 2019 Sarpay Beikman Literature Award Ceremony will be held on April 1 (Thursday) at 10 am, and the Pakokku Literary Award Ceremony will be held on 2 April (Friday) at 10 am at the Department of Printing and Publishing at No. 228, Theinphyu Road, Yangon.

Award winners are invited to attend the ceremony. For more information, please contact the Administration section of Sarpay Beikman at 01-381449.—MNA

Newly-harvested ginger in Chin State fetches good price this year

THE ginger produced in Haka and Falam townships, Chin State, fetches a higher price than the previous years. The traders offer a competitive price during the harvest time, allowing them to earn a handsome profit.

"We sell our gingers at the depots located in Haka and Falam towns. Some went to sell them at Kalay market. The ginger farms are mostly seen along Falam and Haka roads, and there is also a small number of ginger farms in Tid-

dim Township. This year, the ginger prices double or triple as against the previous years. The ginger growers are receiving a handsome profit," said a grower U Patoe from Haka Township.

The commercial ginger farms are found on the roadside of the villages in Haka and Falam townships. The gingers are distributed in Kalay city, and they are, again, sent to Yangon and Mandalay as well. Furthermore, thousands of gingers are exported to India via

Reed and Tamu land border.

The gingers are priced around K1,200-1,500 per viss (a viss equals 1.6kg) in the retail market of ginger-producing towns, whereas they stood only at K1,000 per viss last year. The prices hit K2,500-3,000 per viss in Kalay.

According to the Chin State Agriculture Department, there is a total of 227,668 acres of arable land in Chin State, and 3,924 acres of them have remained vacant and fallow. — Chindwinthar/GNLM

Villagers hand over handmade guns to security forces in Taninthayi, Ayeyawady, Mandalay regions

RESIDENTS from the villages in Taninthayi Region, Ayeyawady Region and Mandalay Region handed over handmade guns and related items used in riots to the security forces yesterday.

Villagers from Dawei Town-

ship, Myeik Township, Thayet Chaung Township and Yebyu Township in Taninthayi Region handed over a total of 124 percussion guns, 75 handmade guns, 17 slingshots, 98 handmade ball ammos, 2 spears, 19



Handmade weapons are seen after villagers (Ayeyawady region) handed over to security forces.



Handmade guns are seen after villagers (Taninthayi region) handed over to security forces.

ammunitions to the security forces after the security forces educated them that carrying illegal weapons can be taken serious legal action.

Similarly, residents from Phayagone village tract, Kh-

waykote village tract and Nyaungbin village tract in Thabaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, also handed over a total of 14 handmade guns, two air rifles and related items to the security forces yesterday morning.

A total of 2 percussion guns and one barrel were also handed over by the residents from Nattaung village tract, Nanhat village tract in Singu Township, Mandalay Region to the security forces.—MNA

Police seize weapons used in riots



Photos show arrested persons and seized handmade weapons they used in riots.

POLICE have seized weapons and arms using in riots on 25 March.

The security forces conducted security measures on the entry and exit of buses at Nawngkhio Township. They found homemade arms including jingalis and fibre sticks from Yadana passenger bus driven by Aung Naing Win, son of U Kyi Win from Lashio to Yangon, together with other two persons Ye Khaung Tint Swe, son of U Tin Shwe and Min Khant Kyaw, son of U Tin Moe.

The police seized weapons from Saw Aye Thu, son of U Yin Shwe, U Chit Win (aka) Kyar Gyi, son of U Tun Thar Mya, Zaw Min Tun, son of U Sein Kalar, Ma San San Htwe, daughter of U Yin Shwe, Ma Htet Myat Noe Oo, daughter of U Than Shwe, Ma Nan Khine Khin Moe (aka) Paing Pi, daughter of U Chit Win near Me Baung junction in No (9) Ward of Hpa-an Township, San Aung, son of U Kyaw Win from Ashe Gone Thuthan street in Mya Sandar Ward of Myaungmya and Lay Han, son of U Win

Sint, from Roe Seik 1st street.

Moreover, the police also seized weapons on 24 March from Phyo Min Hein, who lives in Hinthada while other materials like shields found in diesel locomotive station in Kanaung Su Ward, and from Ye Lin Naung (aka) Phoe Cho, staff of the civil engineering department of Myanma Railways, son of U Tin Oo, his wife Myint Myint Htoo, daughter of U Kyaw Htoo and Ingyin Maung, daughter of U Thein Soe, and from Myat Moe, son of U Thein Aung in Phaya Gone

Ward of Talu Htaw in Hinthada, from Naing Wai Yan, son of U Kan Win from Mawlamyinegyun of Labutta District, from Shine Htet Aung, son of U Khin Maung Toe from Thamain Htaw Rama street in No (18) Ward of Pyapon.

Similarly, the homemade arms were also seized yesterday from Daw Hla Hla Myint, daughter of U Hla Myint and her daughter Ma Hnin Hnin Oo at the house of U Than Chaung, in Hlinethaya (east) Township, at Armhan Parahita office in Kawmhu Township, from Zaw

Lin, son of U Win Shwe, Kyar Shwe Than (aka) son of U Lar Sa, Win Tun Soe, son of U Ba Myint, Ye Htut Soe, son of U San and Han Win Tun, son of U Thaug Cho in Mogok, and other materials including shields and homemade bombs at an unoccupied house located in Shan Kalay Kyun Village of Amarapura Township.

The police make necessary measures to take action against the suspects and arrest those who are still at large.—MNA

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ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Jasmine sellers earn daily income in blooming season

JASMINE sellers are earning daily income by selling them, according to the flower sellers.

The jasmine plants are blooming in summer after ending of spring. The flower sellers are buying, on a manageable scale, the jasmine flowers from farmland and sell them back.

Daw Aye Mi, a manageable scale flowers seller, said that the jasmine flower is highly demanded in the market in its blooming season. So, I

have bought the jasmine from farmland and sell them back in the crowded areas and the residential areas. Every day, I sell above 20 jasmine trees, and I am making K15,000 profit per day.

There are many types of jasmine species. The jasmine price is ranging from K500 to K3,500 depending upon the size. Some are buying the jasmine to grow them back in the houses.

“This time, people are buy-

ing jasmine. Most of them are buying Kyetyone jasmine, Sapygyi jasmine and Oakpoak jasmine species. Twelve seasonal jasmines are Thailand species, and it blossoms the whole year. It is expensive,” said Daw Than Than, the Pyat Pyat Myaing San flower garden owner.

The jasmine flower is blooming abundantly from February to May. It is famous for its fragrance. — Zaw Lin Oo (Aung San)/GNLM



The jasmine flower is blooming abundantly from February to May. It is famous for its fragrance.

Export rice prices down despite rising dollar exchange rate

THE rice prices in the export market slightly decreased despite a rising dollar exchange rate, said U Than Oo, the secretary of Bayintnaung rice commodity depot.

At present, the price of broken (low-quality) 5-mark rice, which is primarily exported to foreign countries, dropped by K2,500 per bag, he added.

“The rice, which is traded as the raw export products, is called 5-mark rice. The 5-mark rice was being traded for K24,000 per bag earlier. Now, it is priced at only K21,500 per bag. The price has declined by K2,500 per bag,” said U Than Oo.

Currently, the dollar exchange rate stood at

around K1,450 on 26 March 2021 in the local foreign exchange market. “Although the US dollar exchange rate is rising in the local market, the rice traders in the local rice market are buying the rice from the local farmers at a lower price. Therefore, the farmers face a loss of profit,” U Than Oo explained.

Besides, the volume of rice and broken rice in the export market has also dropped. The trading of export rice is being made only for previous contracts. The Bayintnaung rice commodity depot, one of the leading export markets through the sea route, was closed, starting from 10 February 2021.

— NN/GNLM

Sino-Myanmar border trade rises by \$218.85 mln: MOC reports

SINO-MYANMAR border trade has registered a rise of US\$218.85 million between 1 October and 12 March in the current financial year 2020-2021 amid the political changes, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As of 12 March 2021, Myanmar’s exports to China through the land border were valued at \$2.05 billion, while imports are worth \$920.49 million. The value of Sino-Myanmar border trade in all five border posts touched over \$2.97 billion in the current FY, which significantly soared from over \$2.66 billion recorded in the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce’s data indicated.

The increase in trade is attributed to the extending trading hours at Muse-Man Wein and Kyinsankyawt checkpoints. Furthermore, Pan Hseng (Kyukok) and Wan Ding border posts also gave the green light to fruit trucks under the driver substitution system.

This FY, border trade values totalled \$2.34 billion through Muse border, \$129.9 million via Lweje, \$292.8 million via Chinshwehaw, \$208 million via Kampaiti, and over \$5.227 million via Kengtung. The Commerce Ministry’s data showed a rise in trade value through all those border posts.

Muse is an important border in Myanmar and handles an enormous volume of trade. But at times, it has experienced a sharp drop in business on account of China clamping down on illegal goods, resulting in a halt in the trade of agricultural products. Moreover, the COVID-19 impacts slow the trade last year.

In a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus on the border, China banned border crossing. Shortly after that, about 50 drivers are allowed to pass the border under the driver substitution system. Those drivers are, however, tested every three days. As a result, China included them in the vaccination programme, covering more than 40 Myanmar truck drivers, said vice-chair of Muse rice wholesale centre.

In a bid to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders through the border trade channel, the Ministry of Commerce, the relevant departments and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been negotiating with China counterparts.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade. Myanmar’s MOC is trying to boost exports of rice, broken rice, agro products, fruits and fisheries to China through negotiations.

Around 1,000 trucks are daily seen flowing in and out of the Muse, a central cross-border post between Myanmar and China, U Min Thein said.

Myanmar is daily shipping rice, broken rice, green grams, peanuts, various pulses and beans, onion, chilli, fishery products, consumer goods, watermelon and muskmelon to China with over 700 trucks. Meanwhile, building materials, electric appliances, medical devices, consumer goods, and fertilizer are imported daily with 200 trucks. Furthermore, Myanmar’s natural gas export to China is also conducted through the Muse-Ruili border. — HH/GNLM

First-ever commercial scallop farming in Yanbye Tsp to penetrate domestic market

THE first-ever commercial scallop farming near Thazintanpauk bridge in Yanbye Township, Kyaukpyu District of Rakhine State, is booming. This seafood will soon be distributed in the domestic market, a breeder said.

“I started to breed the scallops in early 2020 with a small

number of scallops. I made a place for the baby scallop to attach themselves to the stationary objects such as plastic basket, bottle and other disposed things tied to a rope and bamboo rafts floating in the water. The scallops naturally come to attach themselves to those objects in two months.

Four months later, they are collected, around five to seven scallops are cemented to a hanging rope. I have around 10,000 ropes dropped into the water. There are about 7,000 scallops that have reached the marketable size, and they will be harvested soon. A scallop is priced around K1,000. We

will send them to the domestic market first,” said U Khin Aye Maung, a breeder.

He is the first entrepreneur doing commercial scallop farming in Rakhine State. Agriculture has no negative environmental impact. Amid the scarcity of aquatic resources, this business will help the

local people earn for livings, said U Kyaw Sint, head of Kyaukpyu District Fisheries Department.

Those scallops will also be distributed to the big cities like Yangon and Mandalay beyond Kyaukphyu market. — Tin Htun Oo/ Phyo Wai Lin (IPRD)/GNLM

IMF says 'progress' after Argentina visit

IMF officials said on Thursday they had made headway in negotiations with Argentine Economy Minister Martin Guzman on a new loan package for the country as it grapples with an economic crisis made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The discussions between Guzman and Julie Kozack, IMF deputy director for the western hemisphere, and Luis Cubeddu, mission chief for Argentina reached "a common understanding of the need for macroeconomic sustainability and for safeguarding the post-Covid recovery underway," the Washington-based-crisis lender said in a statement.

"The Argentine au-



Tourists pose for pictures at the Obelisk along 9 de julio Avenue in downtown Buenos Aires. PHOTO: AFP

thorities and the IMF team made progress in defining some key principles that could underpin an economic program to help address Argentina's near- and medium-term challenges," it added. The two sides had a "shared recognition of

the importance of policies to boost value-added exports and productivity," to improve Buenos Aires's international reserves and help the economy improve growth and become more resilient.

"The Argentine au-

thorities and the team also concurred that the ongoing development of the domestic capital market would be critical for Argentina to sustainably finance much-needed investment and strengthen its overall resilience." —AFP ■

Vaccines, spring weather lift hopes for US travel comeback



A sign asking vacationers to follow Covid-19 safety protocols in Miami Beach. PHOTO: AFP

AFTER a year of pandemic restrictions, Americans want to get back on the move — a dynamic apparent in Miami's spring break revellers and Washington's deluge of rental

cars each weekend. Travel volumes remain depressed, but off their lows. Since March 11, between 1 and 1.5 million people per day have traveled by air, ac-

ording to Transportation Security Administration data.

That level, while less than half the volume in 2019, stands well above the worst of the pandemic. Many in the travel industry are optimistic about a lift from vaccines after a catastrophic 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Spring is bringing warmer weather and a brighter outlook for the travel industry," said Amir Eylon, president of market consultancy Longwoods International. "The faster the progress is on vaccines and controlling the virus,

the faster the battered travel sector will recover."

The United States is administering about 2.5 million doses of vaccine per day.

A majority of the population is on track to be vaccinated by the July 4 national holiday, setting the stage for a much busier travel outlook.

A new poll shows that 87 per cent of American travellers have travel plans in the next six months, the highest level since March 2020 at the start of the pandemic, according to a Longwoods survey published this week. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt shuts Suez Canal amid struggle to refloat grounded megaship

THE owners of a giant container vessel blocking the Suez Canal said Thursday they faced "extreme difficulty" refloating it as Egypt temporarily closed one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Salvage experts warned the shut-down could last days or even weeks, potentially forcing businesses to re-route cargo ships around the southern tip of Africa in a blow to global supply networks.

On the third day of the crisis, global shipping giant Maersk and Germany's Hapag-Lloyd both said they were looking into going around Africa.

The Suez drastically shortens travel between Asia and Europe. The Singapore-Rotterdam route, for example, is 6,000 kilometres (3,700 miles) and up to two weeks shorter via the canal than going around Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

Egypt's Suez Canal Authority (SCA) said it was doing all it could to refloat the MV Ever Given, a 400-metre (1,300-foot) long and 200,000 tonne vessel which veered off course and ran aground in a sandstorm on Tuesday. —AFP ■

New US jobless claims drop below 700,000, 1st time since pandemic: govt

NEW filings for regular unemployment benefits in the United States dropped to 684,000 last week, the government said Thursday, their first reading below 700,000 since the pandemic sparked mass layoffs.

The drop of 97,000 from the prior's week's upwardly revised figure was much better than analysts forecast and comes as Covid-19 vaccinations offer hope the economy can recover this year. But, in a sign of the virus's ongoing toll, 241,745 new claims were received in the week ended March 20 under a special programme for freelance workers, the Labour Department said.

That was nonetheless nearly 42,000 less than the week before, and though analysts acknowledged the crisis is far from over, the economy may finally be on the path to a sustained decline in joblessness. —AFP ■

Tokyo stocks rise on renewed optimism for U.S. economic recovery

TOKYO stocks advanced Friday on renewed expectations for a U.S. economic recovery following progress on vaccine rollouts and improved labour market data.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 446.82 points, or 1.56 per cent, from Thursday at 29,176.70. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished 28.61 points, or 1.46 per cent, higher at 1,984.16. Gainers were led by marine transportation, precision instrument, and land transportation issues. —Kyodo New ■



Tokyo stocks advanced Friday on renewed expectations for a U.S. economic recovery following progress on vaccine rollouts and improved labor market data. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1043W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1043W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-3-2021 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.

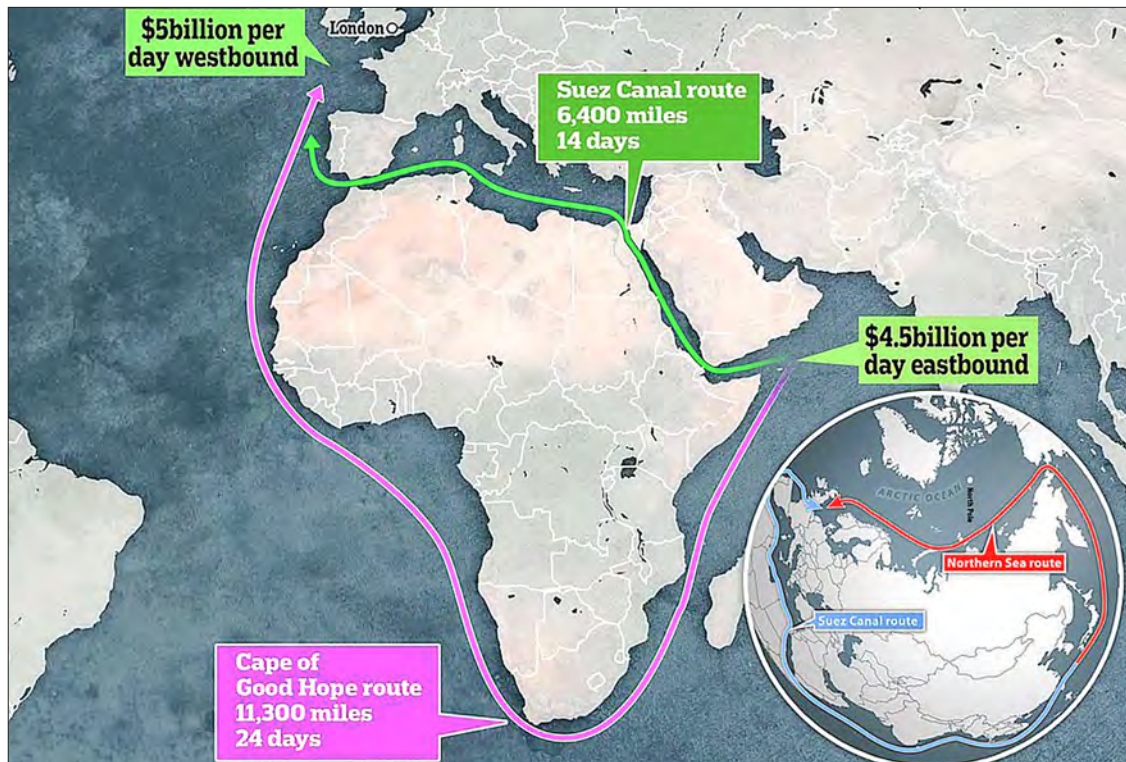
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Russia pushes northern sea route as an alternative to the Suez Canal



Russia cheekily pushed the Northern Sea Route on Thursday as an "alternative" to Egypt's Suez Canal after a huge container ship blocked the busy shipping lane. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIA cheekily pushed the Northern Sea Route on Thursday as an "alternative" to Egypt's Suez Canal after a huge container ship blocked the busy shipping lane.

President Vladimir Putin has long promoted the passage along the country's Siberian coast as a rival to the Suez Ca-

nal, and Russia seized on the Egyptian route's traffic jam to play it up again.

The Japanese-owned, Panama-flagged MV Ever Given got

stuck Tuesday during a sandstorm, blocking the waterway that connects the Mediterranean with the Red Sea and which handles more than 10 per cent of global maritime trade.

Russia's nuclear agency Rosatom on Thursday gave three tongue-in-cheek reasons "to consider Northern Sea Route as a viable alternative to the Suez Canal Route".

The first reason, Rosatom said on its English-language Twitter account, was that the Arctic passage provides "way more space to draw peculiar pictures using your giant ships".

Rosatom included a link to a news article that reported that a tracking map showed the giant ship had made the shape of male genitals before becoming stuck.

If ships get stuck in the Northern Sea Route, Russia would send ice-breakers to help dislodge them, said the nuclear agency, which is the passage's official infrastructure operator.

—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

'It's sick': Biden blasts Republican efforts to restrict voting

President Joe Biden on Thursday blasted Republican efforts to restrict voting in numerous states, saying "it's sick."

"I'm convinced that we'll be able to stop this because it is the most pernicious thing. This makes Jim Crow look like Jim Eagle. I mean, this is gigantic, what they're trying to do. And it cannot be sustained," he told reporters at his first news conference at the White House.

During the hourlong session with reporters, Biden was asked if he was worried about the Democratic Party's mid-term prospects should a push to pass federal voting rights legislation fail.

"What I'm worried about is how un-American this whole initiative is. —AFP ■

Hard to meet May 1 deadline to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan: Biden

United States President Joe Biden on Thursday (local time) said it is going to be hard to meet the May 1 deadline to pull out US troops from Afghanistan as per the deal made during the Donald Trump administration. Speaking at his first press conference since taking office, Biden said that, "It is gonna be hard to meet the May 1 deadline."

In terms of tactical reason... it is hard to get those troops out. We have been meeting with our allies, those who also have troops in Afghanistan. If we leave we will do it in a safe and orderly way. We

are in consultations with our allies and partners on how to proceed." "It is not my intention to stay there for a long time. But the question is how and under what circumstances do we meet that agreement that was made by (former) President Trump," Biden said when asked about exit of US troops from Afghanistan. Lastly, Biden said, "We (US) will leave (Afghanistan), the question is when we will leave." Since coming to power the Biden administration has made it clear that it is not willing to let the Taliban have its way as the price



US troops are seen through a firing position at the Afghan National Army (ANA) checkpoint in Nerkh district of Wardak province west of Kabul. **PHOTO: AFP**

for ending the war in Afghanistan amid reports of al Qaeda gaining strength in the country. On February 29, 2020, the US and the Taliban movement signed a

peace deal in Doha, Qatar, stipulating a gradual withdrawal of US troops as well as the beginning of intra-Afghan negotiations and prisoner exchanges. —AFP ■

Fire at Saudi oil terminal after projectile hit: energy ministry

A fire broke out at an oil terminal in southern Saudi Arabia after it was hit by a projectile, the energy ministry said Friday, the sixth anniversary of a Riyadh-led military intervention in Yemen.

"A projectile attack on a petroleum products distribution terminal in Jizan... resulted in a fire in one of the terminal's tanks," the ministry said

in a statement published by the official Saudi Press Agency, adding that no casualties were reported.

It did not say who was behind the strike on Thursday, but it comes as Yemen's Huthi rebels increasingly mount attacks on the kingdom's energy installations.

The attack comes after Saudi Arabia on Monday

offered the Huthis a "comprehensive" UN-supervised ceasefire, as part of a series of fresh proposals aimed at ending the catastrophic six-year conflict.

But the Huthis swiftly dismissed the initiative as "nothing new" as they reiterated their demand that a Saudi-led air and sea blockade on Yemen be completely lifted.

Riyadh led a military coalition into Yemen in March 2015 to prop up the internationally recognized government, but it has struggled to oust the highly motivated rebels.

The coalition says it enforced a naval and air blockade to prevent the smuggling of weapons to the rebels from Iran -- allegations Tehran denies. —ANI ■

Russia launches more UK telecom satellites into space

A Soyuz rocket blasted off from the Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia's Far East on Thursday carrying 36 UK telecommunications and internet satellites, the Roscosmos space agency said.

OneWeb, a London-headquartered company, is working to complete the construction of a constellation of low earth orbit satellites providing enhanced broadband and other services to countries around the world.

The company is competing in the race to provide fast internet for the world's remote areas via satellites along with tech billionaire Elon Musk and fellow billionaire Jeff Bezos of Amazon.

Images released by Roscosmos showed the Soyuz rocket taking off against clear blue skies Thursday morning at 0247 GMT.

Roscosmos said in a statement that the launch and separation "took place normally".

"We can confirm our sixth separation is complete. Over half our satellites have now been released!" OneWeb wrote on Twitter. —AFP ■

Suez Canal blockade costing around \$400 million an hour

SO far, trawlers and bulldozers have failed to dislodge the huge container ship called EverGiven that remains stuck in the Suez Canal for a third day, raising the prospect of a prolonged delay in what is arguably the world's most important waterway.

Faced with the blockage the vessel has created, Egypt has opened an old section of the canal to divert traffic, fearing the closure could drag on. Eight tugboats continue to work on the operation to reopen the canal traffic, which the authorities say could take days.

The best chance of freeing the ship may not come until Sunday or Monday, when the tide is at its zenith, according to Nick Sloan, head of the rescue operation in charge of refloating the Costa Concordia, a cruise



Canal service provider Leth Agencies said at least 150 ships were waiting for the Ever Given to be cleared, including vessels near Port Said on the Mediterranean Sea, Port Suez on the Red Sea and those already stuck in the canal system on Egypt's Great Bitter Lake. PHOTO: AFP

ship that capsized off the coast of Italy in 2012.

The accident began on Tuesday when strong winds blew

through the region and kicked up sand on the banks of the 120-

mile channel that links the Mediterranean Sea in the north to the Red Sea in the south.

The waterway is narrow, less than 205 metres in places, and can be difficult to navigate when visibility is poor, but the EverGiven continued its course through the canal, en route to Rotterdam from China.

As storms reached 46mph, the crew lost control of the ship and it drifted into a sand embankment, closing almost the entire canal. The Panama Maritime Authority, which is responsible to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for all investigations of accidents or incidents occurring on board Panamanian-flagged vessels such as the EverGiven, has announced that it will open an investigation into the accident. —ANI ■

Rarely seen Paris Van Gogh sells for over 13 mn euros



Not considered a supreme Van Gogh masterpiece, it still went for \$15.4 million. PHOTO: AFP

ONE of the few paintings by Vincent Van Gogh still in private hands sold for more than 13 million euros at auction Thursday,

Sotheby's said. "Street Scene in Montmartre" -- on public display for the first time since its creation in

1887, after a century in the same collection -- fetched 13.09 million euros (\$15.4 million), the auction house said.

At well above the estimate of 5-8 million euros, the sale price was a record for the artist in France, it added.

The painting was the highlight of an auction of 33 works from masters including Degas, Magritte, Modigliani, Klee, Rodin and his muse Camille Claudel sold in an auction live-streamed by Sotheby's in Paris.

The painting was reoffered at the end of the sale in Paris, after the auction house scrapped its initial sale earlier in the afternoon -- where it fetched a slightly higher sale price -- due to problems

with online bidding.

Other highlights included the sale of a recently restored work by Camille Pissarro, "La Recolte des pois", which fetched 3.38 million euros. It had been originally commissioned by Van Gogh's brother, Theo.

Francis Picabia's "La Corrida" meanwhile fetched 3.15 million euros.

First time on show

The 1887 Van Gogh, one of more than 200 paintings produced by the Dutch post-Impressionist master during two years spent in Paris, portrays one of the windmills that dotted Montmartre when it was just a village on the northern outskirts of the capital. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

5 killed, power outage as tornadoes hit U.S. Alabama

A cluster of tornadoes swept through the southern US state of Alabama Thursday evening, killing at least five people, authorities said.

Video posted on social media showed debris swirling in the air, trees uprooted and homes damaged.

"I urge all folks in the path of these tornadoes and storm systems to remain on high alert," Governor Kay Ivey tweeted. —AFP ■

Spa worker, waiter, mechanic: New Yorkers patrol after anti-Asian attacks

WEARING bright safety vests and carrying walkie-talkies, volunteers patrol a Chinese neighbourhood in New York to protect Asian Americans against a surge of pandemic-era violence after deadly mass shootings at Asian-owned spas in Atlanta.

"We want to show our presence so that any person who wants to commit a crime will think again," says Richard Lee, team leader of Public Safety Patrol (PSP).

The men and women from various professions walk the streets of Chinatown in Flushing, Queens nightly in groups of around eight to reassure scared residents and help catch any

would-be attackers.

The PSP, which started its walkabouts on Monday, is similar to other civil patrol teams that have mobilised in San Francisco and Oakland in response to the spike in attacks against Asian Americans since the outbreak of coronavirus.

Vice-president Kenny Li quickly recruited more than 240 volunteers, including waiters, office workers and lawyers through social media and word of mouth. They coordinate their activities via a WhatsApp group and Facebook. The vast majority have no self-defence training, just a desire to help others during their free time. —AFP ■



The men and women from various professions walk the streets of Chinatown in Flushing, Queens, nightly. PHOTO: AFP

New York Times digital 'NFT' story sells for \$563,000

A New York Times columnist on Thursday sold one of his articles in digital form for \$563,000, the latest example of the craze surrounding "non fungible tokens" that collectors are snapping up.

Keven Roose's article entitled "Buy This Column on the Blockchain" was itself aimed at trying to test the market as to what sort of items would sell in the form of an "NFT."

A non-fungible token (NFT) is a digital object, such as a drawing, piece of music, photo, or video, with a certificate of authenticity created by blockchain technology. —AFP

Myanmar women's team still garners top FIFA rank amidst Asia

THE Myanmar women's national football team is currently among the top ten Asian teams, with a 44th world ranking, according to the latest announcement of the FIFA ranking.

Myanmar took 45th posi-

tion in the world ranking last year and now has increased one ranking to 44th, with 1527 total points. Also, two ASEAN football teams, Viet Nam and Thailand, are included in the top ten list.

Team Viet Nam is current-

ly in sixth place among the best Asian teams, with a 32nd world ranking and 1665 total points, while Team Thailand is following Viet Nam in seventh place, collecting 1620 total points and 38th in the world ranking.

Australia remained the

best team in Asia, with a 7th world ranking, while Japan is the second-best Asian team, with a world ranking of 10.

North Korea's team is the third-best among Asian teams, with an 11th world ranking, and China's team is the fourth-

best in Asia, ranking 15th in the world.

Meanwhile, South Korea is in sixth place, ranked 20th in the world, and Chinese Taipei is in eighth place in Asia, ranked 40th in the world. —GNLM ■

Ward-Prowse, Watkins score first England goals in San Marino rout

LONDON — England made a confident start to their World Cup qualifying campaign as James Ward-Prowse and Ollie Watkins scored their first international goals in Thursday's (March 25) 5-0 win against San Marino.

Gareth Southgate's side raced into a three-goal lead before half-time at Wembley in their opening Group I fixture.

Southampton midfielder Ward-Prowse started the scoring before Dominic Calvert-Lewin and stand-in captain Raheem Sterling netted against the out-classed minnows.

With first choice striker Harry Kane left on the bench, Calvert-Lewin staked his claim to serve as the England skipper's main back-up when he scored again in the second half.

Aston Villa forward Watkins enjoyed a dream debut as he came off the bench to complete the rout in the closing stages. Only some sloppy finishing and a fine display from San Marino



England's Ollie Watkins (centre) scores their fifth goal against San Marino at London's Wembley Stadium, on March 25, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

keeper Elia Benedettini prevented England winning by far more.

The road to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar is unlikely to be paved with many obstacles for England, who are by far the strongest side in their group.

Instead, the San Marino match, Sunday's qualifier in Albania and Poland's visit to Wembley on Wednesday, all serve as

vital warm-ups for the delayed Euro 2020.

After that, Southgate has only two June friendlies against Austria and Romania to fine-tune his squad before the tournament starts in June.

Southgate's 50th game as England boss won't linger long in the memory given the paucity of the opposition, but he still learnt valuable lessons. —AFP ■

Wawrinka has foot surgery, misses key Roland Garros build-up events

PARIS — Former world number three Stan Wawrinka has undergone surgery on a left foot injury and pulled out of a series of key build-up tournaments ahead of the French Open.

The 35-year-old will miss clay court events in Marbella, Monte Carlo and Belgrade in April.

However, he hopes to be fully fit in time for the May 23 start of Roland Garros, where he won the second of his three

Grand Slam titles in 2015.

"After having some problems in my left foot for a while, I have decided to do a small procedure on it. Everything went well," Wawrinka wrote on Twitter.

"I will be out for a few weeks, but can't wait to start practising again soon".

Wawrinka, currently at 21 in the world, underwent two left knee surgeries in August 2017. —AFP ■



Out of action: Stan Wawrinka. PHOTO: AFP

'Man of the match': Chelsea player hailed by his country's national media for latest display



France's midfielder N'Golo Kante (L) vies with Ukraine's midfielder Ruslan Malinovskyi during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualification football match between France and Ukraine at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, outside Paris, on March 24, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON — Chelsea's N'Golo Kante earned the compliments from French media outlets following a strong performance for France last night.

Le Blues were held 1-1 with Ukraine during their opening World Cup qualifying fixture yesterday evening.

Kante had carried over his fine form for Chelsea onto the international scene, and his efforts were picked up by journalists over in France.

Foot Mercato said the 29-year-old was "The man of the match".

They also wrote: "With a large volume of play and desire until the final whistle, the number 13 chained the kilometers to come and recover the ball high enough on the lawn.

"He also lost very little since he played very simple with the ball, with one or two touches of the ball. Another big match for Kante."

The summary of his display was almost a carbon copy of what Blues fans have been witnessing over the past few months.

That endless amount of energy has been a theme throughout Kante's career, but a strength that's been hampered in recent years.

Injuries have been the crux of this problem. He missed large chunks of last season through hamstring and muscle problems, issues that have rolled over into this term.

However, thanks to Thomas Tuchel's more cautious approach, Kante looks free of his injury demons. —AFP ■