AT the invitation of the Prime Minister of Thailand, General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd.), Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin paid a visit to Thailand by special flight at 7 am and returned back to Nay Pyi Taw at 5 pm on 24 February 2021.

While in Thailand, the Union Minister had separate meetings with Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd.) and Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr Don Pramudwinai.

At the meetings, they cordially exchanged views on border security and stability along the border, attainment of legal status and ensuring rights of Myanmar workers in Thailand. Furthermore, they also exchanged views on future work plans under the ASEAN cooperation frameworks on the basis of ASEAN family spirit and ASEAN solidarity.

The Union Minister also apprised the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand of recent developments and foreign policy of Myanmar and political, economic and social objectives laid down by the State Administration Council.

Subsequently, the Union Minister met with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mrs Retno Marsudi, along with the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and exchanged views on Myanmar-ASEAN cooperation and future cooperation with ASEAN on the basis of ASEAN unity and family spirit.—MNA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ballot papers</th>
<th>Ballot papers taken out</th>
<th>Used ballot papers</th>
<th>Subtraction</th>
<th>Surplus ballot papers</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/village</td>
<td>96,200</td>
<td>67,175</td>
<td>29,025</td>
<td>23,064</td>
<td>5,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advance voting in townships</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surplus in townships</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ballot papers</th>
<th>Ballot papers taken out</th>
<th>Used ballot papers</th>
<th>Subtraction</th>
<th>Surplus ballot papers</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/village</td>
<td>33,400</td>
<td>24,396</td>
<td>9,004</td>
<td>8,801</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advance voting in townships</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surplus in townships</td>
<td>1,684</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,684</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ballot papers</th>
<th>Ballot papers taken out</th>
<th>Used ballot papers</th>
<th>Subtraction</th>
<th>Surplus ballot papers</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/village</td>
<td>83,505</td>
<td>68,822</td>
<td>14,683</td>
<td>14,245</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advance voting in townships</td>
<td>3,270</td>
<td>3,270</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surplus in townships</td>
<td>3,774</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,774</td>
<td></td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ballot papers</th>
<th>Ballot papers taken out</th>
<th>Used ballot papers</th>
<th>Subtraction</th>
<th>Surplus ballot papers</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/village</td>
<td>99,250</td>
<td>77,365</td>
<td>21,885</td>
<td>21,007</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advance voting in townships</td>
<td>1,311</td>
<td>1,311</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surplus in townships</td>
<td>8,398</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,398</td>
<td></td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ballot papers</th>
<th>Ballot papers taken out</th>
<th>Used ballot papers</th>
<th>Subtraction</th>
<th>Surplus ballot papers</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/village</td>
<td>194,750</td>
<td>127,618</td>
<td>67,132</td>
<td>60,328</td>
<td>6,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advance voting in townships</td>
<td>1,647</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surplus in townships</td>
<td>8,001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,001</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ballot papers</th>
<th>Ballot papers taken out</th>
<th>Used ballot papers</th>
<th>Subtraction</th>
<th>Surplus ballot papers</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/village</td>
<td>228164</td>
<td>162609</td>
<td>65552</td>
<td>63278</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advance voting in townships</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>1408</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surplus in townships</td>
<td>16150</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16150</td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ballot papers</th>
<th>Ballot papers taken out</th>
<th>Used ballot papers</th>
<th>Subtraction</th>
<th>Surplus ballot papers</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/village</td>
<td>145750</td>
<td>104818</td>
<td>40932</td>
<td>38944</td>
<td>1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advance voting in townships</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surplus in townships</td>
<td>4247</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4247</td>
<td></td>
<td>4247</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNION MINISTER for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi held a virtual coordination meeting with forest officers from states and regions yesterday.

The Union Minister discussed forestation, prevention of deforestation plans, illegal timber trade and law enforcement in this sector.

Myanmar has adopted the Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme from 2017 to 2027 financial years; selection of land areas for forestation has been complete for 21,540 acres under the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

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

2. Economic affairs
   (A) Further development of production based on agriculture and livestock breeding through modern techniques and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
   (B) Stability of market economy and inviting international investments to develop the economy of entire ethnic people
   (C) Encouragement of local businesses to create employment opportunities to be able to produce many products of the State

3. Social affairs
   (A) For ensuring of dynamism of Union spirit which is genuine patriotic spirit
   (B) Following customs and traditions of all ethnic nationalities and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national characters
   (C) Enhancement of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

MoNREC discusses forestation works for upcoming monsoon

UNION MINISTER for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi joined the virtual coordination meeting with forest officers from states and regions on 24 February 2021.

Forest Department, 4,056 acres under the Dry Zone Greening Department, and 150 acres under the Forest Department, totally 25,740 acres. Eighty-four per cent of 26.39 million nursery plants have been grown, and 89 per cent of 10.7 million nursery plants from the department and public sector have been planted.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi said to conduct forestation works under the green environment campaign and prevent the reasons if deforestation and illegal timber smuggling through the community monitoring and reporting system.

The Union Minister and senior officials from Myanmar Timber Enterprise, the Dry Zone Greening Department, and the Forestry Department coordinated the discussions of officials from the respective departments via videoconferencing.—MNA
The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the meeting to explain the duties and responsibilities of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General and Deputy Directors-General.

The Department of Resettlement explained the formation of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, duties and responsibilities of the committee, procedures related to the committee and proposal to reform the committee to the Union Minister.

The Union Minister said it was necessary to continue the process of disability classification and registration of the persons with disabilities and make efforts to finalize the five-year strategic plan for the rights of persons with disabilities.

She continued the remaining decisions of the national committee will be made according to priority by adding the reformation of the national committee and continuing meetings, working together with the United Nations, INGOs and NGOs working on disability issues to ensure that the process continues unabated.—MNA/GNLM
Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe inspects preparations on school reopening

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint, U Zaw Win and other officials, inspected the preparations for reopening of schools in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.


During the inspection, Union Minister met the respective education officers, headmasters and teachers, and stressed the need to follow the COVID-19 health rules.

He also highlighted the preparedness of schools to reopen in accordance with the COVID-19 health rules, good image of the school, cleanliness of schools’ surrounding, upgrade of classrooms, teaching aid materials and toilets to improve the wills of students in their study including plans to provide housings for teachers.

He then emphasized the duties of teachers for being civil services, cooperation to promote the education, capacity building plans for teachers, effective teaching methods and managements to reopen the schools.

The Union Minister and party inspected the schools’ compounds and instructed the necessary things.—MNA

Tatmadaw medical corps provide healthcare services

THE Tatmadaw medical corps comprised of its doctors, specialists and nurses are providing necessary medical treatments to the patients at hospitals with no civilian medical workers.

The Tatmadaw medical team provided healthcare related to surgery, dental and oral healthcare, osteoporosis, obstetrics, gynaecology, hypertension and heart disease to the patients in Thazi Township Hospital, Hanzada hospital, Yinnamin hospital, Tagaung Public Hospital in Thabeikkyin Township, Kyauktaga Public Hospital, Donzayit hospital in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region.

Officials from respective commands also supported the patients and coordinated the conditions of preparation for healthcare services as well as generous donors provided 900,000 kyats to the Kyauktaga Public Hospital.—MNA

Lawsuit filed against former Union Minister

FORMER Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye is facing a lawsuit allegedly incited and directed civilian disobedience movement to his staff members.

The police report said that the former minister was charged with Article 505 (a) of the Penal Code on 21 February 2021 for his role in incitement to the staff members to join CDM and protests, failing to perform the duties of civil service personnel.

The report also said to inform about the absconding former minister to the police stations and the phone numbers for making tip-off about him and those who hid him would also face legal actions.—MNA

Navy vessels carrying Myanmar citizens from Malaysia crossing international waters

ACCORDING to the directives of Chairman of the State Administration Council Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Myanmar Navy ships carrying a total of 1,086 Myanmar nationals from Malaysia reportedly left Lumut jetty at 5:40 pm of Malaysia Time on 23 February.

The officials of Myanmar Navy ships provide the necessary things including safety, foods and healthcare services on the way. The medical team provided healthcare services to 59 people for general illnesses like sick and cough.

The officials of the Myanmar Navy will provide the needed things for the returnees like a reunion with their family members and job opportunities. The navy ships carrying Myanmar nationals will arrive in Myanmar on 27 February.—MNA

The Tatmadaw medical corps treat one of the patients at Tagaung Public Hospital in Thabeikkyin Township.
Military personnel donate food aids to residents of Yangon, Mandalay, Magway

TATMADAW distributed rice, cooking oil and other foodstuffs to the people to ease the difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic. The military personnel of Yangon Region Command donated rice and cooking oil to a total of 600 households in Pan Chan Su Ward, Kyu San War, No-2 B Ward of Mingladon Township of Yangon Region, Butar Zay Ward of Insein Township, Latpadansu Village, War Pa taw Village, War Net Chaung Village, Kalarr Gyi Gone Village and Tat Gyi Gone Village of Hmawby Township yesterday. Similarly, the military personnel of Central Command also donated rice and cooking oil to a total of 600 households in Hnau Kyai Village in Pathet Ingyi Township of Mandalay Region and another 600 households in Myin Saing Village tract, Koe Pin Kywae Village and Mi Chaung Ye Village of Magway Township of Magway Region.—MNA

Local people in Hmawby Township are receiving the foodstuffs donated by the military personnel.

Call for Nominations: ASEAN Prize 2021

THE ASEAN Secretariat is calling for nominations for the ASEAN Prize 2021, a prestigious regional award which aims to acknowledge the inspiring and outstanding achievements of an individual or organization who have made contribution and shown exemplary work in strengthening the ASEAN Community building, promoting regional integration, fostering inclusivity and raising ASEAN awareness. Nominees should have exceptional merit in contributing to the following designated focus areas taking into account the theme of ASEAN as designated by the ASEAN chair in the particular year:

- Outstanding collaboration between ASEAN Member States;
- Outstanding collaboration between ASEAN and the world;
- Outstanding people-to-people engagement among ASEAN Member States;
- Outstanding economic integration and promotion of standards between ASEAN Member States; or
- Other outstanding contribution to ASEAN Community building

A Judging Committee, consisting of eminent High-level members, including incumbent and former ASEAN Secretaries-General will select a recipient who will be awarded the ASEAN Prize Trophy and a cash prize of US$20,000 at the 54th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

Submissions for ASEAN Prize 2021 are open from now until 21 April 2021. The nominee must be an ASEAN citizen or an ASEAN-based organization; and must produce valid/verifiable documents, and highlight his/her achievements and impact on ASEAN since the launch of the ASEAN Community in 31 December 2015. The nominee must submit the duly filled-in form to the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No9, Nay Pyi Taw or dgasean@gmail.com no later than the deadline.

In the nomination form, the nominee need to elaborate within three to five pages in English highlighting the achievements that the nominee has contributed to the building of ASEAN Community and intra-ASEAN collaborative efforts. The nominee should also share future plans in continuing the work after winning the prize. The nomination form for ASEAN Prize 2021 can be downloaded at the ASEAN Secretariat website https://asean.org/asean-prize-.

Since its establishment in 2018, ASEAN Prize has been awarded to three recipients from the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. Myanmar citizens or organizations based in Myanmar are encouraged to seize this opportunity to showcase your outstanding efforts in ASEAN Community building. For further information, please visit the above mentioned ASEAN Secretariat Website.
The cargo vessel caught fire at about 7 miles from Kawt Ye Kyun in Bokpyin Township of Taninthayi Region at 12:45 pm on 23 February.

Then, the security force members of Myanmar waters inspected the incident and found out that a cargo ship named Aung Phone Myat caught fire. The security force members extinguished the fire together with the local fishermen and saved eight crews. They also provided healthcare services, foods and transferred to the officials.—MNA

Basic foodstuffs are provided to police members in Myawaddy town.

A baby is tested for COVID-19 by military medical corps in Mawlamyine.

Eight local fishermen are saved and provided with foods and medical services.

OFFICIALS of Thingan Nyi Naung region of East Command to police members in Myawaddy of Kayin State.

The four fundamental food items of rice, cooking oil, salt and peas, and COVID-19 protective gears were distributed to family members of military personnel who sacrificed their lives for the country and Tatmadaw, military veterans, police members, militia unit members and fire brigade members.

The Tatmadaw members and Myanmar Police Force members who served security measures were also supplied with medicines, food aids and awards by the respective military commands at their relevant housings and police stations.

The Commander of North-East Commander Brig-Gen Hla Moe and party distributed the food aids at Khay Nin military veteran housing, Tar Pone housing in Lashio and military veteran housing in Laukkai of Shan State (North) yesterday while Commander of Triangle Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Min Tun distributed the assistance to militia unit members at Mine Khum village of Kengtung in eastern Shan State, officials of Thingan Nyi Naung region of East Command to police members in Myawaddy of Kayin State, Head of Shwe Kyin Command Colonel Tin Lin Oo to militia unit members at Chay Yar Taw village of Shwe Kyin in Bago Region. Moreover, the officials also received the food aids donated by well-wishers for Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Fire Brigade members who serve security measures of the country.—MNA

Military medical corps conduct COVID-19 tests in Mawlamyine

THE Tatmadaw medical corps conducted COVID-19 tests for the returnees to Mon and Kayin states from foreign countries.

Medical doctors and nurses from the local military hospital under the Southeast Command, members of Township Administration Council and civil society organizations jointly performed the medical tests in Mawlamyine Township.—MNA

Request to Public

1. Democracy practices have granted the public freedom of speech, practices and living. Such freedoms should not harm others. Diverse views of others should be understood, but should not be disturbed or harassed. However, with the reason for human rights, some persons are now pressured, harassed and threatened in breaching the laws. Undisciplined acts could lead to tarnish the image of democracy.

2. For preventing destructive actions against stability of the state, safety of the public and the rule of law, it is also required to take proper actions in line with the law.

3. All the people who favour justice, freedom, equality and safety are requested to oppose breaching the laws and prevent such actions for the benefit of the country and people.

Request to health workers

1. It is appreciated for the strenuous efforts of the medical doctors, nurses, medical experts and other health workers at the respective departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports at the front-line in the fight against prevention, containment and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

2. As the vaccination programme of COVID-19 is being conducted for the public and the real-time healthcare services are required for the people, all the staff members at the respective departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports are strongly urged to return to their duties with taking the well-being of patients into consideration.

Ministry of Health and Sports
8 February 2021
IMF chief warns pandemic leaving some countries behind

The global pandemic death toll is approaching 2.5 million, according to Johns Hopkins University, and the shutdowns forced to control infections have devastated economies.

G20 finance ministers and central bank chiefs led by Rome will meet by videoconference to discuss the state of the recovery and how best to tackle the problem. The Washington-based crisis lender estimated more than half of the world’s 110 emerging and developing countries will see their incomes fall further behind advanced economies through the end of next year.

And the virus-driven economic crisis also will widen income gaps within developing nations, especially as millions of children are still facing disruptions to education.

“Allowing them to become the lost generation would be an unacceptable mistake. It would also deepen the long-term economic scars of the crisis,” she warned.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva urged G20 officials to accelerate vaccine rollout to poor countries. PHOTO: AFP

First vaccines delivered under global Covax scheme

The 600,000 doses delivered to Ghana are the Oxford/AstraZeneca formula, made under licence by the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer, the Serum Institute of India.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva urged G20 officials to accelerate vaccine rollout to poor countries. PHOTO: AFP

About 95% of the 30 million people in Ghana are part of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine programme. PHOTO: EPA

First vaccines delivered under global Covax scheme

The 600,000 doses delivered to Ghana are the Oxford/AstraZeneca formula, made under licence by the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer, the Serum Institute of India.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva urged G20 officials to accelerate vaccine rollout to poor countries. PHOTO: AFP

First vaccines delivered under global Covax scheme

The 600,000 doses delivered to Ghana are the Oxford/AstraZeneca formula, made under licence by the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer, the Serum Institute of India.
ONION growers from Siwetagyi village of Nyaung township, Magway Region, expect a fair price in mid-March and April as they cultivated onions on a large scale this winter: “It is suitable for the consumers to buy onions at K100-150 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in Nyaung wholesale centres. Nevertheless, the growers are battered by a drastic drop in price. Some halted onion cultivation, whereas some have grown large acres in high hopes of price gain.

A grower with 10 acres cost approximately K200,000 for cultivation, excluding the cost of onion seeds. That’s why they can do well in financial term only when onion fetches K600-700 per viss,” said a grower U Shwe Myint.

The onion growers have been facing extreme losses on a bear market trend due to the lack of foreign demand amid the COVID-19 containment measures.

The prolonged price decline led some growers in Yezures.

ONION growers from Siwetagyi village of Nyaung township, Magway Region, expect a fair price in mid-March and April as they cultivated onions on a large scale this winter:

“The high demand by foreign markets and a remarkable price rise prompted the growers to expand the onion cultivation in 2020.

The onion growers have been facing extreme losses on a bear market trend due to the lack of foreign demand amid the COVID-19 containment measures.

The high demand by foreign markets and a remarkable price rise prompted the growers to expand the onion cultivation in 2020.

The onion growers have been facing extreme losses on a bear market trend due to the lack of foreign demand amid the COVID-19 containment measures.

The onion growers have been facing extreme losses on a bear market trend due to the lack of foreign demand amid the COVID-19 containment measures.

The onion growers have been facing extreme losses on a bear market trend due to the lack of foreign demand amid the COVID-19 containment measures.
AstraZeneca EU supply chain shortfall continues in second quarter

PHARMACEUTICAL giant AstraZeneca said Tuesday its EU supply chains would only be able to deliver half of an expected supply of Covid-19 vaccines to the bloc in the second quarter — but that it would look to make up the shortfall from elsewhere.

A spokesman for the British drugs group told AFP AstraZeneca was “working to increase productivity in its EU supply chain” and would use its “global capability in order to achieve delivery of 180 million doses to the EU in the second quarter”.

“Approximately half of the expected volume is due to come from the EU supply chain” while the remainder would come from its international supply network, he added.

The announcement follows controversy over deliveries of the AstraZeneca-Oxford University jab to the European Union in the first quarter, which has caused tension between the bloc and the pharmaceutical company.

Ahead of the EU’s approval of the vaccine at the end of January, the British-Swedish company sparked fury among European leaders by announcing that it would miss its target of supplying the EU with 400 million doses, due to a shortfall at the firm’s European plants.

The disagreement also caused diplomatic tensions with Britain, which definitively left the EU after 40 years of membership following a transmission period at the end of 2020 — with Brussels implicitly accusing AstraZeneca of giving preferential treatment to Britain at the expense of the EU.

The UK government has vaccinated millions of Britons with the AstraZeneca jab since late last year. — AFP

IMF economists expect tourism scars from pandemic will linger

AFTER a disastrous 2020 for tourism caused by the coronavirus pandemic, industry planners hope that clear signs of green shoots will emerge in the international travel trade sometime this year.

But International Monetary Fund (IMF) economists warn that a return to pre-pandemic levels could take multiple years.

“The recovery in international travel and tourism will be protracted and subject to a high degree of uncertainty,” they say in a newly published paper on tourism in a post-pandemic world that focuses mainly on the Asia Pacific region and the western hemisphere where the sector plays a crucial economic role.

The task before the industry was highlighted in January when the United Nations World Tourism Organization reported that global tourism suffered its worst year on record last year, with international arrivals dropping by 74 per cent. That translated to one billion fewer arrivals as lockdowns and entry restrictions took hold in the fight against COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Hopes are rising that vaccine rollouts will encourage more people to think about travelling abroad again.

In Britain, after Prime Minister Boris Johnson outlined a plan this week to exit the country’s lockdown, airlines and tour operators reported a surge in bookings and inquiries.

The IMF paper acknowledges that pent-up demand for tourism following lockdowns and smooth vaccine operation could trigger the start of a recovery if enough herd immunity is achieved by the second half of 2021. — Xinhua

Youngest American to go into space is also a cancer survivor

By the end of the year, Hayley Arceneaux will be the youngest American in space and one of the first tourists to enter orbit unaccompanied by professional astronauts.

It is a feat made all the more remarkable by her battle to overcome a childhood cancer that robbed the 29-year-old of her dream of becoming an astronaut herself.

Due to the bone cancer she overcame, Arceneaux has steel rods in her left leg – which until recently were enough to shatter her hopes of going into space.

Enter Jared Isaacman, a young American billionaire with a passion for space exploration who chartered a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket at his own expense and decided to take three people with him, including Arceneaux.

Arceneaux said she hopes to be an inspiration with “this precedent that it’s going to set and what it’s going to show these other kids going through cancer treatment.”

The first person chosen for this unprecedented mission, named Inspiration4 and set to take off at the end of 2021, was in fact Arceneaux.

The young woman was treated as a child at St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, which specializes in childhood diseases, including cancer.

Isaacman hopes to raise $200 million for the hospital on his space mission. — AFP

Why the US has the highest Covid-19 death toll

Several COVID-19 testing options are available to City of Miami residents. PHOTO: AFP

THE United States crossed the grim milestone of 500,000 deaths from Covid-19 on Monday, a year since announcing its first known death from the virus on February 29, 2020 in the Seattle area.

Why does the world’s leading power have the highest death toll and what lessons are American health specialists learning from the past year?

Here, infectious disease experts Joseph Masci and Michele Halpern provide answers to some of the key questions.

Masci, 70, is one of the leaders of Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, which was at the heart of New York’s epidemic.

Halpern is a specialist at the Montefiore hospital group in New Rochelle, a New York suburb where the epidemic arrived in force in February 2020.

Youngest American to go into space is also a cancer survivor

By the end of the year, Hayley Arceneaux will be the youngest American in space and one of the first tourists to enter orbit unaccompanied by professional astronauts.

It is a feat made all the more remarkable by her battle to overcome a childhood cancer that robbed the 29-year-old of her dream of becoming an astronaut herself.

Due to the bone cancer she overcame, Arceneaux has steel rods in her left leg – which until recently were enough to shatter her hopes of going into space.

Enter Jared Isaacman, a young American billionaire with a passion for space exploration who chartered a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket at his own expense and decided to take three people with him, including Arceneaux.

Arceneaux said she hopes to be an inspiration with “this precedent that it’s going to set and what it’s going to show these other kids going through cancer treatment.”

The first person chosen for this unprecedented mission, named Inspiration4 and set to take off at the end of 2021, was in fact Arceneaux.

The young woman was treated as a child at St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, which specializes in childhood diseases, including cancer.

Isaacman hopes to raise $200 million for the hospital on his space mission. — AFP

Why the US has the highest Covid-19 death toll

Several COVID-19 testing options are available to City of Miami residents. PHOTO: AFP

THE United States crossed the grim milestone of 500,000 deaths from Covid-19 on Monday, a year since announcing its first known death from the virus on February 29, 2020 in the Seattle area.

Why does the world’s leading power have the highest death toll and what lessons are American health specialists learning from the past year?

Here, infectious disease experts Joseph Masci and Michele Halpern provide answers to some of the key questions.

Masci, 70, is one of the leaders of Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, which was at the heart of New York’s epidemic.

Halpern is a specialist at the Montefiore hospital group in New Rochelle, a New York suburb where the epidemic arrived in force in February 2020.
Senior Iraq MP target of international extortion bid

POLICE in Australia and Canada arrested four people accused of trying to extort a senior Iraqi politician, after what was described as a year-long campaign of intimidation.

Dual raids were launched after a string of attacks on a Sydney home and online extortion attempts linked to an address in Canada.

The target was the family of a “very senior politician” who is a dual Australian and Iraqi citizen and “spends almost all of his time in Iraq”, Australian police said.

The attacks are believed to have begun in December 2019, when masked and armed assailants broke into a home in western Sydney, assaulting a 16-year-old boy and stealing cash. Months later, shots were fired at the house while two adults, two teenagers and a child were inside. A window was smashed in a separate incident.

Earlier this month, the front porch was set on fire in the dead of night and a threatening note was left outside.

“Throughout this time, the family received various demands for money and threats to their welfare via social media and letters left at their home,” police said.

Australian media named the member of parliament as Ahmad Assadi – a senior figure in the Hashed al-Shaabi, a powerful state-sponsored paramilitary network formed from mostly-Shiite armed groups.

Police did not confirm the man’s identity.

Two men in their twenties were arrested in Sydney and a woman and a man in their thirties were arrested in Edmonton, Canada. —AFP

Italian fugitive nabbed in Bali after dramatic escape

A Russian fugitive whose dramatic sprint out of an Indonesian immigration office was captured on CCTV has been caught again after two weeks on the run, authorities said.

Andrey Kovalenko fled the office on Indonesia’s resort island of Bali to avoid deportation, with the surveillance footage showing him keeping pace on foot with a motorcycle as he escaped. Authorities fanned out across the island in the hunt for Kovalenko, who was nabbed early Wednesday at a villa in tourist hub Kuta along with his girlfriend Ekaterina Trubkina, who was wanted for allegedly assisting his escape. His dash for freedom on February 11 came as officials resolved to deport Kovalenko back to Russia on an Interpol warrant.

The 32-year-old had just finished a prison term following a 2019 arrest for selling hashish to tourists in Bali.

The Interpol warrant was linked to a drugs case back in Kovalenko’s home country, said Eko Budianto, head of the immigration division at Bali’s justice and legal agency. Trubkina, 31, also Russian, could face up to nine months in prison if convicted of assisting Kovalenko’s escape, authorities said.

Indonesian authorities have previously captured international fugitives wanted by Interpol who sought to hide in Bali. Last year, Bali police arrested Marcus Beam, an American fugitive accused of scamming $500,000 from women he met online between 2015 and 2018. Beam had been hiding in Bali with his girlfriend where he worked as a porn actor director. —AFP

Ecuador prison riot toll rises to 79

At least 79 inmates died in simultaneous riots blamed on gang warfare at four prisons in Ecuador, officials said Wednesday.

Updating the toll from Tuesday’s violent uprising, the SNAI prison authority said it had taken control of the prisons which jointly hold more than two-thirds of the South American country’s inmate population.

The military had been deployed to help quell the uprising. The SNAI said in a statement Thursday that 37 prisoners had died at two jails in the western port city of Guayaquil, 34 at a prison in Cuenca in the south, and eight in the central Andean town of Latacunga. Several more were injured, as were a number of police officials.

The SNAI said no warders or police were killed, adding it was “working on the collection of information on human losses and other aspects related to the clashes” authorities have blamed on rival gangs fighting for control. The office of Ecuador’s public defender — an entity akin to an ombudsman defending human rights — called the violence “an unprecedented massacre” and expressed “concern over the lack of security in the country, which is reflected in the increase in crime and violence inside these prison facilities.”

President Lenin Moreno, meanwhile, has ordered the defence ministry to “exercise strict control of arms, munitions and explosives” at the country’s prisons.

Last year, he had declared a 90-day state of emergency in the country’s jails to try to bring gang activity under control and reduce the violence.

Yet 103 inmates were killed in prisons last year, according to the ombudsman’s office.

In order to reduce prisoner numbers amid the coronavirus epidemic, the government contemplated the sentences of people convicted of minor offences, reducing overcrowding from 42 per cent to 30 per cent.

This still left Ecuador’s prison system, with a capacity to house 29,000 inmates in 60 odd facilities, with a prisoner population of 38,000. —AFP

Italian fugitive nabbed in Bali after dramatic escape

POLICE in Australia and Canada have arrested four people accused of trying to extort a member of Iraq’s parliament.

Police in Australia and Canada have arrested four people accused of trying to extort a member of Iraq’s parliament.

Police did not confirm the man’s identity.

Two men in their twenties were arrested in Sydney and a woman and a man in their thirties were arrested in Edmonton, Canada. —AFP

ITALY seeks UN probe into DRC envoy’s killing

ITALY said Wednesday it has asked the United Nations to launch an investigation into the killing of its ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The envoy, Luca Attanasio, 43, died on Monday after a World Food Programme (WFP) convoy was ambushed in a dangerous part of the eastern DRC near the border with Rwanda.

Attanasio’s Italian bodyguard and a Congolese driver were also killed.

“We have formally asked WFP (World Food Programme) and the UN to open an investigation to clarify what happened, the reasons behind the security arrangements used and who was responsible for these decisions,” Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio told parliament.

Di Maio’s comments came the morning after the bodies of the two Italians were returned by military plane to Rome.

The convoy was ambushed in a dangerous part of the eastern DRC near the border with Rwanda. PHOTO: AFP

“We expect, in the briefest possible time, clear and exhaustive answers,” Di Maio said.

On Monday, the DRC’s interior ministry blamed the killings on the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a Rwandan Hutu rebel group.

But the FDLR rejected the allegation and instead blamed the Rwandan and DRC military.

Di Maio said the party was a trip from the capital Kinshasa to Goma, some 5,500 kilometres (1,550 miles) east, but that Attanasio had “full power” to decide how and where to move within DRC. —AFP

POLICE in Australia and Canada have arrested four people accused of trying to extort a member of Iraq’s parliament. PHOTO: AFP

Senior Iraq MP target of international extortion bid

POLICE in Australia and Canada arrested four people accused of trying to extort a senior Iraqi politician, after what was described as a year-long campaign of intimidation.

Dual raids were launched after a string of attacks on a Sydney home and online extortion attempts linked to an address in Canada.

The target was the family of a “very senior politician” who is a dual Australian and Iraqi citizen and “spends almost all of his time in Iraq”, Australian police said.

The attacks are believed to have begun in December 2019, when masked and armed assailants broke into a home in western Sydney, assaulting a 16-year-old boy and stealing cash. Months later, shots were fired at the house while two adults, two teenagers and a child were inside. A window was smashed in a separate incident.

Earlier this month, the front porch was set on fire in the dead of night and a threatening note was left outside.

“Throughout this time, the family received various demands for money and threats to their welfare via social media and letters left at their home,” police said.

Australian media named the member of parliament as Ahmad Assadi – a senior figure in the Hashed al-Shaabi, a powerful state-sponsored paramilitary network formed from mostly-Shiite armed groups.

Police did not confirm the man’s identity.

Two men in their twenties were arrested in Sydney and a woman and a man in their thirties were arrested in Edmonton, Canada. —AFP

At least 79 inmates died in simultaneous riots blamed on gang warfare at four prisons in Ecuador, officials said Wednesday.

Updating the toll from Tuesday’s violent uprising, the SNAI prison authority said it had taken control of the prisons which jointly hold more than two-thirds of the South American country’s inmate population.

The military had been deployed to help quell the uprising. The SNAI said in a statement Thursday that 37 prisoners had died at two jails in the western port city of Guayaquil, 34 at a prison in Cuenca in the south, and eight in the central Andean town of Latacunga. Several more were injured, as were a number of police officials.

The SNAI said no warders or police were killed, adding it was “working on the collection of information on human losses and other aspects related to the clashes” authorities have blamed on rival gangs fighting for control. The office of Ecuador’s public defender — an entity akin to an ombudsman defending human rights — called the violence “an unprecedented massacre” and expressed “concern over the lack of security in the country, which is reflected in the increase in crime and violence inside these prison facilities.”

President Lenin Moreno, meanwhile, has ordered the defence ministry to “exercise strict control of arms, munitions and explosives” at the country’s prisons.

Last year, he had declared a 90-day state of emergency in the country’s jails to try to bring gang activity under control and reduce the violence.

Yet 103 inmates were killed in prisons last year, according to the ombudsman’s office.

In order to reduce prisoner numbers amid the coronavirus epidemic, the government contemplated the sentences of people convicted of minor offences, reducing overcrowding from 42 per cent to 30 per cent.

This still left Ecuador’s prison system, with a capacity to house 29,000 inmates in 60 odd facilities, with a prisoner population of 38,000. —AFP
**Hong Kong hikes stock stamp duty for first time since 1993**

HONG KONG hiked stamp duty on stock trades Wednesday for the first time in almost three decades as it tries to plug a pandemic-induced record budget deficit, sending the local equity market tumbling.

The government has been forced to shore up its coffers after protests and geopolitical tensions as Beijing sought to stamp out dissent in the city by introducing a controversial security law that has led to questions being asked about its future as a global financial hub.

**New York shuts cryptocurrency exchanges which hid losses**

Two cryptocurrency trading platforms which hid hundreds of millions in losses agreed to halt activities following a probe by New York state officials.

NEW YORK state authorities said they reached an agreement to shut down activities of two cryptocurrency trading platforms which hid an estimated $850 million in losses.

State Attorney-General Letitia James said the agreements this week with Bitfinex and Tether would end all trading activity with New Yorkers and require penalties totalling $18.5 million.

James’s office began investigating the two companies in 2017 for their trading in “stablecoins,” which are supposed to maintain real-dollar value.

The investigation found the two companies made false statements about the backing of the “tether” stablecoin, and about the movement of hundreds of millions of dollars between the two companies to cover up losses. “Bitfinex and Tether recklessly and unlawfully covered-up massive financial losses to keep their scheme going and protect their bottom lines,” said James. “Tether’s claims that its virtual currency was fully backed by US dollars at all times was a lie. These companies obscured the true risk investors faced and were operated by unlicensed and unregulated individuals and entities dealing in the darkest corners of the financial system.” — AFP

**South Africa sets out budget as economy reels from pandemic**

THE South African government will unveil its fiscal 2021 spending plans Wednesday as the continent’s most industrialised economy grapples with the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic on top of a recession.

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni traditionally delivers his national budget speech alongside a potted aloe vera plant, highly resistant to drought, to symbolise economic resilience.

Resilience will be needed after a year of rolling restrictions on movement and business to curb the coronavirus outbreak.

“There’s not a lot of money and we need to have a pro-poor and pro-growth balance,” University of Johannesburg business lecturer Daniel Meyer told AFP.

Increasing taxes won’t be an option, however, given the pandemic-induced losses and with local elections due this year.

Unemployment in South Africa soared to a record 32.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year, the highest since records began in 2008.

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni usually delivers his budget speech alongside a potted aloe vera plant, highly resistant to drought, to symbolise economic resilience. PHOTO: AFP

Mboweni “will have to take more loans to finance the budget,” Meyer said. — AFP

**Chair of Japan automaker Suzuki to step down**

SUZUKI’S chairman Osamu Suzuki will retire after more than four decades at the helm of the Japanese carmaker, the company said Wednesday.

The 91-year-old, who married into the family’s founding family, will leave the post after a shareholder meeting in June and become an adviser, it said.

After he became company president in 1978, Suzuki expanded the automaker’s business in India, where it has had enormous success, and steadily increased its share in Japan’s small car market.

He became chairman in 2006 and his eldest son, Toshihiro Suzuki, assumed the role of president in 2015.

The carmaker, which had once tied up with General Motors and Volkswagen, forged a capital alliance with Toyota in 2019.

No one will replace him for now, while Toshihiro Suzuki will remain president.— AFP

**Claims Day Notice**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SEASTAR EMPRESS VOY. NO. (202002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-2-2021 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301928
Mexico begins application of Chinese Sinovac vaccine

MEXICAN health authorities on Monday began to vaccinate older adults with a COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese pharmaceutical company SinoVac, after a shipment of doses arrived on Saturday.

Mexico’s government designated the first shipment of the Sinovac vaccine to arrive in Ecatepec, a city in central State of Mexico that lies on the outskirts of the capital Mexico City.

Early in the day, brigades of healthcare workers began to administer the vaccine to hundreds of residents aged 60 and over who went to the Las Americas cultural and sports centre to get vaccinated.

“The first call was very important because it lets us know there is interest on the part of the citizens and, above all, that they are hopeful this issue can now be eradicated from our population,” Ecatepec Mayor Fernando Vilchis told reporters at the vaccination site.

Mexican health authorities announced on Sunday that Ecatepec would receive the first batch of the Sinovac vaccine as the country’s second-most populous municipality has COVID-19 mortality rates that are above the national average.

U.S. should fix its energy delivery system in caution against future disasters: media

The United State’s energy delivery system, not just in Texas but everywhere needs a radical overhaul if it is to withstand future shocks and play the role that President Joe Biden has assigned it in the battle against climate change, said The New York Times on Monday in an Opinion article titled “The Lessons of the Texas Power Disaster.”

“The simple truth is that the state (Texas) was not prepared for the Arctic blast. A few wind turbines froze up, but the main culprits were uninsulated power plants run by natural gas. In northern states, such plants are built indoors; in Texas they are exposed to the elements,” said the article.

Last week’s power failures in Texas had left a number of people dead and millions without power or potable water, sometimes for days, according to the article contributed by The Editorial Board, a group of opinion journalists whose views are informed by expertise, research, debate and certain longstanding values. It is separate from the newsroom.

“...There are two lessons here to be absorbed and acted on. First, the country’s energy systems must be robust enough to withstand whatever surprises climate change is likely to bring. The scientific connection between climate change and extreme cold is not as well established, but it would be foolish to assume that it is not there,” it said.

Sweden records lowest population growth since 2005

SWEDEN last year recorded the lowest population growth in 15 years, Statistics Sweden announced on Monday.

The population increased by only 0.6 percent, reaching 10,379,296 on Dec. 31.

“This is almost a halving of the population increase compared with the previous year. We have to go back to 2005 to find a smaller increase, both in relative and absolute numbers,” demographics statistician Lina Maria Garp told Xinhua.

The statistics revealed that decreased net immigration was the main reason behind the decelerating population growth.

Syria approves Russia’s Sputnik Covid vaccine

SYRIA has authorized the use of Russia’s Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, its embassy in Moscow said Monday.

The country is the latest to approve the Russian vaccine, named after the Soviet-era satellite, Sputnik V was registered in August before clinical trials were underway, which left experts wary. But leading medical journal The Lancet published results showing the jab to be safe and 91.6 percent effective.

More than 30 countries have approved the vaccine, according to the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which financed its development.

Syria in December also signed on to the World Health Organization’s Covax initiative to procure vaccines.

The WHO, together with the UN children’s agency UNICEF and Gavi, will support Syria in acquiring jabs to initially cover at least three per cent of the population and aim for 20 per cent by the end of the year.

Syria has recorded 15,179 coronavirus infections and 99 fatalities from the virus in government-held areas. Territories under Kurdish control in the country’s northeastern have recorded nearly 8,600 cases and 311 deaths, while the rebel-held northwest has reported 21,121 infections and 408 fatalities.
Malaysian king says parliament can sit, in blow for embattled PM

MALAYSIA’s king said Wednesday parliament can sit during a state of emergency, in a blow for the embattled prime minister whose government is on the verge of collapse.

Parliament has been suspended since the king declared a national emergency last month to fight the coronavirus, following a request from Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin as cases surged. The king declared a national emergency last month, following a request from Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin as cases surged.

“The king emphasised to the two speakers that Malaysia is a democratic country,” the statement said.

“The view in certain quarters that the declaration of an emergency bans the convening of parliament is incorrect.”

Parliament will resume on a date deemed suitable by the king, taking into consideration the advice of the prime minister, the statement said. The state of emergency, due to run until August 1, remains in place, with supporters saying it is needed to channel extra resources to fighting the pandemic.

Malaysia’s parliament has been suspended since the king declared a national emergency last month. PHOTO: Department of Information Malaysia.

IN BRIEF

23 tonnes of cocaine seized in Europe’s biggest haul

GERMANY and Belgium have seized 23 tonnes of cocaine in the biggest-ever haul of the drug in Europe, German customs said Wednesday.

“The enormous amount of cocaine would have brought in several billion euros (dollars) in street sales,” the customs office said in a statement.

German officers had discovered 16 tonnes of cocaine hidden in containers from Paraguay at the port of Hamburg on February 12. Joint investigations into the stash with Dutch officers led authorities to swoop on another 7.2 tonnes in cocaine at the port of Antwerp in Belgium, German customs said.

German ‘IS leader’ handed lengthy prison sentence

A NOTORIOUS Iraqi preacher said to be the Islamic State jihadist group’s de facto leader in Germany was sentenced to 10 years and six months in prison by a German court on Wednesday. Abu Walaa was accused of directing a jihadist network which radicalized young people in Europe and helped them travel to Iraq and Syria. He was found guilty of belonging to a foreign terrorist organization, helping to plan subversive violent acts and financing terrorism. The verdict marked the end of an “special case” which was “very long and very complex”, judge Frank Rosenow said as he handed down the verdict after 245 days of hearings. Abu Walaa was in the dock with three other men in a costly, high-security trial that began in 2017 in the northern German town of Celle.

Builder of Pagodas • Builder of Schools • Builder of Vipassana Centres • Guardian of Temples • Patron of Culture & Art • Founder of Indo Myanmar Friendship Society

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Patron – International Dhammagiri Vipassana Association • Patron – Myanmar Hindu Literary Society

© 2021 Myanmar Industries Association (Group of Plastic Industries)

President

Vice President – Swayam Sevak Sangh • IPP

Former Executive Committee • President’s

Group • Patron

Patron

Mentor by Choice, Philanthropist by Heart

Useful again, rid of the Grime of Ignorance...

Charitable by Nature, Monk by Soul

This Mortal Body became Pure and Samaadhi and Pragya (Insight)...

Humanitarian by Birth, Industrialist by Profession

Society/AD

NEWS

25 FEBRUARY 2021

President – Myanmar Hindu Central Council

Patron – Inter Faith Dialogue Group • Patron – Sanatan Dharma Swayam Sevak Sangh • IPP of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

President – Myanmar India Business Chamber • Former Executive Committee – Myanmar Industries Association (Group of Plastic Industries)
YUFC sign Zwekapin player on two-year loan

YANGON United recently confirmed that defender Thein Than from Zwekapin United had joined the football club on a two-year contract for a new football season of the Myanmar National League, according to the team statement.

Thein Than revealed his hope upon joining the epic club of MNL.

“I am very proud to join the great club and can’t express how I feel right now. I know it is hard to be the first line-up player. But I will try hard and play for the wins.”

The 25-year-old defender studied his basic football education from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Mandalay) from 2010 to 2014. Then he started his youth professional career with Horizon Football Club of Myanmar National League-II in 2015. He played well for the club for two years and then moved to Myanmar National League club Chin United in 2017.

He played for one year in Chin United and then transferred to Zwekapin United in 2018 and played for three years.—GNLM

World’s biggest cricket stadium renamed after India’s Modi

NEW DELHI — The world’s biggest cricket stadium was renamed after India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a surprise move Wednesday.

Wednesday was chief minister in Gujarat, where Ahmedabad is the main city, before taking over as head of government in 2014.

“This stadium was the dream of the prime minister and he had during his stint as chief minister here floated the idea of building the world’s largest stadium,” Home Minister Amit Shah said at the event.

The $100-million, perfectly round venue, with seats in the blue and saffron of the Indian team, promises unobstructed views from every angle.

It eclipses the 100,000-seat Melbourne Cricket Ground in Australia, which dates back to 1853.

The former Motera stadium was inaugurated as the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Cricket Stadium by Modi in February 2020 when he hosted a mega-rally there with then US president Donald Trump.

Patel, an independence leader, is immortalized by the world’s biggest statue, the enormous Statue of Unity completed in 2018 measuring 182 metres (?59 feet) — twice the size of the Statue of Liberty — which has struggled to attract visitors. — AFP

Bayern Munich plot quarter-final course by routing Lazio

ROME — Holders Bayern Munich brushed off their recent poor domestic form by throwing down a Champions League marker with an emphatic 4-1 win at Lazio in Tuesday’s last-16 first leg to take a “huge step” towards the quarter-finals.

Robert Lewandowski gave Bayern an early lead before 17-year-old Jamal Musiala scored his first Champions League goal on only his fourth appearance in Europe. Stuttgart-born Musiala, who turns 18 Friday, is now the youngest English goalscorer in Champions League history. A Leroy Sane strike gave Bayern a three-goal half-time cushion

Bayern Munich’s England Under-21 midfielder Jamal Musiala (R) celebrates scoring his first Champions League goal. PHOTO: AFP

Tiger’s legendary golf career in jeopardy after car crash

LOS ANGELES — The amazing golf career of Tiger Woods, from two-year-old prodigy to his epic comeback 2019 Masters victory, was in jeopardy Tuesday after injuries suffered in a serious solo car crash.

The 45-year-old American, among the world’s most famous athletes for the past quarter-century, underwent surgery for multiple leg injuries following the early morning wreck near Los Angeles.

It could mean the end of a groundbreaking career that has seen Woods win 15 major titles, three shy of the all-time mark.

Woods has faced plenty of prior troubles off the course, including multiple back and knee surgeries, the 2009 revelation of multiple affairs that led to an emotional public apology and divorce from wife Elin Nordegren plus a 2017 reckless driving incident.

Woods was recovering from 2017 back surgery when he was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, his mug shot drawing worldwide attention. He said he had not realized how prescription drugs he was taking might interact and later pleaded guilty to reckless driving. — AFP