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Public Information

IT is reported that some illegal organizations and news agencies are broadcasting, through illegal satellite dishes, programmes of TV channels that harm the State security, the rule of law and community peace and tranquillity and topics amounting to encourage those who commit high treason and rebellion to the State while the State Administration Council is performing the tasks in accord with the provisions of the State of Emergency.

Those who install the illegal satellite dishes to watch the TV may unwillingly break the existing laws and rules enacted with the aim of ensuring the good deeds of the people.

As such, the information was released with goodwill that those who install the satellite dishes to watch such kinds of TV programmes will face action under the law with one-year imprisonment or K500,000 as a fine.

Ministry of Information

Eight Myanmar Roofed Turtles born in Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary

MYANMAR Roofed Turtles were born in Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary for ten years in Bagan of NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region. The Myanmar Roofed Turtle can be found only in Myanmar and were critically endangered species, said U Shwe Htay Aung, warden of the sanctuary.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) started conserving 100 Myanmar roofed turtles — 40 males and 60 females — in 2011. The officials rented 16 Myanmar roofed turtles — 10 males and 6 females — to Singapore in 2016 and transferred 10



The new turtle population is hatched during ten years after the cooperative work of the Forest Department and WCS/TSA in conserving. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN (KPD)**

males to WCS/TSA to free them into Chindwin river in 2018. And so, there are 74 Myanmar roofed turtles — 20 males and 54 females — in the sanctuary, he said.

The new turtle population is hatched during ten years after the cooperative work of the Forest Department and WCS/TSA in conserving, he said.

Of 54 female turtles, four laid eggs in January and February this year. The first baby turtle was hatched on 4 April 2021, **SEE PAGE-2**

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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.

Eight Myanmar Roofed Turtles born ...

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while another two on 19 April, one more on 22 April and four more on 25 April.

The Forest Department and Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary officials have carried out measures to know the exact time for adult, mating, laying eggs and hatchery for more than ten years.

The veterinarian Dr Tint Lwin also explained conserving and medical services for the turtles in person or via Viber, online and video clips.

The Myanmar roofed turtles live at Yadanarbon Zoological Gardens, Yangon Zoological Gardens and Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Although the turtles rented to Singapore are kept systemat-



Of 54 female turtles, four laid eggs in January and February this year. The first baby turtle was hatched on 4 April 2021, while another two on 19 April, one more on 22 April and four more on 25 April. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN (KPD)**

ically, they do not hatch, said Dr Kalyar of TSA.

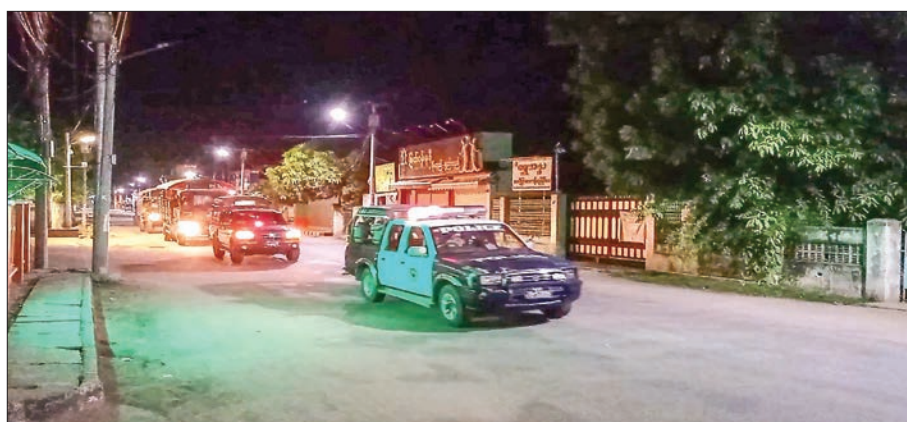
The population of Myanmar

roofed turtles would rise in the future, U Shwe Htay Aung added.

The turtles can be seen in

Ayeyawady, Chindwin and Sit-toung rivers, including larger tributaries and now in Chindwin

(Sagaing Region) and Dokhtawady (Mandalay Region). — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM



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 and fire brigade members take security measures at night in Toungoo.

Myanmar needs to emphasize preventive measures of COVID-19

ENCOURAGEMENT should be given to the people to take physical exercises for their healthiness. Myanmar's expected lifespan is about 66 years, which is less than those of other countries. Priority must be given to uplift the health sector for ensuring the health and fitness of the people. As the infectious rate of COVID-19 is high in some countries, including India, Myanmar needs to emphasize preventive measures of COVID-19.

(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)

Border affairs minister inspects regional development works in Taninthayi region

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and party made inspection tours on regional development works in Taninthayi Region from 2 to 4 May.

On 2 May, the Union Minister and party inspected the road and bridge construction on the Banlaw-Banthe-Kyauk-mee Kyaung-Myanmar Indaw inter-village road in Taninthayi Township and on the Hankapyu-Ywahe Lu road in Hankapyu village-tract, Bokpyin Township.

At the inspections, the Union Minister said to work hard to complete the work as soon as possible with the required quality as the rainy season is coming soon and to do the fieldwork and submit the application to carry



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and party are making the inspection tours in Taninthayi Region.

out the rest of the needed work in the next fiscal year.

On 3 May, the Union Minister and party visited the Dhammika Yama TatU monastery in Zardetgyi island and donated offertories to the monks. Rice,

cooking oil, salt and foods were also presented to a total of 47 Salone ethnic people over the age of 70 living on the island, and school uniforms and books were provided to the teachers and students.

Afterwards, they inspected the construction work of roads and bridges on the Zardetgyi island ring road.

Yesterday morning, the Union Minister and party met with the Women's Domestic Vo-

itional Training School staff in Kawthoung Town. He urged them to systematically scrutinize and implement the border area development activities to make them effective and beneficial for the local people. They also checked the staff housing, the construction of the class hall for the motor sewing course in the current fiscal year and provided the necessary integration.

The Ministry of Border Affairs is implementing a total of 50 projects, including road and bridge construction, housing construction and water supply projects with K5,024.423 million in the 2020-2021FY. It is reported that all projects will be completed within the specified financial year. — MNA

Tatmadaw provides treatments to over 180,000 outpatients

MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states are giving medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 182,431 outpatients and 4,129 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have con-

ducted 8,521 major operations and 4,363 minor operations. The senior doctors gave intensive treatment the severe cases.

These hospitals managed for the birth of 11,156 babies to date. Of those, 4,417 cases are done in the caesarean section and 6,739 cases in ordinary delivery.

Moreover, the members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade of Sagaing Region collectively donated blood for monks, military members, police, and locals, who took treatments at the military hospital in Monywa Town, Sagaing Region, to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Myanmar Fire Brigade on 3 May 2021.



Members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade are donating blood.

Sagaing Region Administration Council Chairman U Maung Maung Lin and North-West Command Commander Brig-Gen Phyo Thant offered words of encouragement to those who donated blood and provided blood donors with nutritious foodstuffs and medicines (tonic).

Similarly, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ko

Ko Oo and the party encouraged the officers and other ranks, who had treatments at the military hospital in PyinOoLwin and gave foodstuffs to them.

In addition to providing medical care to patients in need of hospitalization, Tatmadaw is making arrangements for the well-being of hospitalized patients and caregivers. — MNA



Respective regional commanders are encouraging local patients at the military hospitals.

Taninthayi Region Administration Council Chairman inspects construction work of Kamyawkin Bridge



The Kamyawkin Bridge construction work in progress.

TANINTHAYI Region Administration Council Chairman U Tin Aung inspected the construction of the Kamyawkin bridge on Dawei-Kamyawkin-Maungmakan road yesterday.

The bridge is being constructed by the construction team (4) of the Ministry of Construction.

Director U Thein Naing of the Bridge Department presented the construction of a new bridge. The region council chairman instructed the need to conduct the operation to complete in line with the fixed standards within the scheduled time.

The new Kamyawkin Bridge is located on Dawei-Kamyawkin-Maungmakan road in the Dawei District of the Taninthayi Region. To its east is Dawei and to its west is Launglon township.

The type of 1,050 ft long bridge is R.C Girder, PC Girder, Steel Truss & R.C Decking Slab, and it uses R.C concrete for body and 1.2m and 1.5m Bored Pile for the foundation. The width of the bridge is 24ft and 5ft for each pavement. The waterway clearance of the bridge is 164ft in width and 16ft in height. The load capacity of the bridge is AASHTO HS 25. — Region IPRD/GNLM

Stock market up in April

THE number of shares traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) climbed to 42,964 shares in April 2021, generating the trading value of K280 million, as against March's trading, the YSX's monthly report indicated.

In February 2021, K442 million worth of 77,388 shares were traded on the exchange. The figures extended further drops to K110 million worth of 19,816 shares in March 2021. However, the market went up in April compared to March's trading.

The stock markets worldwide have reported their most significant declines since the 2008 financial crisis. Similarly, the local equities market is also scared by the COVID-19 crash, a market observer points out.

At present, people are keeping emergency savings rather than investing the COVID-19 crisis and current political conditions, he added.

The value of shares traded

on the exchange in April 2021 drastically dropped compared with the figures in April 2020 (registered K902 million valued 173,808 shares), the YSX's monthly report indicated.

At present, shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH) and the Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFR) are being traded on the exchange.

Regarding of increase in share volume, the shares prices last month declined as against the previous months. The price per share of FMI decreased to K9,100 in March 2021. Similarly, the share price of MTSH slid to K3,400. The stock prices slipped to K8,000 for MCB, K19,500 for FPB, and K2,700 for TMH. The share price of EFR last month was closed at K3,050.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis and political changes, Myanmar's securities market has continued operating without stopping trading.

In 2020, the value of stocks traded on the exchange peaked at K1.48 billion in February. In contrast, trading on the exchange registered an all-time low of K552.9 million in November due to the COVID-19 resurgences in Myanmar; the exchange's monthly report showed.

According to the annual report released by the exchange, a total of K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on the exchange in 2020, a significant drop compared to 2019.

Over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019.

In 2016, shares of only three companies were traded on the YSX — FMI, MTSH, and MCB.

One more public company, FPB, was listed on the YSX in 2017. In 2018, TMH debuted on the exchange. EFR entered the exchange in 2020.

Moreover, Amata Holding Public Co., Ltd. (AMATA) released a statement that the listing date will be postponed for a certain period, and the rescheduled listing date will be announced in due time, YSX notified on 26 February 2021.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market from 20 March 2020.

Furthermore, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 in order to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX, YSX stated.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates

rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment seminars. The stock exchange has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, Myanmar's securities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading.

According to the annual report released by the exchange, a total of K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in 2020, a significant drop compared to 2019.

Over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019. — KK/GNLM

Five men killed, one injured in homemade mine testing in Pyay

FIVE men were killed and one man wounded in an explosion of a homemade mine test in Pyay Township, Bago Region on 3 May, according to Myanmar Police Force.

The incident happened in the lemon farm in Kabila village, Natalin village-tract in Pyay Township, at around 5 pm. Upon the information received from the people living near the incident happened, security forces investigated the area.

It is reported that the people from the neighbourhood heard a loud explosion shortly after six men led by the former NLD party Hluttaw Representative went inside the farm.

Due to the mine explosion, four men, including the former Hluttaw Representative, died at the scene. One of two men being taken to Pyay Public Hospital died of injury in the evening.

Security forces conducted a detailed search and found that the wire was connected to a coil about 20 feet west of the scene. Three batteries, wrapped in blue tape, one keypad phone cover with Hello logo, one Vivo-branded phone case and one battery, one 3-inch empty battery, 5 sets of nut, and one damaged Samsung blue phone were found and confiscated. — MNA



Announcement of Union Election Commission

3 May 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 Mudon and Ye townships of Mon State.

2. 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	103 polling stations in Mudon township of Mon State	182,302	161,192	20,247	1,051	15,878
2	130 polling stations in Ye township of Mon State	235,592	179,580	52,583	3,147	26,760

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Mudon and Ye townships of Mon State 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 233 polling stations in these two townships took out 444,483 ballots and used 225,857 ballots. It left 214,022 ballots instead of 218,626 ballots. The difference was 6,923 ballots and it found 2,319 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	Subject	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Mudon	103	200,062	101,257	98,805	97,813	1,635	643
2	Ye	130	244,421	124,600	119,821	116,209	5,288	1,676
	Total	233	444,483	225,857	218,626	214,022	6,923	2,319

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Mudon Township

5. According to the inspection, 103 polling stations in 9 Wards and 33 Village-tracts of Mudon Township in Mon State took out 200,062 ballots and used 101,257 ballots. It left 97,813 ballots instead of 98,805. 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	185,450	98,510	86,940	85,745	1,635	440
2	Township ballots	14,612	2,747	11,865	12,068		203
	Total	200,062	101,257	98,805	97,813	1,635	643

6. It found 1,635 missing ballots at the polling stations in 12 ward/village-tracts and 440 extra ballots in 5 ward/village-tracts of Mudon Township. There must be 11,865 remaining ballots at the township election sub-commission but it found 12,068 remaining ballots and so there were 203 extra ballots.

7. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-Tracts	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Myoma (1) Ward	7	13,950	8,669	5,281	5,481		200
2	Myoma (2) Ward	6	12,100	7,040	5,060	4,922	138	
3	Myoma (3) Ward	4	6,400	4,396	2,004	2,004		
4	Myoma (4) Ward	11	16,200	9,197	7,003	6,553	450	
5	Tapathorn village -tract	2	4,900	2,041	2,859	2,409	450	
6	Kwaywan village -tract	4	5,100	2,729	2,371	2,371		
7	Naingpyinge village -tract	2	3,250	1,608	1,642	1,742		100
8	Kyauktalone village -tract	3	3,600	1,119	2,481	2,431	50	
9	Hmeinganein village -tract	2	3,000	1,657	1,343	1,383		40
10	Kawkhapon village -tract	3	5,950	2,701	3,249	3,159	90	
11	Konta village -tract	2	3,950	2,174	1,776	1,776		
12	Beyan village -tract	2	3,750	2,209	1,541	1,541		
13	Kinchaung village -tract	1	1,500	884	616	616		
14	Kawpayan village -tract	2	4,000	2,992	1,008	1,008		
15	Katonepaw village -tract	1	1,350	911	439	489		50
16	Padauknyaungwine village -tract	1	1,800	1,288	512	512		
17	Wegali village -tract	1	600	405	195	195		
18	Kamaroake village -tract	1	600	427	173	173		
19	Kyonephike village -tract	2	4,900	2,668	1,882	1,932		50
20	Wette village -tract	1	2,400	327	323	323		

21	Nyaunggone village -tract	3	6,800	2,523	2,377	2,327	50	
22	KyaikYwe village -tract	2	3,450	958	1,442	1,442		
23	Tawku village -tract	3	4,300	3,352	3,448	3,398	50	
24	Takhontine village -tract	2	4,550	1,844	1,606	1,606		
25	NaingHlonelettet village -tract	2	5,600	2,377	1,923	1,923		
26	Akhwon village -tract	1	650	3,270	2,330	2,330		
27	Gonhnintan Ward	1	2,850	1,525	1,325	1,325		
28	Theingone Ward	5	8,300	4,165	4,135	4,135		
29	Kamarwet Ward	2	5,800	2,929	2,871	2,871		
30	Seintaung Ward	3	6,250	2,638	3,612	3,612		
31	Htaungkay Ward	1	2,550	1,246	1,304	1,304		
32	Hpedo village -tract	1	1,700	923	777	777		
33	Kalawtaw village -tract	2	5,000	2,463	2,537	2,537		
34	Kawpehtaw village -tract	2	3,200	1,510	1,690	1,683	7	
35	Doema village -tract	1	850	475	375	375		
36	Taungpa village -tract	2	4,700	2,008	2,692	2,692		
37	Htonman village -tract	1	1,350	545	805	805		
38	Kwankave village -tract	1	2,200	871	1,329	1,279	50	
39	Setthwe village -tract	3	2,500	1,357	1,143	1,093	50	
40	Hneepadaw village -tract	4	5,450	2,273	3,177	2,977	200	
41	Yaungdaung village -tract	1	2,450	1,168	1,282	1,232	50	
42	Khwanhlya village -tract	2	5,650	2,648	3,002	3,002		
	Ward/village -tract ballots	103	185,450	98,510	86,940	85,745	1,635	440
	Township Remaining ballots		14,612	2,747	11,865	12,068		203
	Township Total		200,062	101,257	98,805	97,813	1,635	643

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Ye Township

8. According to the inspection, 130 polling stations in 14 Wards and 30 Village-tracts of Ye Township in Mon State took out 244,421 ballots and used 124,600 ballots. It left 116,209 ballots instead of 119,821. 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	239,450	121,978	117,472	113,149	5,288	965
2	Township ballots	4,971	2,622	2,349	3,060		711
	Total	244,421	124,600	119,821	116,209	5,288	1,676

9. It found 5,288 missing ballots at the polling stations in 17 ward/village-tracts and 965 extra ballots in 7 ward/village-tracts of Ye Township. There must be 2,349 remaining ballots at the township election sub-commission but it found 3,060 remaining ballots and so there were 711 extra ballots.

10. Findings were as follows:

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Sr	Ward/Village-Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Thirimalar Ward	1	1,850	1,196	654	654		
2	Thirinanda Ward	3	6,000	3,797	2,203	2,203		
3	Thirizaya Ward	1	2,350	1,380	970	970		
4	Thirikhayma Ward	1	2,700	1,665	1,035	1,035		
5	Laminemyoma (1) Ward	2	4,800	2,312	2,488	2,854		366
6	Laminemyoma (2) Ward	2	3,400	1,369	2,031	1,681	350	
7	Laminemyoma (3) Ward	2	4,550	1,804	2,746	2,894		148
8	Mawkanin village -tract	7	15,800	6,307	9,493	9,043	450	
9	Kawdwat village -tract	5	9,550	4,203	5,347	5,097	250	
10	Hnitkayin village -tract	5	9,900	3,805	6,095	5,545	550	
11	Baylamine village -tract	2	2,650	1,173	1,477	1,477		
12	Belamu village -tract	2	3,050	957	2,093	2,043	50	
13	Kaninkamaw village -tract	1	1,550	571	979	979		
14	Donphi village -tract	2	3,150	1,250	1,900	1,750	150	
15	Hninsone village -tract	2	2,850	1,407	1,443	1,293	150	
16	Aryutaung village -tract	4	6,750	3,065	3,685	3,695		10
17	Tumyaung village -tract	4	4,850	2,714	2,136	2,136		
18	Thaungpyin village -tract	4	9,050	3,137	5,913	6,013		100
19	Taungbon village -tract	4	7,350	3,038	4,312	4,462		150
20	Kalarkoke village -tract	3	4,150	1,713	2,437	2,437		
21	Thingangyun village -tract	2	3,150	1,480	1,670	1,670		
22	Andin village -tract	5	8,800	5,052	3,748	3,698	50	

23	Yangyiaung Ward	2	3,100	2,302	798	798		
24	Yanmyoang Ward	2	3,950	2,482	1,468	1,118	350	
25	Aungthukha Ward	1	1,950	1,245	705	705		
26	Aungmingalar Ward	2	4,650	2,648	2,002	2,002		
27	Aungmyitta Ward	2	4,100	2,262	1,838	1,838		
28	Chaungtaung village -tract	4	6,650	3,712	2,938	2,688	250	
29	Abaw village -tract	4	6,950	3,218	3,732	3,232	500	
30	Duyar village -tract	5	9,200	5,566	3,634	3,634		
31	Asin village -tract	10	17,200	10,258	6,942	6,092	850	
32	Zipyuthaung village -tract	4	8,150	4,718	3,432	3,432		
33	Kyaukmechaung village -tract	3	6,300	3,425	2,875	2,916		41
34	Kyaungywa village -tract	6	10,450	5,412	5,038	5,010	28	
35	Koemine village -tract	2	3,950	2,140	1,810	1,510	300	
36	Kalaw village -tract	2	5,500	2,822	2,678	2,168	510	
37	Hangan village -tract	3	7,750	4,514	3,236	2,986	250	
38	Kawhlaing village -tract	4	5,800	2,882	2,918	2,918		
39	Yinyel village -tract	2	3,250	2,076	1,174	1,324		150
40	Kabyar village -tract	2	2,850	1,674	1,176	1,176		
41	Kyonenye village -tract	2	2,450	1,262	1,188	1,188		
42	Khawzamyoma (1) Ward	1	2,200	1,275	925	925		
43	Khawzamyoma (2) Ward	1	1,800	1,025	775	775		
44	Magyee village -tract	2	3,000	1,665	1,335	1,085	250	
	Ward/village -tract ballots	130	239,450	121,978	117,472	113,149	5,288	965
	Township Remaining ballots		4,971	2,622	2,349	3,060		711
	Township Total	130	244,421	124,600	119,821	116,209	5,288	1,676

Union Election Commission

State Administration Council Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who arrive in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries with worries because of incitement and intimidation of NLD members, the extremists who support that party, CRPH unlawful association, incitement of CDM and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since after 1 February 2021 when the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibility.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of CRPH unlawful association and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in their areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. As those who evaded from their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from evaded areas to various regions of Myanmar.
4. Information was released that if those who evaded to various areas except the persons who committed any kinds of crime wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord, the citizens abroad are to contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates without facing action taken in accord with the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Daily Newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

16 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 May, total figure rises to 142,858

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,858** after **16 new cases** were reported on 4 May 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **131,997** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Kyaukse Seintalone mango enters Pakokku, NyaungU markets

THE Seintalone variety of mangoes from villages in Kyaukse township, also known as Diamond Solitaire, are entering Pakokku and NyaungU markets at affordable prices, according to the mango traders.

“Last year, the Seintalone mangoes from Kyaukse township were supplied to the Shweli, Muse border trade zone. But this year, the mangoes are sold in Pakokku and NyaungU markets. Last year, the mango with the bag price fetched K550 per fruit. But this year, the fruit is priced at K3,500 for ten mangoes. The mango without bag fetched only K200 per fruit,” said U Maung Lay, the Seintalone mango farm owner from Michauget village, Kyaukse township.

Despite the Seintalone mango trees blossoming so

well, the mango didn't yield as much as expected. As a result, the Seintalone mango growers face with a loss this year.

The mango trees started to bloom and bear fruits in November and December in the region. The mango growers are putting the plastic covers on the fruits after having the small mango. After placing them into the plastic bags, the mangoes are ripe well and have beautiful colour and thus marketable.

The plant bugs could destroy the mango without the cover.

According to the mango traders, the Seintalone mangoes from Kyaukse township sell well in Pakokku and NyaungU markets at an affordable price. — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM



According to the mango traders, the Seintalone mangoes from Kyaukse township sell well in Pakokku and NyaungU markets at an affordable price.

4,215 more acres of summer crops cultivated in Kyaukse successfully



The department has grown 4,215 acres more of summer paddy, including 3,485 acres of sesame, 507 acres of green gram, 1,218 acres of chilli and five acres of vegetables in Kyaukse township.

KYAUKSE township farmed 4,215 more acres of summer crops than expected, and the cultivation of summer crops has met with success.

The township is growing the summer crops under a project depending upon the availability of irrigation water.

In Kyaukse township, the Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics targeted the cultivation of 12,691 acres of summer sesame. However, the department actually grew 14,176 acres of summer sesame.

Similarly, the department

targeted to grow 1,809 acres of summer green gram, but it actually grew 3,316 acres of sesame. Additionally, the department grew 1,218 acres of chilli and five acres of vegetables not included in the project, according to the Township Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics statistics.

The department has grown 4,215 more acres of summer paddy, including 3,485 acres of sesame, 507 acres of green gram, 1,218 acres of chilli and five acres of vegetables in Kyaukse township.

The cultivation of summer crops succeeds in Kyaukse township. Regarding the summer sesame cultivation, most of the village lands can be cultivated successfully with just a few irrigation water because of soil moisture and good soil. That is the reason why the summer sesame is grown.

“Cultivation has succeeded in those villages even though summer sesames are not listed in the cultivation project,” said local farmer U Maung Maung from Mone Pong village. — Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM

Lack of demand winds up Myanmar corn exports by sea

MYANMAR'S corn exports by sea have come to an end due to the lack of demand, said Chair U Min Khaing of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Myanmar has been delivering corns to the neighbouring countries Thailand and China via the land border.

The shipment to Singapore, Malaysia and Viet Nam abruptly stopped owing to zero demand, he added. “The lack of demand by sea is attributed to the political changes and disruption in the logistic sector,” said U Min Khaing.

Myanmar is conveying corns to Thailand through the land border, with a tonne of maize fetching up about 8,000 baht. Myanmar is allowed for corn export to Thailand's Mae-sot between 1 February and 31 August with Form-D, under zero tariff.

Myanmar corn exports were exempted from tax between February and August.

Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent

on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corns are imported during the corn season of Thailand, in line with the notification of the World Trade Organization regarding corn import of Thailand, said a corn exporter.

With the local corn consumption growing, Myanmar's corn export to foreign markets is expected to reach 1.6 million tonnes this year, the association stated.

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

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons- winter, summer and monsoon.

The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corns. — NN/GNLM

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Strive for earning increased income from export of rice

RICE is a staple food of Myanmar people as well as those of almost all Asian countries. Moreover, many global countries use rice as raw materials for making foodstuffs in their traditions.

Being a developing country, Myanmar earns income from commodity export, including paddy. In this regard, the export of rice plays a pivotal role in achieving revenue for the State.

Within more than six months this financial year, Myanmar has bagged US\$448.322 million from the export of rice and broken rice weighing about 1.175 million tonnes to more than 30 customer countries, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The country earned US\$277.699 million from the exportation of 685,433.093 tonnes of rice to over 30 global countries from 1 October 2020 to 16 April 2021. Meanwhile, the export of broken rice weighing 489,822.950 tonnes obtained US\$170.632 million.

However, Myanmar secured US\$497.522 million of income—over US\$340 million from the export of rice and over US\$150 million from sending out more than 580,000 tonnes of broken rice—during the same period of last budget year.

As such, the earning of income during the six and a half months' period this financial year was some US\$50 million less than that of the last budget year.

Farmers place monsoon and summer paddy on some 18 million acres of farmlands on a yearly basis. But, paddy plantations were cultivated on 17.31 million acres in the 2019-20 financial year, and it was the least sown acreage of paddy within the five-year period.

A year into the COVID-19 pandemic, mass vaccinations have begun to raise the tantalizing prospect of herd immunity that eventually curtails or halts the spread of SARS-CoV-2. But what if herd immunity is never fully achieved or if the mutating virus gives rise to hyper-virulent variants that diminish the benefits of vaccination. Those questions underscore the need for effective treatments for people who continue to fall ill with the coronavirus. While a few existing drugs show some benefit, there's a pressing need to find new therapeutics.

Scientists have created a unique tool to help drug researchers quickly identify molecules capable of disarming the virus

WHO begs G7 to step up and combat Covid-19

The WHO pleaded Monday with the G7 to dig deep and fund the global Covid-19 recovery, warning the crisis cannot be resolved worldwide if they do not step up.

THE World Health Organization said the Group of Seven industrial powers had the ability to fund the vaccines, tests and treatments needed to conquer the pandemic — and knock down the barriers blocking faster production.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged the G7 to take decisive action at their June 11-13 summit, being hosted by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Cornwall, southwest England.

"The G7 countries are the world's economic and political leaders. They are also home to many of the world's vaccine producers," Tedros told a news conference.

"We will only solve the vaccine crisis with the leadership of these countries."

Tedros was backed up by former British prime minister Gordon Brown, who warned the pandemic was becoming a "man-made catastrophe".

The Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator programme for finding, developing and distributing coronavirus jabs, tests and ther-



The Covax global vaccine-sharing facility shipped more than 20 million doses to 20 countries. PHOTO: AFP

apeutics, is \$19 billion short of its \$22-billion target this year.

And a further \$35 to \$45 billion dollars will be needed next year to ensure most adults around the world get immunized.

Brown, who chaired the wider G20 in 2009 as it plotted its way out of the global financial crisis, called for immediate decisive action from world leaders.

"I say to the G7... you have the power and the ability to pay for nearly two-thirds of the costs and secure a historic breakthrough by agreeing an equitable burden-sharing formula," the former finance minister said.

Brown said that based on national income, wealth and benefits from the resumption of trade, the United States would pay 27 per-

cent of the cost; Europe 23 percent; Japan six percent; Britain five percent; and Canada — plus South Korea and Australia, who will also attend the G7 — two percent each.

Brown added that he detected a change in Washington's attitude in recent days towards vaccine production licencing agreements and temporary intellectual prop-

erty rights waivers, which could expand production capacity.

Vaccine shortage
Nearly 1.2 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses have so far been injected worldwide, according to an AFP count.

But just 0.2 per cent of them have been administered in the 29 lowest-income countries, home to nine per cent of the global population.

And the Covax global vaccine-sharing programme has largely been elbowed out of the market by rich countries striking their own deals with manufacturers.

Its main supplier is the Serum Institute of India (SII), which is producing AstraZeneca vaccines. But increased demand for doses in India itself, where the pandemic is raging, has also interrupted Covax supplies.

Bruce Aylward, the WHO lead on Covax, said the stoppage had so far deprived Covax of some 100 million doses it had been anticipating, and acknowledged it still had no firm date for when SII would resume deliveries.

Meanwhile WHO's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan warned the additional vaccine doses going to India would not slow the outbreak there immediately.

This "is not going to come down by vaccination", the Indian clinical scientist told reporters, stressing that it takes time for vaccinations to be distributed and then take effect.

Tedros also sounded a reminder that more new Covid-19 cases were reported in the past two weeks than during the first six months of the pandemic, with India and then Brazil making up the lion's share.

Covax-Moderna deal
Covax announced Monday it had struck a deal to buy 500 million doses of Moderna's Covid-19 jabs, with 34 million doses of the two-shot vaccine in the final quarter of 2021 and a further 466 million next year.

Under Covax, the cost of vaccines for the 92 poorest participating economies is covered by donors.

SOURCE: AFP

Scientists create new tool to rapidly screen molecules for anti-COVID properties

RESEARCHERS at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Centre have created an open-source online suite of computational models that will help scientists rapidly screen small molecules for their potential COVID-fighting properties.

A year into the COVID-19 pandemic, mass vaccinations have begun to raise the tantalizing prospect of herd immunity that eventually curtails or halts the spread of SARS-CoV-2. But what if herd immunity is never fully achieved or if the mutating virus gives rise to hyper-virulent variants that diminish the benefits of vaccination. Those questions underscore the need for effective treatments for people who continue to fall ill with the coronavirus. While a few existing drugs show some benefit, there's a pressing need to find new therapeutics.

Scientists have created a unique tool to help drug researchers quickly identify molecules capable of disarming the virus

before it invades human cells or disabling it in the early stages of the infection. Through the findings, published in the journal Nature Machine Intelligence, the researchers introduced REDIAL-2020, an open source online suite of computational models that will help scientists rapidly screen small molecules for their potential COVID-fighting properties. "To some extent, this replaces (laboratory) experiments, says Oprea, chief of the Translational Informatics Division in the UNM School of Medicine. "It narrows the field of what people need to focus on. That's why we placed it online for everyone to use."

Oprea's team at UNM and another group at the University of Texas at El Paso led by Suman Sirimulla, PhD, started work on the REDIAL-2020 tool last spring after scientists at the National Centre for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) released data from their own COVID drug repurposing studies. "Becoming aware of this, I was like, 'Wait a minute,

there's enough data here for us to build solid machine learning models,'" Oprea says. The results from NCATS laboratory assays gauged each molecule's ability to inhibit viral entry, infectivity and reproduction, such as the cytopathic affect -- the ability to protect a cell from being killed by the virus.

Biomedicine researchers often tend to focus on the positive findings from their studies, but in this case, the NCATS scientists also reported which molecules had no virus-fighting effects. The inclusion of negative data actually enhances the accuracy of machine learning, Oprea says. "The idea was that we identify molecules that fit the perfect profile," he says. "You want to find molecules that do all these things and don't do the things that we don't want them to do."

The coronavirus is a wily adversary, Oprea says. "I don't think there is a drug that will fit everything to a T." Instead, researchers will likely devise a multi-drug cocktail that attacks the

virus on multiple fronts. "It goes back to the one-two punch," he says. REDIAL-2020 is based on machine learning algorithms capable of rapidly processing huge



Those questions underscore the need for effective treatments for people who continue to fall ill with the coronavirus. PHOTO: UNM/ANI/FILE

amounts of data and teasing out hidden patterns that might not be perceivable by a human researcher. Oprea's team validated the machine learning predictions based

on the NCATS data by comparing them against the known effects of approved drugs in UNM's Drug-Central database.

SOURCE: ANI

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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Files opened against medical doctors who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

THE following medical doctors have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and health staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and CRPH unlawful association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Hospital	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	Dr Khin Thandar Hsan (Specialist)	Katha Hospital	Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
2	Dr Hlaing Zaw Htet (Specialist)	Yankin Children's Hospital	Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Dr Aung Aung (Specialist)	Ottarathiri Children's Speciality Hospital	Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Dr Kaung Myat Aye Chan (Specialist)	Ottarathiri Children's Speciality Hospital	Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
5	Dr Yi Yi Lwin (Specialist)	Ottarathiri Obstetrics and Gynaecology Speciality Hospital	Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
6	Dr Aung Pyae Phyo (Specialist)	Ottara Thiri Children's Speciality Hospital	Shwebo Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
7	Dr Wut Hmon Tun (Medical Superintendent)	Kalewa Hospital	Kalewa Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
8	Dr Sai Wun Latt Moht (Assistant Surgeon)	Kengtung Hospital	Kengtung Town, Shan State (East)	505-a	
9	Dr Ei Mon Ko Ko (specialist)	Patheingyi Hospital	Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
10	Dr Zin Mar Latt (Assistant Surgeon)	Mogok Hospital	Mogok Town, Mandalay Region	505-a	

Among them, Dr Sai Wun Latt Moht (Assistant Surgeon) of Kengtung Hospital and Dr Ei Mon Ko Ko (specialist) of Patheingyi Hospital, and Dr Zin Mar Latt (Assistant Surgeon) of Mogok Hospital participated in CDM activities without performing medical treatments at assigned hospitals but gave medical treatments at private hospitals/clinics according to the documentary photos.

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those medical doctors charged, action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those medical doctors, and work licences of the private hospitals/clinics which allowed them to give medical treatments will be closed. Deterrent action will be taken against owners of these hospitals/clinics under the law. Action will be taken against any health staff under the law for taking charges of providing healthcare services to the people and giving assistance to private hospitals/clinics with participation in CDM activities without discharging assigned duty. Severe action will be taken against owners of private hospitals/clinics which admit those medical doctors and health staff for supporting the CDM participants. —MNA

Files opened against education staff who participated in CDM activity with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability of the State

THE following teachers have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for inciting State service personnel and education staff to participate in CDM activities, themselves participating in it, supporting CDM activities and unlawful CRPH association with the aim of deteriorating the State administrative machinery.

Sr	Name	Occupation	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	U Khine Sar (a) U Lin	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Branch) (Madu), Matupi Township	Matupi Town, Chin State	505-a	
2	U Zay Yar Hlaing	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Thayettan) Htantabin Township	Htantabin Township, Bago Region	505-a	
3	U Win Htay	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Okpo), Okpo Township	Okpo Township, Bago Region	505-a	
4	U Aung Thu (a) Aung Kyaw Thu	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Tanawkyun) Waw Township	Waw Township, Bago Region	505-a	
5	U Kyaw Thin	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (Zigon), Zigon Town	Zigon Town, Sagaing Region	505-a	
6	U Kuday Sein	Senior Assistant Teacher, BEHS(2), Nawngkhio Town	Nawngkhio Town, Shan State (North)	505-a	
7	U Aye Lin Aung	Physical Teacher, BEHS(9), Aungmyethazan Township	Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region	505-a	
8	U Hlaing Myo Win	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEMS (NyaungInn), Bago Township	Bago Town, Bago Region	505-a	
9	Daw Yi Yi Htay	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEHS (3) Mudon Town	Mudon Town, Mon State	505-a	
10	U Ye Min Tun	Junior Assistant Teacher, BEMS (Htanaunggon), Salin Township	Salin Town, Magway Region	505-a	

As tasks are being carried out to arrest those education staff charged, people are urged to inform nearby police stations about those education staff and action will be taken against the persons under the law for admitting those education staff. —MNA

Rickshaw 'ambulance' offers free oxygen, transport for virus patients

WHEN Indian auto-rickshaw driver Mohammad Javed Khan saw people carrying their coronavirus-stricken parents to hospitals on their backs as they were too poor to afford an ambulance, he knew he had to help.

Khan, a 34-year-old driver in the central Indian city of Bhopal, sold his wife's jewellery and converted his three-wheeled vehicle into a small ambulance, fitting it out with an oxygen cylinder, an oximeter to measure oxygen levels in the blood, and other medical supplies.

As India grapples with a harrowing Covid-19 crisis that has seen infections skyrocket and the healthcare system



Auto-rickshaw driver Mohammad Javed Khan converted his three-wheeled vehicle into a small ambulance. PHOTO: AFP

stretched to breaking point, individuals like Khan have stepped forward to try and help their local communities.

"A critically ill patient cannot be brought to the hospital without oxygen support. So, I thought, why not turn my

three-wheeler into an ambulance. It's not as spacious as an ambulance, but it can surely save lives," Khan told AFP.

"I see young people struggling without oxygen. Even when they call ambulances, the ambulances are charging 5,000-10,000 rupees (\$70-140). How will a poor person be able to afford it? Especially during this pandemic when most people don't have an income?"

A donor provided him with a cylinder and another with the oximeter.

A doctor taught Khan how to use the cylinder and oximeter to safely supply the lifesaving gas to patients as he drove them to a hospital.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese tourists out in force as virus fears recede

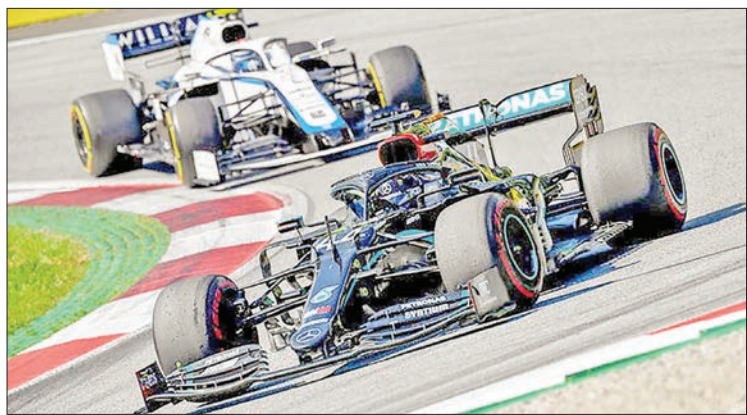
SIPPING bubble tea and dressed in their holiday finest, millions of Chinese travellers flocked to domestic tourist attractions over the May 1 long holiday with Covid-19 fears already a distant memory.

Beijing's historic alleyways were packed with camera-wielding visitors Tuesday, while a bride dressed in red tulle took wedding photos with her groom outside the Forbidden City.

Out-of-towners also mobbed popular sites in Shanghai over the weekend, many dragging roller bags and snapping selfies against the city skyline.

In Wuhan, where Covid-19 was first reported in late 2019, thousands of maskless revellers cheered and danced shoulder to shoulder at the outdoor Strawberry Music Festival.—AFP ■

Istanbul to host Formula 1 as fans, tourism sector rejoice



FILE: Mercedes' driver Lewis Hamilton ahead of Williams driver Nicholas Latifi during an Formula One Grand Prix race. PHOTO: AFP

FORMULA 1 will return to Istanbul this year following the cancellation of the Canadian Grand Prix

in Montreal due to travel restrictions related to COVID-19, a move which has excited Turkish fans

and the ailing tourism industry.

Formula 1 officials announced last week that the event, scheduled between June 11 and 13, will be moved to the Intercity Istanbul Park racecourse, located in the Tuzla district, on the Asian side of Turkey's biggest city.

"We had missed the sound of the races. The enthusiasm of the Formula 1 Grand Prix is returning to Istanbul," Ali Yerlikaya, the governor of the city, wrote on social media.

The Istanbul race was part of the Formula 1 World Championship between 2005 and 2011 before it was dropped from the

calendar over financial disagreements. In a surprise and last-ditch move, Istanbul was included in last year's calendar following schedule changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton became the first champion at Istanbul Park in a race held without spectators because of coronavirus prevention measures. The city is seeking to be permanently included in the World Championship, and this year's organization is important in that respect to host the top-flight motorsports event in the years to come.—Xinhua ■

Virus-hit Papua New Guinea starts Covid-19 vaccine roll-out

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister launched a nationwide coronavirus vaccine roll-out Tuesday (May 4), hoping to quell a runaway outbreak and counter widespread public hesitancy about jabs.

Mr James Marape said a batch of 100,000 vaccines had arrived in Papua New Guinea and would be distributed countrywide, as he urged sceptical health workers and the public to get vaccinated.

"We want to reduce and prevent deaths of our people," he said, launching the Sleeves Up campaign. After weathering the initial stages of the pandemic, the country has recorded most of its 11,262 Covid-19 cases and 115 known deaths since February. Only 93,000 tests have been carried out among a population of nine million, so the real number of infections is feared to be much higher. "If you have no need to go to a public place outside of your home or workplace, stay put wherever you are," Mr Marape said.—AFP ■

Third COVID-19 wave ends in Croatia: chief epidemiologist

CROATIA'S chief epidemiologist Krunoslav Capak said on Monday that the country is flattening the coronavirus curve and that he expects to see a drop in new hospitalizations and COVID-19-related deaths soon.

"This doesn't mean that the pandemic is over, but the third wave has ended," Capak told reporters in Koprivnica, a city in northern Croatia, which pioneered drive-through vaccination in the country. It is still possible that the new variants would result in a number of new COVID-19 cases, "but it seems to us that this is going in the right direction and that we have a decline."

According to Capak, Croatia

plans to administer two million vaccine doses and to vaccinate 55 per cent of the country's four million population by the end of June. Croatia is now receiving larger weekly vaccine deliveries and has accelerated its vaccination campaign. Furthermore, Capak said that the country has also stepped up its campaign aimed at educating the public.

He said that those who have had COVID-19 in the past six months should receive only one dose of a vaccine, citing studies that question the efficacy of a second dose.

In the past 24 hours, Croatia has registered 349 new cases of coronavirus infection and 36 related deaths. As of May



Medical workers are seen at a drive-through COVID-19 vaccination point in Virovitica, Croatia, May 3, 2021. PHOTO: DAMIR SPEHAR/PIXSELL VIA XINHUA

2, more than 900,000 vaccine doses had been administered in the country, and 708,137 people,

or 21 per cent of the adult population, had been vaccinated.—Xinhua ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF'Woke' CIA
recruitment video
infuriates US
conservatives

A 36-year-old CIA employee also wants you to know how else she sees herself -- that she is proudly a "woman of colour," is "intersectional" and is a "cisgender millennial".

But a video featuring the young Latina woman to promote diversity at the US spy agency has conservatives fuming that it has gone overboard with "wokeness" -- a broad term for acute awareness of contemporary issues of race and gender, sometimes used with derision.

The backlash was sparked after the Central Intelligence Agency posted the slick promotional video on its YouTube channel as part of a series called "Humans of CIA."

In it, the CIA employee proudly declares her success, using language that is familiar with younger Americans and intellectuals, but is derided as focusing too much on political correctness by many conservatives.—AFP ■

Four killed after
flash floods in
Yemen's historic
Tarim city

FOUR people have been killed in flash floods following heavy rains in the historic Yemeni city of Tarim, state media said yesterday.

The city, located in the central province of Hadramawt, is best known for its mud-brick structures and more than 360 mosques including Al-Mehdar, which has the tallest minaret in the country.

The state-run Saba news agency reported four dead and an unspecified number of injured as a result of heavy rains on Sunday, and said three residences had collapsed.

AFP footage showed streets of the city flooded and mud-brick buildings damaged, with vehicles and motorcycles buried under debris and mud. Residents said the victims' bodies were transported to hospital.—AFP ■

Pentagon downplays newest Afghanistan clashes



A US and Afghan soldier shake hands during the handover ceremony at Camp Antonik in Helmand province.
PHOTO: AFGHANISTAN'S MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OFFICE/AFP

THE Pentagon downplayed Monday the impact of attacks by Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan over the weekend as US and allied

forces began their withdrawal from the country.

"What we've seen are some small harassing attacks over the

course of the weekend that have not had any significant impact, certainly not on our people or on our resources there," said US De-

partment of Defense spokesman John Kirby. "We've seen nothing thus far that has affected the drawdown, or had any significant impact on the mission at hand in Afghanistan". On Saturday, just as the US military formally began to pull out its last 2,500 troops in the country, it launched a "precision strike" against the source of fire that targeted an airfield in Kandahar used by the Americans. General Austin Miller, the US commander in Afghanistan, "certainly has at his disposal response options to make sure that he's protecting our troops and our people," Kirby said.

Nearly 20 years after US and allied NATO troops invaded the country and ousted the Taliban government as they pursued Al-Qaeda after the September 11, 2001 attacks, President Joe Biden ordered in April the final withdrawal.—AFP ■

Australia walks back 'racist' India ban after backlash

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister fended off accusations of racism and having blood on his hands Tuesday, as he retreated from a threat to jail Australians trying to escape COVID-wracked India.

Scott Morrison's government moved to ban travellers from India from entering Australia until May 15, threatening rule-breakers - including Australian citizens - with prison time.

Amid a widespread backlash, Morrison on Tuesday said it was "highly unlikely" that Australians who skirted a ban would be jailed.

"I think the likelihood of any

of that occurring is pretty much zero," Morrison said in a break-fast-time media blitz on Tuesday.

Around 9,000 Australians are believed to be in India, where hundreds of thousands of new coronavirus cases are being detected every day and the death toll is soaring.

Among those trapped are some of Australia's most high profile sporting stars - cricketers playing in the lucrative Indian Premier League.

Commentator and former Test cricket star Michael Slater was among those who pilloried Morrison's decision, saying it



There is a blanket ban on travel to-and-from the country unless an exemption is secured. **PHOTO: AFP**

was a "disgrace". "Blood on your hands PM. How dare you treat us like this," he tweeted. "If our

Government cared for the safety of Aussies they would allow us to get home."—AFP ■

Spain's socialists face drubbing in Madrid regional election

MADRID votes Tuesday in an early regional election the incumbent conservative Popular Party is expected to win comfortably,

dealing a blow to Spain's Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

Isabel Diaz Ayuso, the outgoing leader of the key Madrid

regional administration, has consistently pushed back against central government pressure to impose tighter virus restrictions.

The 42-year-old rising star in the PP argues keeping the economy afloat and preserving social interaction is also important for health.

On her watch, Madrid has had Spain's lightest virus restrictions. It has been the only major European capital to keep bars, restaurants and theatres open with few restrictions since a nationwide lockdown ended in mid-2020.

"Having beers is important,"

Diaz Ayuso Ser radio station last month. "After a bad day a beer cheers you up." She has been campaigning under the slogan "Freedom".

Critics however say her lax restrictions have come at too high a price. They point out that Madrid has the highest percentage of intensive care beds occupied by Covid-19 patients in the country, at nearly 45 per cent -- and one of the country's highest infection rates. Just over 5.1 million people are eligible to vote in the election in Spain's richest region, which has been governed by the PP since 1995.—AFP ■

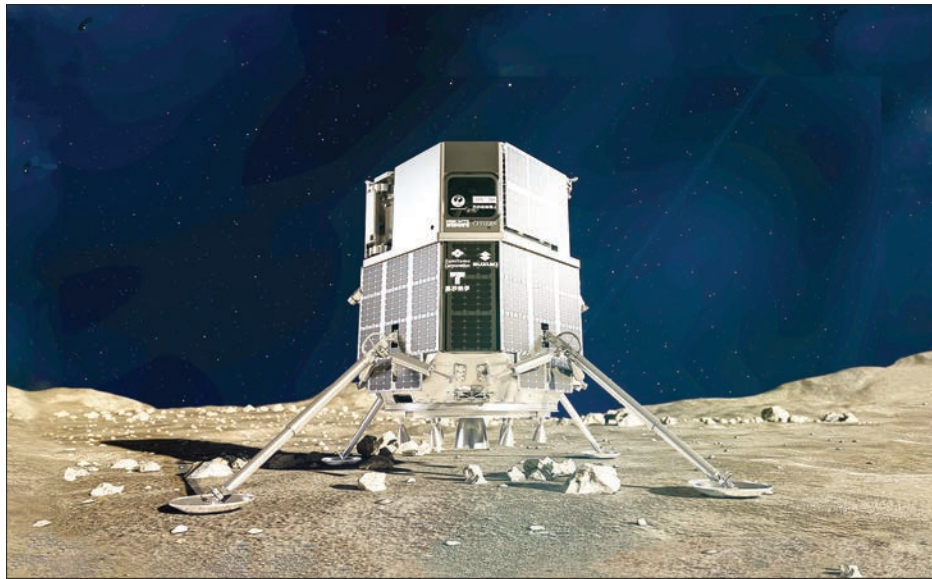


Diaz Ayuso has campaigned using the slogan 'Freedom'. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japanese startup to carry UAE lunar rover to Moon in 2022

JAPANESE startup Ispace Inc. will deliver a lunar rover under development by the United Arab Emirates to the Moon next year in what will be the Arab world's first lunar mission.

Under the contract recently announced by the Tokyo-based space company and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, Dubai's governmental space agency, Ispace will also provide communications and power during the journey to the Moon and on its surface. The UAE's rover will be loaded onto a lunar lander that Ispace plans to launch from Florida in the United States using a rocket made by SpaceX, officially known as Space Exploration Technologies Corp. and founded by tech billionaire Elon Musk. The Rashid rover weighing 10 kilogrammes and measuring about 50 centimetres in length and width and 70 cm



Supplied image shows a rendering of the United Arab Emirates' Rashid lunar rover under development by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, a Dubai government agency which is part of the UAE space programme. PHOTO: KYODO

in height will be transported in Ispace's lander currently under development. The project marks Ispace's first space mission since its establishment in 2010.

"We are very honoured that MBRSC has selected Ispace to play a key role for this historic moment,"

Takeshi Hakamada, CEO and founder of Ispace, told an online news conference. "Furthermore, we are very pleased to advance our collaboration between the UAE and Japan in space exploration." If the mission succeeds, Ispace could become the first Japanese

private firm to land on the Moon. Ispace has also been chosen by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration to join its project to collect lunar regolith from the Moon's surface as part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services program. —Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bill and Melinda Gates announce divorce after 27 years

Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife and fellow philanthropist Melinda announced on Monday they are divorcing after a 27-year marriage. One of the world's wealthiest couples -- with a joint fortune estimated at \$130 billion -- the Gates have channeled billions into charitable work around the globe via their hugely influential foundation.

In announcing their split on Twitter, the couple said they would continue their joint work on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which funds programmes in global health, gender equality, education and other causes. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY. NO. (223N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY. NO. (223N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-5-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Apple, Epic in heated US court clash over app market

FORTNITE maker Epic Games and Apple clashed in court Monday at the opening of a blockbuster trial on the iPhone maker's App Store with big implications for the world of mobile tech, trading barbs over alleged monopolistic actions and what is best for consumers.

Epic attorney Katherine Forrest began the case, accusing Apple of turning its online marketplace into a monopoly "walled garden" that lures

in developers and users and then squeezes money out of them. Apple essentially planted a "flower in the walled garden (that) was turned into a Venus fly trap," the lawyer said during opening statements in California federal court, claiming the technology titan gets profits of as much as 78 per cent from apps.

"The evidence will show unambiguously that Apple is a monopoly," she claimed. Apple lawyer Karen Dunn fired

back, telling the judge that Epic's suit is part of a "self-proclaimed war against mobile platform fees" that defies the law and the facts. Apple is no more a monopoly than is a grocery market that sells a broad array of goods, competing with other shops, Dunn maintained, pointing out that people can play Epic games on platforms including consoles, personal computers and smartphones made by Apple rivals. —AFP ■



Epic CEO Tim Sweeney arrives at federal court in Oakland, California for a trial pitting the maker of the popular video game Fortnite against Apple in a case with big implications for the future of the online App Store. PHOTO: AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTION

L'Oreal, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of France, and having its principal office at 14 Rue Royale, 75008 Paris, France, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:

SINCE 1847
THAYERS
NATURAL REMEDIES

The above Trademark is used in respect of "Non-medicated skin care preparation, namely, body mist; skin toner; astringents for cosmetic purposes; non-medicated skin care preparations, namely, creams, lotions, gels, toners, cleaners and peels; cosmetic pads; pre-moistened cosmetic towelettes; non-medicated bar soaps; non-medicated lip balms; non-medicated throat sprays; facial moisturizers; personal deodorants; body scrubs; non-medicated body lotions; non-medicated hand soaps; facial beauty masks; shaving soaps; non-medicated beard care preparations, namely, beard oils; non-medicated sunscreen creams; facial moisturizer with SPF; hair conditioner; non-medicated balms for use in eyes; non-medicated toothpaste" in Class 3; and "Witch Hazel; astringents for medicinal purposes; medicated skin care preparations, namely, creams, lotions, gels, toners, cleaners and peels; moisturizers for medical purposes; medicated throat sprays; liquid nutritional supplements; throat lozenges; vitamin C preparations; medicated sunscreen creams; medicated lip balms; medicated bar soap; medicated toothpaste" in Class 5.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademark or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)

For L'Oreal

c/o Baker & McKenzie Limited

Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated: 5th May 2021

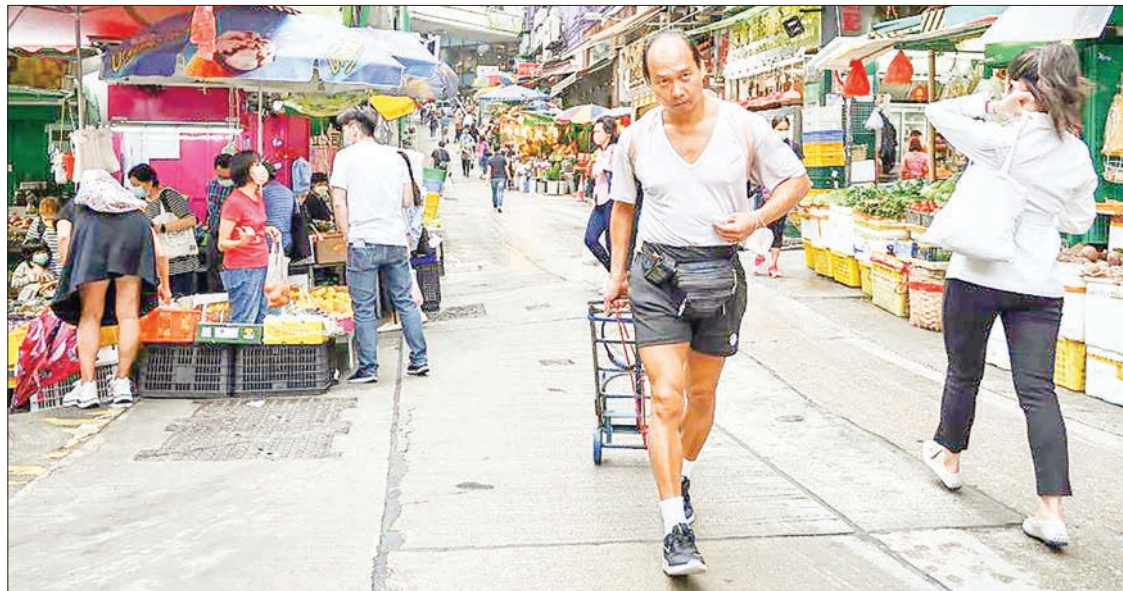
Hong Kong ends longest recession in decades

HONG Kong's economy jumped back into growth in the first quarter of the year, official figures showed on Monday, ending the city's most pronounced period of recession in its modern history.

The international financial hub has been battered the last 18 months by a triple whammy of the US-China trade war, months of social unrest and then the coronavirus pandemic.

It recorded six consecutive quarters of negative growth, a more prolonged downturn than during both the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 2007-08 global crash.

That came to an end on Monday when the government announced the economy grew 7.8 per cent on year in the first



A vendor pulls a trolley down a street of a food market in Hong Kong. **PHOTO: AFP**

three months of 2020.

Hong Kong was one of the few places in the world unlucky

enough to enter the coronavirus pandemic already mired in a deep recession.

In 2019, months of huge and often violent pro-democracy protests coincided with swirling

trade tensions between Beijing and the US, pummeling the economy that acts as an international gateway to China.

The city was among the first places outside mainland China to record a coronavirus infection, and the economy plunged by a record-breaking 9.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2020.

Since then, Hong Kong has managed to keep the virus spread down to a little more than 11,000 infections thanks to strict quarantine and economically punishing social distancing measures.

This year's economic rebound was largely sparked by a sharp resurgence in exports fuelled by recoveries in both China and the US.—AFP ■

Economic downturn fueling Argentine crypto craze

ARGENTINA'S economic downturn, with high inflation, a deflating currency and a shortage of US dollars to invest in, has in fact proved a shot in the arm for one sector: cryptocurrency.

As they seek safe havens for their dwindling nest eggs, Argentines – used to buffering against economic crises – have been putting their money into Bitcoin, Tether, Ethereum or Dai.

“The number of user accounts for investing in ‘cryptos’ has multiplied by ten in Argenti-

na since 2020,” said Maximiliano Hinz, Latin American director of cryptocurrency exchange Binance, the world's largest by trade volume. There are now an estimated two million crypto trading accounts in the country of 45 million people. Argentina has been in recession since 2018, with inflation averaging 45 per cent over the last three years, and a GDP contraction of 9.9 per cent in 2020.

Poverty haunts two in five people, and unemployment is at

11 percent. For those wishing to put money aside for a rainy day, cryptocurrencies offer relief from low interest rates and a government-imposed limit on greenback purchases of \$200 per month in a population accustomed to dollarizing savings. One Bitcoin is now worth about \$60,000, or 5.6 million pesos. “It is no coincidence that Argentina and Venezuela, countries with high inflation, are the main crypto poles in South America,” said Marcos Zocaró, a specialist in digital assets.—AFP ■

France rejects British fishing demands as Brexit row deepens



Fishing boats moored in western France. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE French government on Monday lashed out at new regulations which Britain has declared for fishing in its waters near the Channel Islands, deeming them “null and void” in a deepening post-Brexit row.

France and Britain have increasingly clashed over fishing in recent weeks, with French fishermen saying they are being prevented from operating in British waters because of difficulties in obtaining licences.

The French fisheries ministry said Britain had introduced “new technical measures” relating to licences for fishing off the Channel Islands which had not been properly declared to the European Union under the terms of the Brexit deal.

“We consider that if the new demands for sea zoning or fishing equipment are integrat-

ed into the licences - when the European Commission has not been notified - they are null and void,” the ministry told AFP.

The ministry said it was adhering “strictly to the deal” agreed on fishing under the terms of Britain's exit from the European Union on January 1. “If the United Kingdom wants to introduce new measures, it must notify the European Commission which in turn notifies us - that allows for us to engage in a dialogue,” the ministry said.

“These new technical measures are not applicable to our fishermen as things stand.”

Fishing proved one of the most fraught issues in the frantic negotiations leading up to Britain's departure from the EU, with London tightly guarding control over its waters as a symbol of its sovereignty.—AFP ■

Fresh protests called after deadly Colombia tax reform clashes



Taxi drivers protest against a tax reform bill launched by President Ivan Duque, in Bogota on May 3, 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

PROTESTERS in Colombia called Monday for a new mass rally after 19 people died and more than 800 were wounded in clashes during five days of demonstrations against a proposed government tax reform.

The office of Colombia's human rights ombudsman said

18 civilians and a police officer died in violence during the protests that began throughout the country on April 28, while 846 people, including 306 civilians, were injured. Authorities have detained 431 people, and the government deployed the military in the worst-affected cities.

Some NGOs accused police of firing at civilians. Faced with the unrest, the government of President Ivan Duque on Sunday ordered the tax reform proposal be withdrawn from Congress, where it was being debated. And on Monday, Colombia's finance minister Alberto Carrasquilla resigned, saying in a statement his continued presence “would make it difficult to build the necessary consensus quickly and efficiently” for a new reform proposal. He was quickly replaced by economist Jose Manuel Restrepo, previously the minister of commerce. Despite the withdrawal of the bill, which protesters said would make Colombia poorer in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, an umbrella group known as the National Strike Committee called for new demonstrations on Wednesday.—AFP ■

North Korea founder's memoir triggers censorship debate in South

A South Korean publisher's defiant move to release the memoirs of the North's founder Kim Il Sung has triggered a heated debate over Seoul's decades-old ban on Pyongyang's propaganda under national security laws.

Critics of the measure say Southerners are politically mature enough to judge such material for themselves and argue it amounts to unnecessary censorship in a vibrant democracy that is one of the most wired and educated countries in the world.

But the South remains officially at war with its nuclear-armed and impoverished neighbour, with legislation to match.

The national security law dates from 1948, before the out-



North Korean founder Kim Il-sung's eight-volume memoirs have been released in the South, potentially leaving their publisher at risk of prosecution for reproducing pro-Pyongyang materials. PHOTO: AFP

break of the Korean War, and still blocks ordinary citizens from accessing most North Korean-produced content, including its offi-

cial Rodong Sinmun newspaper. Reproducing or possessing banned pro-Pyongyang materials is punishable by up to seven years

in prison.

Even so publisher Kim Seung-kyun in April released the North Korean founder's eight-volume memoirs, titled "With the Century", telling AFP he did so to promote inter-Korean reconciliation. An anti-North civic group filed a criminal complaint, police launched an investigation and within days the country's major bookstores -- who had received it via a publishers' association -- pulled it from their shelves.

It briefly remained available online for 280,000 won (\$250) for the full set, but by last week it was no longer available from popular web portal Naver, while searches on local bookselling platforms Kyobo and Yes24 showed no results. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden to allow up to 62,500 refugees into US after criticism

PRESIDENT Joe Biden announced Monday, after coming under fierce criticism, that he was raising the maximum number of refugees allowed into the United States this year to 62,500 -- up from the 15,000 cap imposed by his predecessor Donald Trump.

The change follows backlash from allies over Biden's earlier decision to keep the Trump-era limits -- a politically costly moment of confusion that stood out in a White House notable for its iron discipline in its first three months.

"This erases the historically low number set by the previous administration of 15,000, which did not reflect America's values as a nation that welcomes and supports refugees," Biden said in a statement.

"The new admissions cap will also reinforce efforts that are already underway to expand the United States' capacity to admit refugees, so that we can reach the goal of 125,000 refugee admissions that I intend to set for the coming fiscal year." —AFP ■

French parliament to vote new climate law criticised by green groups



President Emmanuel Macron is trying to burnish his climate credentials ahead of next year's election. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

THE French parliament is set to vote through a new climate change law on Tuesday intended

by President Emmanuel Macron to reinforce his green credentials one year ahead of national

elections.

The draft legislation is almost certain to be approved in a first reading by the lower house of parliament, where Macron has a working majority, but it has been heavily criticised by environmental groups. Campaigners see it as too timid given the pace of climate change globally and accuse the French leader of half-hearted commitment to a cause he has admitted to embracing belatedly.

France's environment minister, Barbara Pompili, has defended the text, saying it "will affect the daily life of all of our citizens" and is "one of the biggest laws of the (president's) term".

Measures include bans on domestic flights under two and half hours that can be done by train, restrictions on renting badly insulated properties, or the creation of a new "ecocide" crime to punish polluters. The overall aim is to put in place measures that will enable France to meet its target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent compared with 1990 levels by a deadline of 2030. Lobby groups such as Greenpeace have called it a "lost opportunity of Macron's term", while even the president's own environmental advisory council said it would "have a potentially limited impact". —AFP ■

Bridge collapses with metro train on it, killing at least 23

AT least 23 people died and around 70 were injured after a portion of an elevated rail in a southern suburb of Mexico City collapsed on the ground, causing a passing train to derail and crash at Olivos station.

Early unofficial reports from the scene spoke of at least 50 people injured, after the metro train fell from the collapsing section of Line 12 on Monday evening, shortly before 11 pm local time.

Newspaper El Universal reported six dead and 80 injured, citing emergency services responding to the scene. Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum also came to the station. By midnight local time, Mexico City emergency authorities spoke of 15 dead and 70 injured. —AFP ■

G7 pushes solidarity to tackle global threats

G7 foreign ministers meet in London for their first face-to-face talks in more than two years on Tuesday, with calls for urgent joined-up action to tackle the most pressing global threats.

China, Myanmar, Libya, Syria and Russia are all on the formal agenda as the ministers from the club of wealthy democracies prepare for a leaders' meeting in Cornwall, southwest England, next month.

They will also discuss violence in Ethiopia, Iran and North Korea, Somalia, the Sahel and western Balkans, as part of what London said were "pressing ge-

opolitical issues that threaten to undermine democracy, freedoms and human rights".

Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met his US counterpart Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday with both pushing a firm line on the need for a more unified approach.

"The UK's presidency of the G7 is an opportunity to bring together open, democratic societies and demonstrate unity at a time when it is much needed to tackle shared challenges and rising threats," Raab said in a statement.

Blinken hammered home



Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab (R) and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken are both pushing a firm line on the need for a more unified G7 approach. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

the need for a common stance, as he reaffirmed US commitment to the "international rules-based

order" to tackle issues from climate change to post-pandemic recovery. —AFP ■

Lethwei is the most effective stand-up combat: Dave Leduc



MYANMA Lethwei Cruiserweight World Champion Dave Leduc said that he loves Lethwei with all of his heart. He also spoke out that Lethwei is the most effective and brilliant stand-up combat on the planet.

“You can only understand, true, all-out stand-up combat once you’ve fought without gloves, all 9 limbs allowed, and no judges – KO to win. The art of Lethwei is the most effective stand-up combat on the planet, far superior due to fewer restrictions on striking and takedowns,” Dave Leduc said.

The Lethwei star also expressed his feeling about the brilliant combat.

“Let’s make it clear: Lethwei is the ultimate test for strikers. I don’t care how many belts you have in other stand-up disciplines. It won’t matter once you fight without your hand pillows, and you face a warrior looking for any opportunity to smash his skull against the soft tissues of your face. It’s another world.”

The Lethwei World Champion Dave has also accepted challenges from Muay Thai

communities, and his fight against a Muay Thai fighter will be seen in the near future.

“The Muay Thai community is unaware of the ancestor of their sport. I understand Myanmar was hidden from the world for 60 years, but it’s time to set the record straight. Lethwei is not about being pretty or good looking, and it’s about inflicting damage.

That’s why I have accepted the offer presented to my team for the end of the year: Lethwei vs Muay Thai”, Dave Leduc added. —GNLM

Myanmar Lethwei Cruiserweight World Champion Dave Leduc. **PHOTO: DAVE LEDUC FB**

Thierry Henry warns of long road ahead for Arsenal takeover bid

THIERRY Henry has warned Arsenal supporters that a potential takeover by Spotify co-founder Daniel Ek could take a “very long” time as the club’s all-time record goalscorer confirmed his role in the bid.

Ek has gone public with his desire to buy the struggling Premier League giants in the aftermath of fan protests against Arsenal’s involvement in the failed European Super League project.

However, the club’s billionaire American owner Stan Kroenke has insisted he has no intention of selling the Gunners.

Henry’s former teammates and Arsenal legends Dennis Bergkamp and Patrick Vieira are also part of an advisory group for Ek’s takeover bid.

“He approached us, we listened to him,” Henry told Sky

Sports. “When we knew first and foremost that he wanted to involve the fans we actually met the Arsenal Supporters’ Trust and told them what we wanted to do—bring them back on board.

“He wants to reinject the Arsenal DNA, the identity that is long gone. “You don’t have Arsenal people there among the board that can sometimes show the right direction and that is what Daniel wants to do.

“He already said he collected the funds so he can make sure he can make a good bid. Now obviously they need to listen and see what they can do.”

Last week, Kroenke, through his Kroenke Sports and Entertainment business, issued a statement saying he “will not entertain” any offer. —AFP ■

UEFA allows 26-player squads for Euro 2020



UEFA has increased the size of squads to 26 for Euro 2020 to cover for possible Covid cases. **PHOTO: UEFA**

UEFA said Tuesday it would allow expanded 26-man squads at Euro 2020, meeting a demand from coaches who feared they could lose players due to coronavirus.

European football’s governing body said it had agreed the increase from 23 players “to mitigate the risks of teams facing a shortage of available players for certain matches due to possible positive Covid-19 test results and subsequent quarantine meas-

ures”. France coach Didier Deschamps and Belgium boss Roberto Martinez were among those who had called for the change while England manager Gareth Southgate had been opposed.

Matchday squads will still be limited to 23 players.

UEFA clarified that the current regulations that allow coaches to change their squads after the cut-off point of June 1 up until their first match in the case of “serious injury or illness”

will include players who test positive for Covid-19 or who are declared as “close contacts” of a positive Covid-19 tested person.

The new regulations will also allow goalkeepers to be replaced before each match during the tournament in case of physical incapacity even if one or two goalkeepers from the player list are still available. A player that has been replaced on the player list will not later be allowed to return to the competition. —AFP ■

Europe’s clubs caught between a financial pit and hallowed grounds

AS European football clubs struggle to make up for revenue lost in the pandemic, one untapped source of revenue is stadium naming rights, but exploiting them may not be straightforward.

Many football fans have long opposed clubs selling their history, and, during the European Super League fiasco, supporters made

clear their hostility to trading tradition for cash. Furthermore, some big-money sport sponsors, notably airlines, have also been hit hard by Covid-19 restrictions.

“Many European sports clubs have long been missing out on millions worth of stadium naming sponsorship fees annually,” Bryn Anderson, an analyst specialising

in sports economics at auditing firm KPMG, told AFP. Today, only 29 of the 98 clubs in the top divisions in England, Germany, Italy, Spain and France, Europe’s ‘big five’ leagues play in named stadiums. In the National Football League by contrast, more than 80 per cent of the stadiums bear sponsors’ names. —AFP ■



Thierry Henry has warned Arsenal supporters that a potential takeover by Spotify co-founder Daniel Ek could take a “very long” time as the club’s all-time record goalscorer confirmed his role in the bid. **PHOTO: AFP**