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Media plays a crucial role in the enhancement of freedom of expression for democracy, improving transparency of government by distributing knowledge to people: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is unveiling the Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital in Yangon on 2 May 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing commissioned the Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital and the Myawady Media Centre on Moegaung Road in Yankin Township of Yangon Region into service yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win, Chairman of Yangon Region Administration Council U Hla Soe and Chairman of Myanmar Economic Corporation Lt-Gen Nyo Saw cut the ribbon to open the Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital.

The ceremony was also attended by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, members of the Council and the Joint Sec-

retary, Union Ministers, senior military officers and officials.

In accord with the guidance of the Senior General, the Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital was built as an international level maternal and child hospital reliable for the citizens so as to contribute to the private health sector. The hospital will conduct maternal and child healthcare services such as In Vitro Fertilization process, storage of genetic items, genetically diagnostic work, lifelong vaccination, care and treatment for lesser development of children, counselling and therapy for the nutrition of children, and special care for babies.

Experienced nurses, specialists and technicians will give healthcare services to the patients using modern machinery

round the clock for maternal and child health. Moreover, obstetric and gynaecologic specialists, experienced nurses and embryo experts in the hospital will help solve the parents' problems without the chance to give birth to babies. Moreover, the hospital is facilitated with four mini gardens, outdoor and indoor playgrounds for children and hospital waste treatment, and ATM, convenience store, food court, cafeteria, and shops.

Next, Union Minister for Information U Chitt Naing, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor U Bo Htay and Chairman of Myanmar Economic Corporation Lt-Gen Nyo Saw opened the Myawady Media Centre.

The Senior General unveiled the two buildings separately.

Experienced nurses, specialists and technicians will give healthcare services to the patients using modern machinery round the clock for maternal and child health. Moreover, obstetric and gynaecologic specialists, experienced nurses and embryo experts in the hospital will help solve the parents' problems without the chance to give birth to babies.

In the mini theatre, the Senior General delivered an address for the inauguration of the Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital and the Myawady

Media Centre. In his speech, the Senior General said that several coordination meetings were held with international

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung inspects development programmes in Taninthayi Region

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung conducted an inspection tour to Dawei to ensure border area and human resource development programmes being undertaken in Dawei, Palaw, Myeik and Kyunsu townships of Taninthayi Region on 29 April.

The Union Minister also inspected the concrete road paving operations, including bridge constructions in Yebyu Township of Dawei District, together with Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Saw Than Hlaing, Region Administration Council Member (1) Colonel Kyaw Zeya and other officials. The respective site engineers clarified the operations, and the Union Minister left the necessary instructions.

The Ministry of Border Affairs makes an effort to develop

inter-village road transportation and socio-economy by paving concrete roads and building bridges in Yebyu Township of Dawei District with K1069.716 million budget in 2020-2021 FY, and it completes about 75 per cent of operations. The Union Minister also visited Dawei-Launglon-Thayetchaung townships to check the drinking water distribution system on 30 April, and region municipal officials presented the current work plans.

The Union Minister then met the staff of the Taninthayi Region Development Supervisory Office and border youth development training centre (Dawei) and stressed the need to follow the civil service personnel law with full of loyalty to the country. The demonstrators should teach the physical and mental issues in addition to the subjects.



The MoBA Union Minister is inspecting the border youth development training centre (Dawei).

He also highlighted the duties of demonstrators and inspected the training centre compound and construction work of staff housings.

The Union Minister and party also checked the gravel road paving operation on Madaw

junction-Thabyupyin inter-village road in Nan Thila village-tract of Palaw township in Myeik District. He then inspected construction of Kan Zaw Taw embankment and the upgrade of the Aye Yeik Nyein dam in Kyunsu Township.

He also inspected earthen

road paving operations and RC bridge construction in Kan Gyi village-tract of Kyunsu Township of Myeik District on 1 May. He met the staff of the Myeik District Development Supervisory Office and women's vocational training school. — MNA

Banking, mobile monetary services run as usual

EFFORTS were made to regularly apply the monetary systems and applications that bank and mobile monetary service providers operate through the Internet during the period of temporarily interrupting the mobile Internet. The

Ayeyawady Bank, Kanbawza Bank, Cooperative Bank, Inwa Bank, Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank, UAB Bank, Myanmar Apex Bank, Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank, Asian Green Development Bank and Shwe Rural and Urban Devel-

opment Bank give services on account to account transfer, wallet to wallet, bank to the wallet, wallet to the bank, and CCT functions of CMB Net to the public with the use of mobile banking, Internet banking, mobile top-up, other cards top-

up, bill payments, Visa/Master credit card payment, MPU cards, all ATMs and Bank Pay starting 28 April.

As a result, current banking services and mobile monetary services are being operated as usual. Selling and buying

processes, monetary services and other functions are being run at shopping malls, department stores, restaurants, hotels and other cash payment processes using cards such as MPU cards and Visa/Master credit card payment. — MNA

Media plays a crucial role in the enhancement of freedom ...



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries are posing for a documentary group photo at the unveiling ceremony of the Myawady Media Centre yesterday.

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experts and organizations to implement the project's successful emergence of the Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital. According to health data, Myanmar is the fifth largest populous country among the regional countries. Myanmar increases the healthcare expenditure year after year. **Some 500 people per day went to neighbouring countries to receive medical treatments during the years before the outbreak of COVID-19. As such, a total of 217,951 people went to neighbouring countries to receive**

medical treatments in 2017. The number of patients going to Thailand accounted for 56 per cent, India 19 per cent and Singapore 11 per cent.

Based on healthcare services data, there are 1,301 hospitals across the nation, 1,115 of which are public hospitals and 178 private hospitals. In the entire country, these hospitals can give 61,395 beds to patients, 55,895 of which can be seen at the public hospitals and 5,500 at the private ones. According to the census, some 72 per cent of patients receive medical treatment at private hospitals and clinics. So,

Efforts were made to occupy the market of receiving medical treatment abroad of the people. Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital was built with the aim of overcoming challenges of the language barrier, removing difficulties to urgently contact medical doctors, enabling the people to have international-level medical treatment, enjoying the family-type treatment, contributing to an unbalanced ratio of hospitals to patients, and providing highly-qualified treatments to the people with the use of modern medical equipment.



The Senior General and party are looking around inside the Myawady Media Centre on 2 May 2021.

Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital was established to contribute to the private health sector of Myanmar on the one hand. Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital set a vision to constantly achieve success as a maternal and child hospital in which experts can provide the best and safest maternal and childcare services to the patients meeting the international standard round the clock. Moreover, the hospital aims to give tertiary care to the patients and children referred from various parts of the country at reasonable service charges and the efficient healthcare services in a single place as the one-stop service centre in providing treatment for maternal and child diseases.

Efforts were made to occupy the market of receiving medical treatment abroad of the people. Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital was built with the aim of overcoming challenges of the language barrier, removing difficulties to urgently contact medical doctors, enabling the people to have international level medical treatment, enjoying the family-type treatment, contributing to an unbalanced ratio of hospitals to patients, and providing highly-qualified treatments to the people with the use of modern medical equipment.

Arrangements were made to install the best brand medical equipment and modern technological machinery to be used for at least 10 years.

Efforts were made to oc-

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For the State to have good results

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

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

Media plays a crucial role in the enhancement of freedom ...

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A plan is underway to seek the joint commission international (JCI) based on six-point international patient safety goals (IPS Goals) for standing as internationally-recognized hospitals, reliable for patient safety and hospital quality. The Senior General said he inspected the work process of the hospital many times since its implementation and installation of medical equipment.

Regarding the Myawady Media Centre, the media inclusive of news, literature, movies, songs, music and television broadcasting is a force that will contribute much to the national culture and national interests of a country. The Senior General recounted that he was dissatisfied with the media condition created abroad without capacity to do so at home due to the needs of advanced technology.

So, the Senior General decided to make the arrangements for media at the opportune time.

The establishment of the media centre aims to become the reliable public media, contribute to the development of social lives of the people in accord with the media ethics, widely-developed

technologies in the news and media sector and learn modern media techniques in line with the international standard and ethics.

Every country is well-founded by executive, legislative and judicial pillars through a check and balance system. That's the essence of democratic practice. Media is the fourth pillar to monitor the afore-said three pillars. Film, Thabin, musicians and private media companies can organize each other as a network at Myawady Media Centre to serve the interests of the State.

The media, called the fourth pillar of every country, plays a crucial role in enhancing the freedom of expression for democracy, improving the government's transparency by distributing knowledge to the people. Media must have the qualification, understanding of the country's history and willing to have prosperity without derailment of traditions. The Senior General noted that media needs to give modern ideology to the people without holding the conservative idea.

Everyone can disseminate a thing targeted to the people



Children can play at the indoor playground of the Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital.

The media must be capable of giving knowledge and aesthetics to the audiences in addition to mental strength. Media must win the hearts of the audiences.

through media. So, **media relation is a task to enable the people to know something. The media industry needs to have good ideas, mechanical process, technological performance, pictures and sounds in performance and harmonized melodies. The media must be capable of giving knowledge and aesthetics to the audiences in addition to mental strength. Media must win the hearts of the audiences.**

The Myawady Media Centre aims to install and hire advanced technological shooting and equipment of sound studio for media personnel at a single place, undertake mutual cooper-

ation, screening and producing the media meeting international standards and give office services at reasonable charges.

The hospital comprises international level inpatient wards, HDU, ICU, Day Care and Emergency rooms with general medical checkup services and package and member card programmes for giving birth to babies.

Media services need to firmly prevent the broader infiltration of concepts, lifestyle and culture of developed countries using modern multimedia for serving their interests into other countries and attacks of political, economic and social

sectors. Thanks to the support of Myawady Media Centre, media industrialists, media personnel, and artistes must strive for all tasks in unison.

The Senior General and party viewed round functions of broadcasting and presentation programmes of media at the centre.

In accord with the guidance of the Senior General, the Myawady Media Centre was built as of May 2019 to enable the primary media with public reliance in undertaking media tasks and develop the media sector meeting international standard.

The Myawady Media Centre is a seven-storey building. The first and second floors accommodate a 200-seat 3D cinema, a 300-seat LED projector theatre, two TV studios, other respective studios, library and training halls. The third, fourth and fifth floors are formed with business offices and the sixth floor with a ballroom, a function hall and a meeting hall. — MNA



Modern medical equipment is seen at the Moe Kaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital.

MoHA Union Minister meets security force members

LT-GEN Soe Htut, member of the State Administration Council and Union Minister for Home Affairs and Union Government Office, met the security members and their families in Thawutti, Thagaya

and Toungoo yesterday. During his visit, the Union Minister discussed the emergence of the State Administration Council in detail, five-point road map and nine objectives of SAC, the performance of

current UEC, the occurrence of intense riots instead of peaceful protests starting 1 February to date, destructive elements and attacks with firearms to affect the stability of the state.

The Union Minister also highlighted the dos and don'ts for the security members and stressed the need to serve the duties not to defame the respective outfits and to be careful regarding the external

destructive elements. The Union Minister and wife then provided the food aids to the families of security forces and inspected the farming and breeding in the staff housing compound. — MNA

Union Minister attends support ceremony to elderly and persons with disabilities in Kayah State

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine attended the support ceremony to charity organizations, persons with disabilities and the elderly in Kayah State held in Loikaw on 1 May.

The ceremony was also attended by the Kayah State Administration Council chairman and council members, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Tun Khaing, Regional Command Headquarters (Loikaw) Brig-Gen Tun Naing Oo, department officials, representatives from the charity/volunteer organizations and the persons with disabilities.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister said that as per the National Strategic Plan for Social Protection adopted in 2014 and the Senior Citizens Law (2016), 85-year and above elderly people were provided with a monthly

allowance of 10,000 kyats per quarter.

Regarding the persons with disabilities, she added the rules and laws drawn up for them in 2015 and 2017, with the formation of committees in respective regions and states for the rights of persons with disabilities in order to effectively implement the rules and law for them and cooperation with the UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs and organizations of the persons with disabilities.

She expressed thanks to all stakeholders for working together with the ministry to support the vulnerable people and extensively implement social welfare activities.

A total of K101.154 million kyats: K71.724 million to the charity/volunteer organizations, K26.04 million for a total of 868 senior citizens and K3.39 million to a total of 113 persons with disabilities, were provided at the



The support ceremony to the elderly, charity organizations and persons with disabilities in progress.

ceremony. Afterwards, the Union Minister and party also met the Department of Disaster Management staff and coordinated

the discussion and presentation made by the attendees. In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party inspected the Rehabilitation Centre in Pekhon

Township and the construction of the entrance concrete road to the centre built by Paing Phyo Khant Company with the ministry fund of the 2020-2021FY. — MNA

National Races Village (Yangon) reopened following COVID-19 guidelines



The Union National Races Village (Yangon) reopens to public on 2 May 2021.

THE Union National Races Village (Yangon) under the Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture, Ministry of Ethnic

Affairs, was temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and reopened yesterday morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung,

Yangon Region Administration Council members, officials, special invitees and ethnic literature and culture organizations and department staff.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister said the Union National Races Village (Yangon) was established with the aim of strengthening the spirit of national unity by being able to study the cultural traditions of the ethnic nationalities that have been living together in the country for a long time, and it has been over 19 years today.

The Union National Races Village was closed on 24 March 2020 and will be reopened following the COVID-19 rules and regulations. Annual traditional festivals of ethnic nationalities will continue to be held, and entertainment programmes will also be convened on weekends in cooperation with the National University of Arts and

Culture. The Union Minister and party toured the Nan Myint Tower, ethnic traditional houses, the site for jetty and the mangrove forest. They met the ethnic literature and culture organizations. During the meeting, he stressed the need to be united among the ethnic nationalities for stability and peace in the country.

The Union Minister also met with the officials from the Union National Races Village and provided cash assistance.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and the Deputy Minister met with the nine Rakhine Literature and Cultural organizations in Kamayut and provided cash assistance.

He also met with the Kayin Literature and Cultural organizations in regions/states and provided cash assistance. — MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

1 May 2021

- Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Taze and Kyunhla townships of Sagaing Region.
- Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commission	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CS
1	116 polling stations Taze township of Sagaing Region	146,498	141,729	4,463	382	10,314
2	91 polling stations Kyunhla township of Sagaing Region	7,164	51,059	4,317	323	6,404

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

4. According to the inspection, a total of polling stations in these two townships took out 251,709 ballots and used 174,614 ballots. It left 74,969 ballots instead of 77,095 ballots. The difference was 3,607 ballots and it found 1,481 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Taze	116	163,282	114,933	48,349	47,726	1,628	1,005
2	Kyunhla	91	88,427	59,681	28,746	27,243	1,979	476
	Total	207	251,709	174,614	77,095	74,969	3,607	1,481

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Taze Township

5. According to the inspection, 116 polling stations in 4 Wards and 57 Village-tracts of Taze Township in Sagaing Region took out 163,282 ballots and used 114,933 ballots. It left 47,726 ballots instead of 48,349. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	155,879	114,439	41,440	40,817	1,628	1,005
2	Township advance ballots	811	494	317	317		
3	Township remaining ballots	6,592		6,592	6,592		
	Total	163,282	114,933	48,349	47,726	1,628	1,005

6. There were 1,628 missing ballots and 1,005 extra ballots at 116 polling stations in 4 Wards and 57 Village-tracts of Taze Township.

7. According to the inspection, it found 40 advance ballot receipts without the names of voters, voting serial No, polling station No, ward/village-tracts at No (2) polling station of Yay Oo Gone Village-tract.

8. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/ Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myittar Myaing Ward	2	4,650	3,427	1,223	1,225	50	52
2	Paw Oo Ward	1	2,650	2,134	516	516		
3	Mahamyang Ward	1	3,106	2,494	612	612		
4	Bomya Ward	1	2,296	1,723	573	577		4
5	Ngatan Village-tract	1	2,397	1,864	533	532	1	
6	Kalazin Village-tract	1	2,054	1,621	433	429	4	
7	Shwetakyay Village-tract	1	1,600	1,316	284	284		
8	Daeyauk Village-tract	1	1,000	734	266	266		
9	Chaungyoe Village-tract	1	1,458	1,103	355	355		
10	Khapaungkyaing Village-tract	1	1,554	1,180	374	370	4	
11	Ywarthayar Village-tract	1	2,245	1,481	764	519	245	
12	Kangyokone Village-tract	1	750	515	235	235		
13	Koneyoe Village-tract	1	1,750	1,415	335	335		
14	Shwekadaw Village-tract	1	1,600	1,260	340	338	2	
15	Innating Village-tract	1	1,904	1,482	422	422		
16	Waryangae Village-tract	2	2,400	1,766	634	634	50	50
17	Nganuchaung Village-tract	2	2,152	1,439	713	711	2	
18	Ywarshae (S) Village-tract	2	2,550	1,680	870	870		
19	Ywarma Village-tract	2	2,100	1,299	801	751	50	
20	Shweku Village-tract	2	1,850	1,225	625	625		
21	Koneswar Village-tract	1	1,500	984	516	516		
22	Hsanhswe Village-tract	2	3,300	2,734	566	1,066		500
23	Khayanchan Village-tract	3	4,750	3,184	1,566	1,516	50	
24	Nyaungzigon Village-tract	2	2,700	1,895	805	805		
25	Laetee Village-tract	3	2,352	1,559	793	842		49
26	Kanhtooma Village-tract	6	10,300	8,123	2,177	2,177		
27	Kyaunghsinai Village-tract	2	2,150	1,551	599	599		
28	Zeepauk Village-tract	3	3,150	2,314	836	636	200	
29	Pakar Village-tract	2	1,300	986	314	314		
30	Mauktat Village-tract	2	750	519	231	181	50	

31	Ywarmontaung Village-tract	2	1,750	1,454	296	296	50	50
32	Seinnan Village-tract	5	4,700	3,475	1,225	1,075	150	
33	Tawgyin Village-tract	2	1,150	847	303	303	50	50
34	Kyuntawgon Village-tract	1	1,900	1,521	379	379		
35	Nyanthar Village-tract	1	500	373	127	127		
36	Tototalote Village-tract	4	3,450	2,458	992	992		
37	Hsinngae Village-tract	1	1,300	1,021	279	279		
38	Innkokka Village-tract	1	2,166	1,638	528	512	16	
39	Chaungzon (S) Village-tract	1	1,950	1,902	48	48		
40	Phalanchaing Village-tract	1	1,750	1,441	309	359		50
41	Nabatgyi Village-tract	1	1,402	1,139	263	211	52	
42	Nabatngae Village-tract	2	2,500	1,767	733	733		
43	Yayoogon Village-tract	3	3,102	2,399	703	703	50	50
44	Daunggyi Village-tract	2	2,950	2,106	844	844		
45	Paykone Village-tract	1	800	498	302	302		
46	Chaungoo Village-tract	1	2,450	1,786	664	664		
47	Oukphoai Village-tract	1	1,000	766	234	234		
48	Thitsaygon Village-tract	2	2,650	1,793	857	857		
49	Thaesar Village-tract	3	2,550	1,730	820	820		
50	Thittawpauk Village-tract	3	4,900	3,366	1,534	1,534	100	100
51	Tapoe Village-tract	2	3,300	2,126	1,174	1,172	2	
52	Karpaungkyay Village-tract	2	2,800	1,736	1,064	764	300	
53	Chaungzon (N) Village-tract	2	2,750	1,975	775	725	50	
54	Nanawintaw Village-tract	4	4,700	3,275	1,425	1,425		
55	Patee Village-tract	2	2,850	2,174	676	676		
56	Aungswar Village-tract	4	2,850	1,966	884	884		
57	Ywarshae (N) Village-tract	6	9,350	6,714	2,636	2,586	100	50
58	Ettaw Village-tract	1	2,150	1,669	481	481		
59	Bayyin Village-tract	1	2,291	1,742	549	549		
60	Muugwa Village-tract	1	2,050	1,444	606	606		
61	Kyunlae Village-tract	1	1,550	1,131	419	419		
	Ward/village- tract ballots	116	155,879	114,439	41,440	40,817	1,628	1,005
	Township advance ballots		811	494	317	317		
	Township Remaining ballots		6,592		6,592	6,592		
	Township Total	116	163,282	114,933	48,349	47,726	1,628	1,005

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Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Kyunhla Township

9. According to the inspection, 91 polling stations in 4 Wards and 34 Village-tracts of Kyunhla Township in Sagaing Region took out 88,427 ballots and used 59,681 ballots. It left 27,243 ballots instead of 28,746. The extra/shortage ballots and extra illegal ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village -tract ballots	82,650	59,459	23,191	21,688	1,979	476
2	Township Advanced ballots	222	222				
3	Township Remaining ballots	5,555		5,555	5,555		
Total		88,427	59,681	28,746	27,243	1,979	476

10. There were 1,979 missing ballots and 476 extra ballots at 91 polling stations in 4 Wards and 34 Village-tracts of Kyunhla Township.

11. According to the inspection, it found 40 advance ballot receipts without the names of voters, voting serial No, polling station No, ward/village-tracts at No (2) polling station of Taung Yar Seik Village-tract.

12. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Padaukmyaing Ward	2	3,200	2,347	853	853		
2	Pyinmamaing Ward	3	4,350	2,571	1,779	1,429	350	
3	Thityarmaing Ward	2	3,100	2,269	831	1,081		250
4	Inngyinmyaing Ward	1	350	250	100	100		
5	Kokkagon Village-tract	2	2,400	1,878	522	532		10
6	Kyikon Village-tract	2	1,800	1,314	486	486		
7	Kyaukai Village-tract	3	3,350	2,553	797	797	100	100
8	tinteinyan Village-tract	2	1,600	1,089	511	261	250	
9	Htanpingon Village-tract	2	2,000	1,372	628	628		
10	Magyiinn Village-tract	2	1,550	1,134	416	366	50	
11	Ywarthee Village-tract	4	4,150	3,054	1,096	1,081	25	10
12	Shansu Village-tract	1	2,550	1,811	739	740		1
13	Laehla Village-tract	2	1,800	1,317	483	483		
14	Hluttaik Village-tract	3	3,100	2,275	825	825		
15	Taungyarseik Village-tract	2	1,150	800	350	350		
16	Inngaung Village-tract	2	2,450	1,596	854	804	50	
17	Inndaing Village-tract	2	2,300	1,607	693	641	52	
18	Nyaungkaing Village-tract	2	2,400	1,221	1,179	829	350	
19	Hteintaw Village-tract	2	1,050	771	279	279		

20	Yayyein Village-tract	2	1,950	1,601	349	349		
21	Innhla Village-tract	3	1,800	1,289	511	511		
22	Paykone Village-tract	2	1,350	975	375	325	50	
23	Konesee Village-tract	1	1,550	1,078	472	526		54
24	Chaungzauk Village-tract	2	1,400	1,099	301	301		
25	Nyaungpinyoe Village-tract	2	1,100	818	282	230	52	
26	Naungkauk Village-tract	4	3,800	2,811	989	989	50	50
27	Naungoo Village-tract	2	1,650	1,086	564	564		
28	Nwarlaebot Village-tract	3	1,750	1,290	460	460		
29	Mayartha Village-tract	2	1,000	768	232	182	50	
30	Mawkhay Village-tract	2	1,750	1,255	495	395	100	
31	Yayshin Village-tract	6	5,100	3,639	1,461	1,161	300	
32	Shankone Village-tract	1	1,900	1,372	528	528		
33	Leiksintaung Village-tract	2	1,800	1,438	362	362		
34	Thayetpin Village-tract	2	1,050	835	215	215		
35	Thetkaelkyin Village-tract	4	2,500	1,938	562	562		
36	Thitcho Village-tract	4	2,350	1,800	550	551		1
37	Eainchay Village-tract	5	3,300	2,506	794	744	50	
38	Myinthao Village-tract	1	900	632	268	168	100	
Ward/village tract ballots		91	82,650	59,459	23,191	21,688	1,979	476
Township Advanced ballots			222	222				
Township Remaining ballots			5,555		5,555	5,555		
Township Total		91	88,427	59,681	28,746	27,243	1,979	476

Union Election Commission

MoALI discusses livestock, fisheries sector of Taninthayi Region



ARRANGEMENTS should be made to set up the market and provide capital, seed, inputs and techniques to the farmers in improving the farming and livestock sectors, said Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation during a meeting held yesterday.

The Union Minister said that the government makes efforts to promote farming and fisheries and to produce val-

ue-added products in reviving the state economy battered by COVID-19 and for sector-wise development.

He also discussed the production of market potential farming products, plans to promote income and living standard of the local populace, distinct agricultural farmland area of Taninthayi and state peace and economic development for the proper income and living standard.

He also said the region has distinct farmland for oil palm plantations, rubber, cocoa, perennial crops and other seasonal plants, and the businesses like fishing, fish and prawn farming, and other marine product production.

Therefore, if the relevant officials adopt the proper ways with the private sectors, there would be growth in these sectors in short term.

According to proper climate

condition like neighbouring countries, it should encourage the private sectors in animal farming and fish and prawn farming sectors using research and modern techniques.

It should create a specific market for the farmers by organizing cooperative organizations to ensure solid capital, loan to expand the operations and opportunity to enter the wholesale market.

Then, Taninthayi Region

Administration Council member U Maung Gyi clarified the farming and fisheries sectors, and the attendees coordinated the discussion.

The Union Minister and region SAC members inspected crab and prawn farming carried out by private entrepreneurs under the GAP system in Kyun-su Township of Myeik district. They also checked the other food production factories.

The Union Minister also met members of the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation, fish and prawn entrepreneurs, palm oil producers and business people from the rubber industry. He discussed their challenges, using farmlands in line with the law and implementation of the international fish auction market.

Taninthayi Region has more than 136 per cent of plantations, crab and prawn farming under the GAqP system and onshore and offshore fisheries with vessel-monitoring system control centre (VMS). — MNA

Beware of climatic conditions between summer and monsoon

SOME areas in Myanmar face high day temperature, but some areas suffer torrential rains and strong winds.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology recently stated that daytime temperature hit 37°C in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon and more than 40°C in some cities of upper Myanmar. Among them, people from Mandalay and Myingyan townships are victims of heat in summer.

Although the high hotness of the summer hit the people in the dry zone of the country, torrential rains and strong winds destroyed some houses, schools and public buildings in some parts of the nation due to the terrible impacts of climate change.

For the people to avoid hotness and bad weather, the Ministry of Health and Sports disseminates warnings for the prevention of hotness, dos and don'ts for prevention of dengue, hemorrhagic fever and heat stroke, and danger of ultraviolet ray.

In recent days, most of the areas in lower Myanmar faced heavy rains. Similar events caused immediate flooding in some townships of the Yangon Region. Hence, people need to take care of their lifestyle, especially wearing clothes suitable for the changing climates on a daily basis.

People should carry out sanitation around their environs and dredge the drains for proper flow of water whenever heavy rains hit them. Such activities are designed to prevent the regeneration of insects such as fly and mosquito, which bear communicable diseases.

In fact, the month of May is an interim period between the summer and the monsoon. Very hotness of the summer and sudden wetness and coldness can bring unexpected seasonal impacts to the people. Hence, people need to have proper health knowledge on how to avoid the outbreak of diseases caused in the late summer and how to evade natural disasters, which mostly happen in the early monsoon.

Without losing the information about the COVID-19, all the people should review the situations of two seasons while analyzing the announcements over climatic conditions issued by relevant departments and broadcast by TV and radio in order to avoid the unprecedented and unexpected events such as cyclonic storm Nargis which swept various parts of Myanmar in 2008.



The Pacific Ocean

Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)

THIS article is the continuation of the previous article "The World Ocean", which has mentioned on 8th January 2021 in the Global New Light of Myanmar. The article pointed out five principal oceanic areas of the World Ocean, such as the Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and the Southern Ocean.

The Pacific Ocean, a body of saltwater extending from the Antarctic region in the south to the Arctic in the north and lying between the continents of Asia and Australia on the west and North and South American on the east. Of the three oceans that extend northward from the Antarctic continent, the Pacific is by far the largest, occupying about a third of the surface of the globe. Its area, excluding adjacent seas, encompasses about 63.8 million square miles (165.25 million square km). It has double the area and more than double the water volume of the Atlantic Ocean.

Physiography Relief

The Pacific basin may conveniently be divided into three major physiographic regions: the eastern, western, and central Pacific regions.

Eastern region

The eastern Pacific region, which extends southward from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, is relatively narrow and is associated with the American cordilleran system of almost unbroken mountain chains, the coastal ranges of which rise steeply from the western shores of North and South America. The continental shelf, which runs parallel to it, is narrow, while the adjacent continental slope is very steep. Significant oceanic trenches in this region are the Middle American Trench in the North Pacific and the Peru-Chile Trench in the South Pacific.

Western region

The seaward boundary of the western Pacific region

is marked by a broken line of oceanic trenches, extending from the Aleutian Trench in the north through the Kuril and Japan trenches and southward to the Tonga and Kermadec trenches, terminating close to the northeast of North Island, New Zealand.

Central region

The central Pacific region lies between the boundaries of the eastern and western regions. The largest and the most geologically stable of the structural provinces of the Earth's crust, it is characterized by expansive areas of low relief, lying at a general depth of about 15,000 feet (4,600 metres) below the surface.

Islands

The islands of the western region—including the Aleutians, the Kurils, the Ryukyus, Taiwan, the Malay Archipelago (including New Guinea), and New Zealand—are continental in character. Geologically, they consist partly of sedimentary rocks, and their structures are similar to those of the coastal mountain ranges of the adjacent continent.

The numerous oceanic islands of the Pacific are unevenly distributed. They lie, in the main, between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and occur in great numbers in the western Pacific. The northernmost chain of oceanic islands is associated with the Hawaiian Ridge. The Hawaiian archipelago consists of about 2,000 islands, although the term the Hawaiian Islands is usually applied to the small group that lies at the eastern end of the archipelago.

The numerous small islands of Micronesia lie mainly north of the Equator and to the west of the 180° meridian. Nearly all are coralline; the principal groups are the Marianas, the Marshalls, the Carolines, Kiribati (Gilbert Islands), and Tuvalu (Ellice Islands).

To the south of Micronesia lies Melanesia, which consists mostly of small coral islands. The region's physiography is dominated by a group of large continental islands, however, including New Guinea. The principal Melanesian island groups are the Bismarck Archipelago,

the Solomons, Vanuatu (New Hebrides), New Caledonia, and Fiji.

The immense area of Polynesia includes the Hawaiian Islands, the Phoenix Islands, Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, the Society Islands, Tuamotu, and the Marquesas.

Geology

The Pacific Ocean was born 750 million years ago at the breakup of Rodinia, although it is generally called the Panthalassa until the breakup of Pangaea, about 200 million years ago. The oldest Pacific Ocean floor is only around 180 million years old, with older crust subducted by now (Wikipedia).

All the major physical features in the Pacific are understood to originate in plate tectonics. The western Pacific arcs of volcanic islands and deep trenches are convergent zones where two plates are colliding, one being subducted. The East Pacific Rise is an active spreading centre where new crust is being created. The north-eastern Pacific margin is the strike-slip zone where the American Plate and the Pacific Plate are gliding laterally past each other via the major San Andreas Fault system. In the south-eastern Pacific, however, the Nazca Plate and the South American Plate are colliding to form the Andes Mountains along western South America and, a short distance offshore, the Peru-Chile Trench.

Of great geologic interest are the seamounts (submerged volcanoes), guyots (flat-topped seamounts), and oceanic islands of the Pacific. The numerous tropical islands of the Pacific are mainly coralline. The principal types of coral reefs—fringing, barrier, and atoll—as well as the guyots, which rise within the Pacific from the ocean floor in latitudes north and south of the tropics, are explained partially by the slow subsidence theory advanced by the English naturalist Charles Darwin during the 19th century and partially by the theory of plate tectonics.

Bottom deposits

Apart from the narrow coastal zone of the eastern region and the broad continental seas of the western region, the Pacific is floored with pelagic



The Pacific Ocean, with depth contours and submarine features. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

(oceanic) material derived from the remains of marine plants and animals that once inhabited the waters lying above. Red or brown radiolarian ooze is found along the zone of the Pacific North Equatorial Current, east of longitude 170° W, and on the floors of some deep Indonesian basins. A belt of diatom ooze occurs between latitudes 45° and 60° S and across the North Pacific, between Japan and Alaska. Calcareous globigerina ooze occurs in the shallower parts of the South Pacific, the dissolving power of the seawater at great depths being sufficient to dissolve calcareous material to such an extent that these oozes are not generally found at depths in excess of about 15,000 feet (4,600 metres). Silica-containing material, such as radiolarian and diatom ooze, is found at greater depths, but even these siliceous remains are dissolved at very great depths, where the characteristic deposit is red clay. Red clay, which covers no less than half of the Pacific floor, is believed to form colloidal (extremely finely divided) clays derived essentially from the land.

On the abyssal plains, where sediments accumulate

slowly, chemical and biological processes lead to the formation of metal-bearing coatings around objects such as the ear bones of fishes. The nodules so formed contain manganese, iron, nickel, copper, cobalt, and traces of other metals such as platinum. They cover large areas of the ocean floor in the Pacific.

Deep-sea minerals

Metal-bearing deposits on the deep-sea floor, consisting of nodules, crusts, and accumulations of metallic sulphides from deep vents, are of potential economic interest. In the 1970s and '80s, it was hoped that mining the nodules—which contain quantities of manganese, iron, copper, nickel, titanium, and cobalt, as well as small traces of other metals—might be a way to contribute to the wealth of newly industrializing countries. Marine sulphide ores, containing iron, copper, cobalt, zinc, and traces of other metallic elements, are deposited in large amounts by the actions of deep water hydrothermal vents, such as occur in the Pacific off the Galapagos Islands and on the Juan de Fuca and Gorda ridges in the Okinawa Trough

and the Manus Basin off New Guinea.

Submarine Hydrocarbons

The principal areas in the south-western Pacific for offshore oil and gas exploration are in the South China Sea—the waters off Vietnam and off Hainan Island in China and on the continental shelf northwest of the island of Palawan in the Philippines—but they also include the area off Natuna Islands and some areas off the Sumatran coast in Indonesia. In the north-western Pacific, the main areas lie to the northwest of the island of Kyushu in Japan, in the southern portion of the Yellow Sea and the Bo Hai (Gulf of Chihli), and in regions off Sakhalin Island and the Kamchatka Peninsula. Oil and gas wells have been drilled in the Bering Sea in the north and areas off the coast of southern California in the eastern Pacific. In the southern Pacific, hydrocarbon production and exploration is taking place off northwestern and northern Australia and in the Gippsland Basin off southeast Australia.

Sources: 1. Charles Henry Cotter: Pacific Ocean
2. Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

Public information

Yangon Region Administration Council is working with relevant departments to help the businesses in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their small and medium-scaled businesses and investments which are facing some delays and working to do new businesses.
Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01 830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council

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Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo meets legal officers in Bago

ATTORNEY-General of the Union Dr Thida Oo met with the legal officers from the Bago Region yesterday morning in Bago.

At the meeting, the Union Attorney-General said the matters related to the acceleration of the works in the Union Attorney-General Office and the advocate-general offices in the respective regions and states, staffing issues, transfer and promotion, matters related to improving the quality of legal staff

in every level and the civil disobedience movement.

Advocate-General of the Bago Region U Khin Maung Tint and regional law officer U Khin Maung Lwin presented the requirement of the work implementing in Bago Region, law officers from Bago, Toungoo, Pyay and Thayawady districts presented their implementation works, and the Union Attorney-General coordinated the meeting. — MNA

Working committee on facilitation of trade and goods holds meeting



The MoC deputy minister meets industrialist and business people in Bago yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister U Nyunt Aung of the Ministry of Commerce, in his capacity of Chairman of the Working Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, met the business persons and entrepreneurs from Bago Industrial Zone yesterday morning in Bago.

The meeting was also attended by the Bago Region Administration Council members, the Permanent Secretary from

the Ministry of Commerce, committee officials and department officials from the Bago Region.

The meeting focused on trade, withdrawing salary, cash withdrawal to purchase the necessary raw materials for the factories, banking and current challenges.

The Deputy Minister said the Myanmar Central Bank is carrying out the matters related to the banking, and the OSS Bank, Industrial OSS and the

Working Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods are conducting issues pertaining to the cash withdrawal for salary payment and raw materials.

It is reported that industrial business persons and entrepreneurs can contact the numbers of the working committee – 09664075683, 09687635943, 09676320826 and 09664596327 if there are difficulties in trading and flow of goods. — MNA

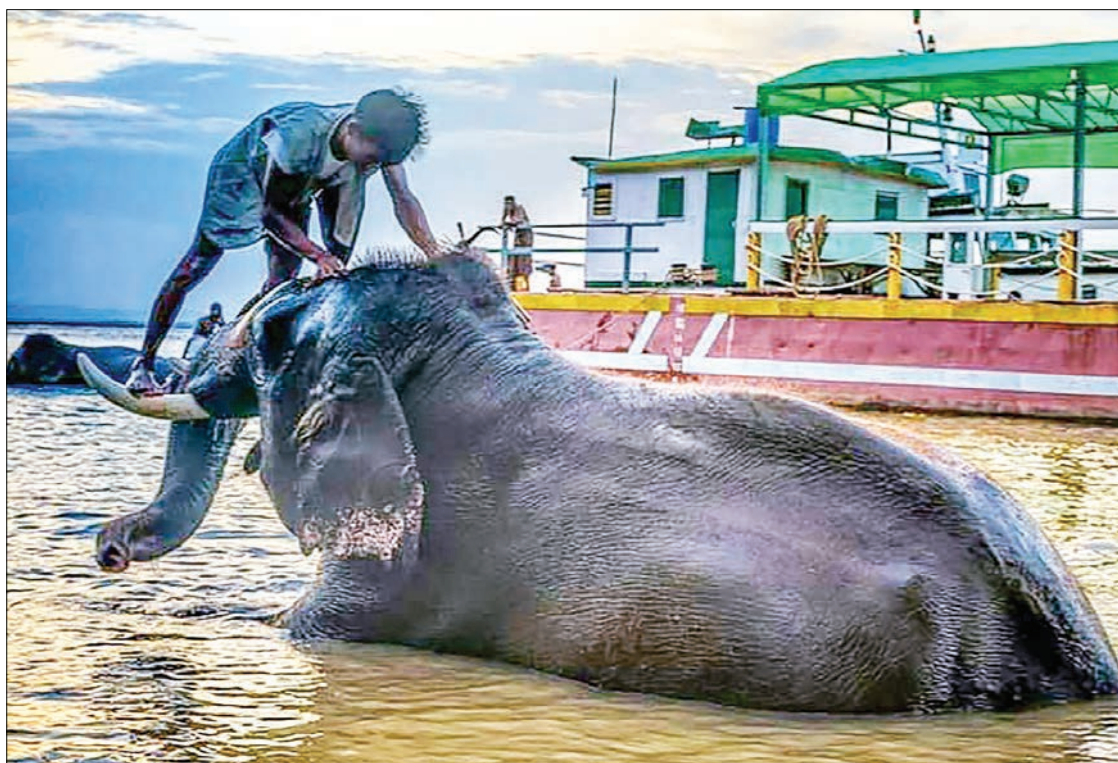
7 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 May, total figure rises to 142,838

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,838** after **7 new cases** were reported on 2 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **131,981** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Palin River View Elephant Camp prepped for reopening with strict COVID-19 guidelines

PALIN River View Elephant Camp under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in NyaungU Township, Mandalay is planned to reopen soon in line with the COVID-19 health guidelines, NyaungU District Administration Council stated.

The Palin River View Elephant Camp has been temporarily closed down since 25 March 2020 in light of COVID-19 precaution measures. The officials concerned are now prepping for reopening, and more recreation sites and viewpoints were built in the camp, including a jetty and tree house for Ayeyawady River View, camps along the river, playgrounds and other facilities. The visitors can watch elephant bathing and also observe the livelihood, habitat, behavior and characteristics of the Asian and African ele-



Palin River View Elephant Camp has seven elephants, aging 1 to 27 years. Myanmar implemented elephant-based tourism, developed eco-tourism sites and opened the elephant camps near rivers and mountain ranges.

phants at the elephant museum, featuring the structure of

elephants and elephant tusks. The museum exhibits how to

tame the elephant as well. The elephant lovers can also study

about the white elephant and elephant twins. A local visitor is charged K1,000 while the entrance fee for a tourist is K5,000. The elephant rides cost K5,000 for a local traveller and K10,000 for a tourist. The children, the monks and the nuns can enter the camp free of charge, said U Myo Min Ko, assistant manager of the camp.

There is a total of 22 elephant camps across the country and the elephant lovers can treat them buffet. They can also donate for the elephants via the camp's official Facebook page.

Palin River View Elephant Camp has seven elephants, aging 1 to 27 years. Myanmar implemented elephant-based tourism, developed eco-tourism sites and opened the elephant camps near rivers and mountain ranges. —Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM.

Consumer buying behaviour changed in local mango market amid mobile internet restrictions

DIGITAL marketing and sales have remarkably declined owing to the mobile internet restrictions, and the buying behaviour has also changed in the domestic market, said an official of the Myanmar Mango Market and Technical Development Association.

“This year, exports to Muse border dropped. However, mango with good packaging is sent to various regions and states in the country. The mango reached most of the buyers through digital platform previously.

The ban on mobile internet and wireless broadband internet limited the digital sales,” said U Kyaw Soe Naing, secretary of the Myanmar Mango Market and Technical Development Association.



There are over 30,000 mango acres in Mandalay Region. The mango is normally harvested from mid-April to July across the country. PHOTO: TIN LIN HTET (IPRD)

There are over 30,000 mango acres in Mandalay Region. The mango is normally harvested from mid-April to July across the country.

Normally, Myanmar primarily exports mango to China through the Muse land border.

“The domestic market sees a good potential this year, especially Yangon and Mandalay.

A packed mango is worth K350-400 in the domestic market.

At present, the foreign de-

mand is still sluggish. The demand is expected to climb up in May. This year, the market is expected to rely on China mostly.

The mangoes were shipped to Singapore and Russia in the previous years.

This year, they are still trying to penetrate those external markets,” U Kyaw Soe Naing elaborated.

The price of mango in pack ranges from K350-500. A mango tree from seed is worth K400-500.

A grafted mango tree is K1,000-1,500. A plant from seed can produce mango in three years of cultivation.

A grafted mango can yield them in one to two years.

This year, the mango growers reduced the cultivation cost, and the yield is down by 50 per cent as against the year-ago period. If it is hard to ship to the external market this year, the mango is likely to depend on the domestic market only. —Tin Lin Htet (IPRD)/GLNM

Kyaukpyu soft-shell crab penetrating foreign market



The soft-shell crabs from Kyaukpyu Township are being shipped to Asian countries such as Japan, the Republic of Korea, China Taipei (Taiwan) and Hong Kong SAR, Southeast Asian countries like Viet Nam and some European countries. PHOTO: TIN TUN OO (IPRD)

THE soft-shell crab cultivation business in the farms of No. 468 block in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State is thriving and those crabs are started to distribute in the external market, said a breeder.

“We started this commercial farming in March 2019, with 250,000 crabs. We buy the young crabs from the wild, select the live crab and separate them in the crab farming boxes. The crabs are fed fish, caught by the inshore and offshore fishing vessels, every six hours with the use of bamboo rafts. The soft-shell crabs of marketable size are sent to the cold storage for processing and they are, again, delivered to Yangon. Then, they are shipped to Asian countries with a container. The current difficulties in crab farming is a financial constraint amidst the COVID-19 impacts. Another

problem is a limit in cash withdrawal at the bank and we are in debt to secure the raw material supply,” said U Aung Naing Lin, general manager of Ngwengarkyun Company.

Kyaukpyu district head of the Fisheries Department U Kyaw Sint stated that the business employs about 110 local people, with a maximum monthly payment of K500,000. To maintain the soft-shell crab resources in a long term, we will direct the businesspersons to set some of the crabs free into the sea in a certain season. The soft-shell crabs from Kyaukpyu Township are being shipped to Asian countries such as Japan, the Republic of Korea, China Taipei (Taiwan) and Hong Kong SAR, Southeast Asian countries like Viet Nam and some European countries. — Tin Tun Oo, Phyo Wai Lin (IPRD)/GNLM

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The Mirror Daily
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Northern Ireland marks 100 years, divided



Northern Ireland marks its centenary on Monday. **PHOTO: AFP**

NORTHERN Ireland marks its 100th year on Monday, but faltering efforts to commemorate the centenary encapsulate the rift at the heart of the British province.

Ever since Ireland was freed from British rule in 1921, Northern Ireland's existence has been controversial, and the knot in an often bloody tug-of-war between warring factions.

The province's troubled past, fragile present and uncertain future are endlessly disputed between pro-UK unionists and republicans who favour union with Ireland.

But the zero-sum contest is heating up again, in part due to Brexit.

"The centenary of Northern Ireland is, by its very nature, divisive, and it can't be

anything but divisive," said Jonathan Evershed, a researcher at University College Cork.

"There is simply no way of commemorating Northern Ireland in a way that is reconciliatory or inclusive," he told AFP. **100 years of strife**

Northern Ireland was created on May 3, 1921 when the island of Ireland was split in two following the Irish war for independence.

Northern Ireland had a powerful Protestant pro-UK majority but a large demographic of pro-Ireland Catholics seeking shared destiny with a new free Irish state, which eventually became a full republic.

To this day, republicans often call Northern Ireland "the north of Ireland" and refer to the creation of the province as "partition" — nodding to deeply held beliefs about an illegitimately imposed border. —AFP ■

German economy shrank 1.7% in first quarter

GERMANY'S economy shrank 1.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2021 as rising coronavirus infections forced shutdowns to be extended, worse figures than elsewhere in Europe, official data showed Friday.

"The coronavirus crisis caused another decline in economic performance at the beginning of 2021," the Destatis federal statistics agency said.

"This affected household consumption in particular, while exports of goods supported the economy."

Analysts surveyed by Factset had expected a smaller contraction of 1.5 per cent.

The weak start to the year in Europe's largest economy stands in stark contrast with the 0.5 per cent expansion in gross domestic product (GDP) recorded in the fourth quar-

ter of 2020, before more contagious virus variants upended Germany's bounce-back.

Germany's performance was also worse than the first-quarter data coming out of other large European economies on Tuesday.

France announced a return to growth over the January to March period at 0.4

per cent, while Italy suffered a contraction of 0.4 per cent and Spain fell 0.5 per cent.

Germany's woes come as the country remains gripped by a third coronavirus wave that has pummeled the services sector, with restaurants, hotels and leisure centres all feeling the pain from prolonged closures.—AFP ■



Germany's statistics agency says the coronavirus crisis "caused another decline in economic performance at the beginning of 2021", hitting household consumption in particular. **PHOTO: AFP**

Over 200 migrants arrive in Sicily on rescue ship

MORE than 200 rescued migrants, half of them unaccompanied minors, disembarked from the Ocean Viking humanitarian ship at an Italian port on Saturday, the charity that runs it said.

SOS Mediterranee also issued a desperate plea for Europe to intervene to save those trying to reach the continent by sea after the Ocean Viking was too late to save 130 migrants from a capsizing rubber boat off Libya on April 22.

But on Tuesday the ship

did rescue 236 people, with 15 different nationalities among them, stranded on two overloaded dinghies in international waters off the coast of western Libya.

Many of the migrants were beaten by smugglers and forced to embark, including "some of the 119 unaccompanied minors currently onboard Ocean Viking", SOS Mediterranee said in a statement.

Pictures taken at the scene showed the 236 migrants were given identity checks and Covid-19 tests as



SOS Mediterranee's Ocean Viking ship — the charity says it has rescued nearly 33,000 people since February 2016. **PHOTO: AFP**

they disembarked at the port of Augusta on the Italian island of Sicily on Saturday.

The unaccompanied minors were taken to a special reception facility.

The Marseille-based charity also called for "an efficient, lawful and humane European search and rescue programme to be urgently re-established, seven years after the end of operation Mare Nostrum".

"A return to a European search and rescue fleet is the only option.

Europe can no longer remain passive in the face of recurring shipwrecks," it said.

It added that the Ocean Viking and three merchant vessels were the only ships trying to save people from the April 22 shipwreck, when "our calls for support and coordination once again went unanswered".

But Frederic Penard, SOS Mediterranee director of operations, did welcome that on Friday, "for the first time in months, a European navy ship, from the Italian Navy, conducted a rescue in international waters off Libya".

"We hope that this rescue heralds growing awareness on the part of European governments," he added. —AFP ■

Colombians keep protesting even after unpopular tax plan is axed

TENS of thousands of Colombians protesting a tax reform plan took to the streets Saturday for the fourth straight day, even after the president vowed to withdraw the most unpopular parts of the package.

Many Colombians had complained that the tax changes would leave them poorer in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic.

On Friday, President Ivan Duque gave in to the pressure from the streets and said he would seek a rewrite of the plan and scrap the most unpopular clauses — lowering

the income tax threshold to broaden the tax base and raising value-added taxes on goods and services.

But that was not enough to keep Colombians from marching on May Day and venting their anger against the government.

"It is not enough to withdraw the reform," said 27 year old Maria Teresa Flores in Bogota. She said the government's handling of the pandemic and other actions "blew up in our faces."

Julian Naranjo, who works in environmental issues,

said, "it is incredible that in this crisis we are going through, the violence that this country is enduring," the government proposes a tax reform "that ends up making people poorer." Besides Bogota, demonstrations were held in other major cities such as Cali, Medellin, Barranquilla and Cartagena.

The tax reform plan had been meant to raise some \$6.3 billion in extra revenue over 10 years for Colombia, which saw GDP drop 6.8 per cent in 2020 — its worst performance in half a century.—AFP ■

Domestic workers alarmed by compulsory Hong Kong COVID-19 vaccine plan

HONG Kong migrant worker groups on Saturday (May 1) criticized plans to make COVID-19 vaccines compulsory for all foreign domestic helpers, labelling the move “discriminatory and unjust”.

Health officials said they were planning to roll out mandatory inoculations for the 370,000 domestic helpers in the city, mostly poorly-paid women from the Philippines and Indonesia.

Those wanting to apply for work visas - or renew their current ones - would need to show they had been vaccinated, officials said Friday.

If the plan goes ahead it



Migrant workers sit in front of protest banners in the Central district of Hong Kong on May 1, 2021. PHOTO: AFP/PETER PARKS

would be the first time Hong Kong has directly tied working rights for foreigners to vaccines.

“This is clearly an act of dis-

crimination and stigmatization against migrant domestic workers,” Dolores Balladares Pelaez, chair of United Filipinos in Hong

Kong, told reporters.

Labour groups representing domestic workers said they were angered other foreigners - and locals working in environments such as care homes - were not also required to get vaccinated.

“Again, we are being singled out and targeted,” Pelaez added.

Health officials announced the vaccination plan after two domestic helpers were found to be infected with one of the more virulent strains of the coronavirus. All domestic workers have also been ordered to get tested over the coming days - a measure that did not extend to the families they work for.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Third of US software firm's employees resign over politics ban

ABOUT a third of the employees at US productivity software firm Basecamp have announced their resignations after the company banned political conversations in the workplace.

The mass walkout came after Basecamp chief executive and co-founder Jason Fried published a blog post on Monday explaining new rules adopted by the company, including a ban on “societal and political discussions on our company Basecamp account.”

He also announced the end of some “paternalistic” employee benefits, such as fitness and continuing education allowances, and said there would be “no more lingering or dwelling on past decisions”.—AFP ■

Fortnite maker girds for epic court clash with Apple



Gaming fans play “Fortnite” at the 2019 Electronic Entertainment Expo, also known as E3, on June 11, 2019. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

IN a court clash with potentially huge repercussions for the world of mobile tech, Fortnite maker

Epic Games takes on Apple starting Monday aiming to break the grip of the iPhone maker on its

online marketplace.

The case opening in federal court comes with Apple feeling pressure from a wide range of app makers over its tight control of the App Store, which critics say represents monopolistic behavior.

The two firms will be debating whether Apple has the right to set ground rules, control payment systems and kick out apps from its marketplace that fail to comply. Also at stake will be Apple's slice of revenue from iPhone apps, as much as 30 per cent.

Apple contends that its commission is the industry norm, and is fair compensation for giving developers a global storefront

and keeping it secure.

Epic, which is seeking to return to the App Store without being forced to use Apple's payment scheme, is not alone in its criticism.

The European Union on Friday formally accused Apple of unfairly squeezing out music streaming rivals based on a complaint brought by Sweden-based Spotify and others which claim the California group sets rules that favor its own Apple Music.

A recently formed Coalition for App Fairness, which includes both Spotify and Epic, have called for Apple to open up its marketplace, claiming its commission is a “tax” on rivals.—AFP ■

Bacon and copper lead commodity price surge

GLOBAL prices for raw materials are soaring thanks to a boom in demand due to the recovery from the Covid-19 downturn, coupled with logistical bottlenecks.

Copper in the past week hit a 10-year high, while pork prices have fattened in part due to higher demand for bacon from Americans working and eating breakfast at home.

Bloomberg's agriculture Commodity Price Index has climbed 22 per cent so far this year to its highest level since 2016, while crude oil has risen 30 per cent in the past year.

Lumber has tripled over the past 12 months, and the National Association of Homebuilders said that has added \$36,000 to the cost of a new house.

Tin, used in electronic circuits, automotive components and batteries, also hit its highest level since 2011, as the price doubled in the past year. The reasons for these increases are varied.—AFP ■

Spaniard first ‘but not last’ woman to join German blue-chip CEOs

BELEN Garijo will take over as CEO at German pharmaceuticals giant Merck from May—the first woman to singlehandedly run a DAX 30-listed company—as Europe's top economy debates quotas for greater boardroom equality.

Spanish-born Garijo, 60, currently serves as the group's deputy chief executive officer and head of its healthcare unit and says she's not content to be a one-off.

“It's more important to me not to be the last woman at the top of a company than to be the only one,” the trained doctor recently told the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

She is replacing Stefan Oschmann, 63, whose term ended after five years at the helm of the Darmstadt-based, family-owned group, which had never had a female chief executive in its 350-year history.

Garijo, a mother of two and a passionate Real Madrid supporter, is making history as the first solo female leader of a firm listed on Frankfurt's blue-chip DAX 30 index.

German software group SAP made the first cracks in the glass ceiling in 2019 when it appointed Jennifer Morgan as co-CEO alongside a male executive.

However she bowed out



Belen Garijo will become the first woman to singlehandedly run a DAX 30-listed company from May. PHOTO: APEC PERU 2016/AFP/FILE

last year after just six months, as SAP decided to switch back to a sole chief executive —

Christian Klein—to steer it through the pandemic upheaval.—AFP ■

Clothes in Japan help emit 95 mil. tonnes of CO2 a year, mostly overseas



Screenshot taken on April 30, 2021, shows the website "Sustainable Fashion," launched by Japan's Environment Ministry. **PHOTO: KYODO**

CLOTHING items sold in Japan contribute to generating over 95 million tons of carbon dioxide a year, mostly emitted during the manufacturing process overseas, a government estimate

has showed.

The process of manufacturing and transporting clothes is estimated to produce 90.09 million tonnes of CO2 or 94.6 per cent of the total, according to

Japan's Environment Ministry. Of 819,000 tonnes of garments supplied to the Japanese market in 2020, 799,000 tonnes or about 98 per cent were imported from overseas.

The remaining some 5 million tonnes are attributed mostly to burning unsold clothes of stock and power supply for laundry. The first such estimate by the government finds each item contributes to around 25 kilograms of CO2, the ministry said.

The apparel industry accounts for 10 per cent of global carbon emissions, according to a U.N. Environment Program report. Of the emissions in the industry, the Japanese apparel supply chains account for 4.5 per cent, the Environment Ministry said. The ministry last month launched a website to call on consumers to recycle more clothes, while urging the fashion industry to work on new production processes to reduce CO2 emissions.

A total of about 510,000 tonnes of clothes were disposed of

in Japan last year without being recycled or reused, according to the ministry.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in late April revealed a new goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 46 per cent by fiscal 2030 from fiscal 2013 levels in a climate summit hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden.

In line with the new pledge, the ministry now hopes to raise awareness of the environmental impact from the textile industry such as CO2 emissions and water pollution, mainly from factories.

"Through providing the information online, we hope consumers know more about the environmental damage from their clothing items, and think about recycling before throwing away," a ministry official said. —Kyodo News ■

Venezuela triples wages but still not enough to buy food

VENEZUELA nearly tripled its minimum wage Saturday but inflation is so outrageous that that amount of money will not even buy a kilo of meat.

Labor Minister Eduardo Pinate announced the raise to government supporters at a May Day rally in Caracas.

The new monthly minimum wage is seven million bolivares, which is equivalent to \$2.50. A kilo (2.2 pounds) of meat in Venezuela costs about \$3.75.

The once-wealthy oil producer is enduring its fourth year of hyperinflation and its eighth year of recession.

Venezuela is now in the worst economic crisis of its modern history. Inflation

is so bad that the everyday economy now works mainly in dollars.

The leftist government of President Nicolas Maduro is under international sanctions championed by the United States, which is pushing for his ouster and does not recognize him as the country's legitimate president.

Maduro has stopped announcing wage increases with much fanfare as was done in the days of his mentor and predecessor, the late socialist firebrand Hugo Chavez.

In fact, this latest raise was not even published in the official government gazette. —AFP ■



Health workers carry signs while participating in a protest demanding better wages, mass vaccination against the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and biosafety material to protect themselves, outside the Doctor Jose Gregorio Hernandez Hospital in Catia neighborhood in Caracas as part of the celebration of the International Workers' Day on May 1, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Copper bonanza challenge for top producer Chile

EVEN as copper prices hit a ten-year high this week, political events in Chile -- the world's main producer -- have raised questions about whether the country will be able to continue meeting rising demand.

A surge on infrastructure spending in industrialized countries, a weak dollar, and strong demand in China boosted the price of the metal to over \$10,000 per ton on Thursday.

As the global economy starts to shake off the impacts of the Covid-19 epidemic and makers of electric cars and renewable energy systems clamor for the red metal, Chile stands to gain handsomely.

But political uncertainties in the South American nation have some worried.

"In recent days there has been more international awareness and more concern" about what is happening in Chile, Juan



Workers of the Next Mineral mining company inspect the Comahue copper mine in Antofagasta, Chile -- copper prices hit a ten-year high this week. **PHOTO: AFP**

Carlos Guajardo, director of mining consultancy Plusmining, told AFP. "There is a conjunction of elements that are making investors adopt a more cautious position," he added.

Just two years after massive civil unrest over income inequality triggered a project to

rewrite Chile's constitution, the country has recently again seen widespread protests.

This time, it was to force the government to allow people to make a partial withdrawal from pension funds to help them through pandemic-induced financial hardship. —AFP ■

Eurozone economic confidence reaches pre-pandemic level

CONFIDENCE in the eurozone economy improved sharply in April as the region's vaccination programme picked up speed, paving the way for a lifting of coronavirus restrictions in the coming months.

Survey results from the European Commission showed on Thursday that its economic confidence index recovered to 110.3 in April from 100.9 in March. The score blew past economists' forecast of 102.2 and reached its highest level since September 2018.

Although the surveys have been too opti-

mistic about activity in the first quarter, the economy seems to have started the second quarter on a somewhat stronger footing than anticipated, Jessica Hinds, an economist at Capital Economics, said. All surveyed business sectors showed improvements in sentiment. Confidence among consumers also strengthened in April.

Meanwhile, in the US, Federal Reserve (Fed) officials stayed on course at the end of their two-day policy meeting last Wednesday. —AFP ■

Russian Iran nuclear negotiators hope for result in three weeks

PARTIES to the Iran nuclear agreement on Saturday adjourned the third round of negotiations in Vienna aimed at bringing the United States back into the accord, with the Russian side expressing “cautious and growing optimism” and saying they hoped to achieve concrete results within three weeks.

The deal, which curbs Iran’s nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief, has been on life support since then US president Donald Trump bolted in 2018.

The remaining partners to the 2015 accord have been engaged in negotiations since early April to try to revive it.

The third round of talks started on Tuesday and, after several days of technical discussions between expert groups, delegations met on Saturday.

Representatives of the parties still in the agreement (Iran,



The Russian side expressed cautious optimism after the talks on Saturday and said they hoped for a result within three weeks. **PHOTO: EU DELEGATION IN VIENNA/AFP**

China, Russia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom) who met for just over an hour noted the “indisputable progress” achieved, Russian ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov said on Twitter adding that he was cautiously

optimistic. “It’s too early to be excited, but we have reasons for cautious and growing optimism. There is no deadline, but participants aim at successful completion of the talks in approximately three

weeks. Is it realistic? We will see,” he wrote. The delegations would return to their respective capitals and resume talks from next Friday, Iran’s foreign ministry said in a statement.—AFP ■

Scuffles, arrests in Paris as thousands mark May Day



Police scuffled with protesters in Paris on Saturday, firing tear gas as thousands turned out across France for May Day workers’ rights demonstrations. **PHOTO: AFP**

POLICE scuffled with protesters in Paris on Saturday, firing tear gas as thousands turned

out across France for May Day workers’ rights demonstrations. A police source told AFP that

far-left “black bloc” protesters had repeatedly tried to block the trade union-led march in the French capital, with 34 people detained. Some protesters smashed the windows of bank branches, set fire to dustbins and threw projectiles at police, who responded with volleys of tear gas and stingball grenades. An injured policeman had to be evacuated, an AFP journalist saw.

The CGT union said nearly 300 May day protests were planned around the country, with authorities expecting around 100,000 demonstrators to join them in total.

The crowds held placards

with different demands, ranging from the end of the nighttime curfew in place as part of coronavirus restrictions, to a halt to unemployment reforms due to come into force in July.

Members of the yellow vest anti-elite movement, which rocked Emmanuel Macron’s presidency two years ago before largely fizzling out, could also be spotted at protests up and down the country. Five people were arrested in the southeastern city of Lyon as black bloc protesters again clashed with police at the demonstration, which drew some 3,000 people despite the rain.—AFP ■

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan claim new agreement to end deadly clashes

KYRGYZSTAN and Tajikistan on Saturday claimed another breakthrough in their bid to end the worst clashes at their shared border in memory as several thousand Kyrgyz demonstrators rallied against what they called an invasion attempt by their Central Asian neighbour.

Clashes between communities over land and water along the long-contested border are regular occurrences, with border guards often getting involved. However, this week’s violence was by far the most serious during the Central Asian pair’s 30



The border clashes comprise the heaviest fighting in years between the countries, raising fears of a wider conflict. **PHOTO: AFP**

years of independence. Kyrgyzstan’s health ministry said that its death toll from the shooting that began between

the two militaries on Thursday had reached 34, with a hundred injured. Tajikistan, a closed author-

itarian state, did not keep a casualty count or acknowledge deaths during the three-day conflict. The two presidents spoke by telephone Monday in a bid to preserve the ceasefire that was agreed on Thursday but which broke down on both Friday and Saturday.

That prefaced a meeting of delegations headed by the countries’ respective national security committee chiefs in which the pair agreed to create working groups to help enforce the ceasefire, Kyrgyzstan’s national security committee said.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sweden summons Russian ambassador over sanctions

Sweden summoned Russia’s ambassador to Stockholm on Saturday, denouncing Moscow for sanctioning European Union officials including a Swedish researcher in an escalating row between Russia and the West.

The announcement came a day after Moscow barred eight EU officials from entering Russia – itself a retaliation to European Council sanctions over the jailing of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny and a violent police response to protests in his support.

Swedish foreign ministry spokesman Mats Samuelsson told AFP that the Russian ambassador was being summoned “to express our protests regarding the Russian measures”. “Unlike the EU sanctions... Russia’s sanctions are arbitrary, legally unclear and are the expression of political motives,” the ministry said.—AFP ■

North Korea says Biden has a ‘hostile policy’, warns of response

NORTH Korea on Sunday accused US President Joe Biden of pursuing a hostile policy, dismissing “spurious” American diplomacy and warning of a response.

Biden had said Wednesday that his administration would deal with the threat posed by Pyongyang’s nuclear programme “through diplomacy as well as stern deterrence”.

The White House said Friday that the president was open to negotiations with North Korea on denuclearization following the completion of a policy review, but Pyongyang said Biden had made a “big blunder”.

“His statement clearly reflects his intent to keep enforcing the hostile policy toward the DPRK as it had been done by the U.S. for over half a century,” Kwon Jung Gun, a foreign ministry official, said in a statement released by the official KCNA news agency.—AFP ■

Myanmar football clubs pull out of AFC tournaments

TWO Myanmar football clubs – Shan United and Hantharwady United have withdrawn from Asian football tournaments, according to the Asian Football Confederation.

“Shan United FC has pulled out of the AFC Champions

League, the continent’s top club competition, while Hantharwady United FC has withdrawn from the AFC Cup, the second-tier continental club tournament,” officials said.

After the Myanmar clubs out of the AFC epic tournaments,

the football authorities have cancelled an AFC Champions League preliminary stage match between Shan United FC and Australia’s Melbourne City, which will now advance directly to a playoff against Cerezo Osaka from Japan.

With Hantharwady United FC out of playoff contention in the second-tier AFC Cup, the AFC authorities have also decided that Chanthabury FC of Laos and Brunei’s Kasuka FC will now compete for a direct slot in the Group G, according to the

football authorities.

Shan United Football Club is a defending champion of the 2020 season of the Myanmar National League, while Hantharwady United Football Club is a first runner up team of the domestic football tourney. —GNLM ■

Juventus coach Pirlo ‘calm about job’ as title slips away



Andrea Pirlo took over as Juventus coach this season. PHOTO:AFP

ANDREA Pirlo insisted Saturday he was calm about his job as Juventus coach as the Italian champions’ nine-year reign nears its end. Inter Milan are set to deny Juve a 10th consecutive crown with the Turin giants now battling for a Champions League spot.

“I’m calm concerning my work,” the 41-year-old former Italy World Cup winner told a press conference before Sunday’s league game at Udinese.

Inter can seal the ‘Scudetto’ this weekend, with Juventus sitting fourth, 13 points behind the leaders, with five games to play.

According to Italian press reports former Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri is set to return two years after being sacked.

A visit by John Elkann, CEO of Exor, the holding company of the Agnelli family which owns Juventus, to the team’s training ground this week fuelled specu-

lation of changes. “I talked to the owners the other day,” revealed Pirlo who took over last summer.

“It’s not the first time they’ve come, it has already happened three or four times and we’ve talked about everything.

“I’m calm about my job, about what I have to do.

“I am not influenced by all these rumours. “I’m focused on what I have to do and I have to bring the team to the Champions League and try to win the Italian Cup.”

Meanwhile, Pirlo revealed his teenage son Niccolo had been a victim of on-line abuse, as sports bodies boycotted social media this weekend.

“I know what it means to be a public figure, I find nothing new in the insults from people hiding behind a keyboard,” he said.

“I’m sorry for my son, because he has nothing to do with this. I also explained to him to ignore it. This is a social problem which we need to stamp out.”

—AFP ■

Inter Milan beat Crotone to put one hand on Serie A trophy

CHRISTIAN Eriksen and Achraf Hakimi scored in the second half as Inter Milan beat Crotone 2-0 to move to the brink of the Serie A title on Saturday (May 1).

Antonio Conte’s side are 14 points ahead of second-placed Atalanta and can claim their first Scudetto since 2010 if the Bergamo side fail to win at Sassuolo on Sunday.

Dane Eriksen came on as

a substitute in the 65th minute and scored four minutes later, firing home a shot which took a deflection off Crotone defender Lisandro Magallan, from Romelu Lukaku’s lay-off. Lukaku had a goal ruled out before Hakimi struck a second in injury time.

The match pitted the Serie A leaders against the bottom team who were relegated as a result of the loss with four games to play. —AFP ■



Christian Eriksen (R) scored the first goal for Inter in Crotone. PHOTO:AFP

Kim mounts late charge to win Women’s World Championship

SOUTH Korea’s Kim Hyo-joo staged a late fightback by firing a sparkling eight-under-par 64 to win the HSBC Women’s World Championship by one shot over Australia’s Hannah Green on Sunday.

Starting her final round at the Singapore tournament five shots back of overnight leader Lin Xiyu, Kim parred the first four holes before four birdies in the next five holes helped her storm up the leaderboard.

After turning in 32, Kim continued her relentless chase for her fourth LPGA victory with another pair of birdies on holes 11 and 12.

The 25-year-old parred



South Korea’s Kim Hyo-joo won the HSBC Women’s World Championship in Singapore. PHOTO:AFP

the 13th hole and reeled in two more birdies on 14 and 15 to share the lead with Green at

17-under at that stage.

The Australian birdied 16 to take the outright lead but

uncharacteristically dropped two shots in her last two holes to leave the door open for Kim to win.

Kim remained calm under pressure and carded two more pars to sign off with a winning total of 17-under-par 271, ending her five-year title drought on the LPGA.

“My goal for this year is to get a win and I’m glad I achieved that today,” said Kim, whose last victory was in 2016 when she won the Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic.

“I have not won for such a long time and this really feels like my first win.”

Green conceded nerves got

the better of her as she let slip the lead on the 16th hole, with two costly bogeys on 17 and 18.

“I’m pretty disappointed to have two three-putts in the finishing holes. I was feeling nervous,” she said.

“But I came very close to winning, so I just hope that I can continue this momentum and who knows, have a good result next week.”

Lin, who started the round with a single-shot lead, signed off with a 71 to finish in joint third place alongside world number two Park In-bee of South Korea and Thailand’s Patty Tavatanakit on matching 273s. —AFP ■