ENSURING FAIR PRICE FOR PADDY KEY TO PROMOTING FARMER INTEREST

NATIONAL

Union Minister discusses tourism development in Mandalay region

PAGE-3

LOCAL BUSINESS

Stock trading value in equity market extends drop in Feb 2021

PAGE-7

Announcement of Union Election Commission
(6 March 2021)

REGARDING the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region, together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police, Immigration and Population and administrator according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.

According to inspection on the ground, a total of 291 poll stations of Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region took out 286,524 ballot papers. It used 204,358 ballot receipts, and the remaining ballots were 70,511 instead of 82,166. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective poll stations.

SEE PAGE-2

Tatmadaw medical corps provide healthcare services to local people

THE Tatmadaw medics and nurses provided medical services to the locals as the staff and patients’ family members of station hospitals in Thazi, Han Zar and Yinmabin townships of Meiktila District in Mandalay Region, Thaukkyin township of Thazi District, Kyauktada and Done Zayit station hospitals in Shwegyin township of Bago Region requested assistance from the region military hospitals.

The Tatmadaw medical corps provided the needed medical services, including operations to the local populace at these hospitals yesterday.

Similarly, the doctors and nurses of Mawlaik general hospital of Sagaing Region failed to do their duties, and only 1 nurse and 8 healthcare staff currently provide medical treatments to the local populace. Therefore, the residents asked for help from the North-West Command, and so the region command sent Tatmadaw medical team to offer medical treatment.

The commanders of respective region commands inspected the medical services for the local populace and comforted the patients. The military officials also provided food aids and instructed the necessary things.

The residents are satisfied with the medical support of Tatmadaw.—MNA

A local patient is receiving treatment from Tatmadaw health team, at Yinmabin station hospital in Meiktila yesterday.
The findings are as follows:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact Remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Extra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/Village ballots</td>
<td>276,900</td>
<td>201,818</td>
<td>75,082</td>
<td>63,427</td>
<td>12,612</td>
<td>957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Township advance ballots</td>
<td>2,540</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Township remaining ballots</td>
<td>7,084</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,084</td>
<td>7,084</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>296,524</td>
<td>204,358</td>
<td>82,166</td>
<td>70,511</td>
<td>12,612</td>
<td>957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was also found that the used ballots in 24 poll stations of 8 village-tracts are higher than the numbers of ballots issued by UEC. The extra-used ballots at these poll stations are as follows:

List of extra-used ballot papers for poll station-wise of Wards/Village tracts in Meiktila Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/village tracts</th>
<th>Issued</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Extra-used ballot papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Galone Gone Village</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>1,703</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shaw Phyu Kan Village</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>1,951</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pauk Chaung Village</td>
<td>5,150</td>
<td>5,195</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nyaung Pin Hlow Village</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>3,996</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thee Kone Village</td>
<td>1,450</td>
<td>1,454</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kyauk Phu Village</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,004</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Shan Ma Nge Village</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Maung Gone Village</td>
<td>1,356</td>
<td>1,354</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19,500</td>
<td>20,857</td>
<td>12,612</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It also found the missing ballot papers at 219 poll stations in 48 village tracts. The missing ballots are as follows:

List of missing ballot papers for poll station-wise of ward/village tract in Meiktila Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/village tracts</th>
<th>Issued</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Missing ballot papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thiri Mingala</td>
<td>4,250</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wunzin</td>
<td>9,750</td>
<td>9,715</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yan Myo Aung</td>
<td>12,600</td>
<td>10,595</td>
<td>2,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pyithayar (Ta)</td>
<td>4,150</td>
<td>4,148</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pyithayar (Ma)</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>4,598</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chi Set</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Aung Zayar</td>
<td>9,750</td>
<td>8,697</td>
<td>1,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kyauk Phyu Gone</td>
<td>4,850</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nyaung Saut</td>
<td>4,050</td>
<td>3,851</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nyaung Kaing</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>1,249</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Htamone Kan</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>5,957</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Khin Lu</td>
<td>2,650</td>
<td>2,648</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kan Gyi</td>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>1,744</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Shan Te</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>3,895</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Zaung Chan Gone</td>
<td>5,750</td>
<td>5,701</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kaphyu</td>
<td>1,450</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Kan Thar</td>
<td>7,150</td>
<td>6,596</td>
<td>554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Nyaung Kan</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>3,048</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Kyaung Ywar</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>3,499</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ma Gyi Su</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>2,544</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sal Kone</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,949</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Kan Taung</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>2,016</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Kukko Gone</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,278</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Wah Yone</td>
<td>2,350</td>
<td>2,349</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Kwe Nge</td>
<td>4,150</td>
<td>3,845</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Myar</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,697</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Aung San</td>
<td>11,200</td>
<td>9,769</td>
<td>1,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Nan Taw Gone</td>
<td>9,750</td>
<td>9,497</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Myoma</td>
<td>2,150</td>
<td>2,145</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Zay Ashae Pyin</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>3,899</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Yadana Mhan Aung</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>7,984</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Lain Taw</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Inn</td>
<td>2,850</td>
<td>2,848</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Shwe Pan Tine</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>2,696</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Kywal Ta Lin</td>
<td>5,750</td>
<td>5,338</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Mone Tine</td>
<td>5,350</td>
<td>5,280</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Kan Ni</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>A Lal Ywar</td>
<td>5,550</td>
<td>5,176</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Sat Pyar Kyin</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>3,546</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Sal Aung</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>2,606</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Myauk Lal</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>4,348</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Tha Yet Pin</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>3,050</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Mway</td>
<td>3,450</td>
<td>3,098</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Myin Kan</td>
<td>2,850</td>
<td>2,801</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Than Bo</td>
<td>3,850</td>
<td>3,751</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Thee Pin Gone</td>
<td>4,850</td>
<td>3,905</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Ta Pyaw</td>
<td>3,350</td>
<td>3,310</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Zayet Gone</td>
<td>3,650</td>
<td>3,642</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>213,200</td>
<td>200,588</td>
<td>12,612</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Correction

Please read “extra ballots were 5,993” in the Announcement of Union Election Commission” appeared on page 2 of the 6 March 2021 issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar instead of “extra-used ballots were 5,993”. 
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Announcement for CRPH that commits high treason and its organizations

7th Waning of Tabodwe 1382ME
(5 March 2021)

1. The Information Team of the State Administration Council has already released a statement that the formation of “Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)” by the ones who have no rights to stand as official Hluttaw representatives according to the Constitution, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Rules does not conform to the Law and seems to violate the serious crimes, and not to collude with this unofficial committee directly or indirectly, and action will be taken against those who fail to follow.

2. Currently, the CRPH formed government and illegal organizations like public administrative organizations. Such doings do not conform to the Constitution, and it is a violation of the Penal Code Section 122 for high treason and just a crime to be punished with death or transportation for life or 22 years of imprisonment. Moreover, those who do not directly communicate with CRPH, or other CRPH’s organizations can face 7 years imprisonment under the Penal Code Section 124-d for supporting CRPH by committing incitements and threats to the civil service personnel to fail in their duties.

3. Therefore, it is here announced that effective actions will be taken against those who directly or indirectly collude with CRPH, which commits high treason to affect the stability of the State, and other organizations formed by CRPH, and also against those who support the CRPH and other groups formed by CRPH. It is announced again not to collude with CRPH, which commits high treason to affect the stability of the State, and other CRPH’s organizations directly or indirectly.

State Administration Council

Union Minister discusses tourism development in Mandalay region

UNION Minister U Maung Maung Ohn held the coordination meeting for the development of the Hotels and Tourism sector in Mandalay Region on 5 March 2021 in Mandalay.

The meeting was attended by the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Myanmar Hotelier Association (Mandalay), Union of Myanmar Travel Association (Mandalay), Myanmar Restaurants Association (Mandalay) and Myanmar Souvenir Entrepreneurs Association (Mandalay).

At the meeting, the Union Minister said the resumption of tourism would focus on domestic travel. Not only tourists but also employees working in the tourism industry need to work in accordance with the COVID-19 rules and regulations.

The Ministry has developed the Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocols in accordance with the regulations issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the guidelines of international tourism organizations such as UNWTO/WTTC.

The Union Minister called on the hoteliers to work together for the reopening of hotels after the inspection in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

He added the need to pay attention to improving services and marketing, including developing new tourist destinations as Myanmar is rich in tourism resources, and tourism is a lucrative business that contributes a lot to the development of the country.

The meeting also discussed to continue to develop the Community Based Tourism—CBT which identifies the traditional culture of the ethnic nationalities and directly beneficial to the residents; preparation for the resumption of tourism and the human resource development of the hotels and tourism sector; COVID-19 tests for passengers travelling by express buses and the reduction of the Test Kit price; tax reduction and loan assistance by the government to the restaurant businesses.

The Union Minister also met with Chairman of the Mandalay Region Administration Council U Maung Ko and discussed the reopening of hotels and tourism, approval of hotel licences as soon as possible and matters related to tourism promotion.

After paying homage to the Maha Muni Pagoda in Mandalay, the Union Minister inspected Hotel Shwe Pyi Thar’s preparation in accordance with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines to be reopened.—MNA

Fake bomb found in Toungoo

THE Tatmadaw members and security forces conduct security measures for the peace and tranquility of the State, the rule of law and public safety the whole day.

Meanwhile, the security forces found a bomb attached to a clock and 6 (15mm) pipes in front of a transformer, beside the moat located in the western part of the district auditor office near Min Gyi Nyo statue at the corner of Bo Mhu Pho Kun street along the old Yangon—Mandalay road in Toungoo of Bago Region yesterday.

After inspection, it was a fake bomb and the security forces destroyed it.

Those who do not want stability of the State conducted such destructive elements to threaten the public. Therefore, the people in other states and regions should be more cautious of such activities and report to the security forces in time if some suspicious items are found.—MNA

A fake bomb was found near the district auditor office in Toungoo.
**National**

**Shan State former finance and planning minister U Soe Nyunt Lwin arrested**

DEPUTY Township Administrative Officer U Sai Kyaw Tun of Taunggyi filed a direct complaint to the court against former finance and planning minister of Shan State government U Soe Nyunt Lwin, aged 50, son of U Maung Son, who lives at No 3/14, Ayeayawady street in Phayar Pbyu Ward of Taunggyi Township in Shan State (South) for committing the crime that affects the government and State peace and tranquility on 16 February. Taunggyi township court opened the case under Penal Code Section 505(b) and conducted measures to arrest the suspect.

Meanwhile, according to the tip-off, the suspect was hiding at the house of U Aung Zaw Thant, located at the corner of Wai Za Yan Tar and Pyitha-yar streets in South Okkapala Township of Yangon Region. The security forces raided the house at about 1 am yesterday and arrested U Soe Nyunt Lwin. U Aung Zaw Thant, son of U Tin Aung, U Min Min, son of U Tin Hla and U Ye Hlaing, son of U Hla Tun will face action in accordance with the law for accepting U Soe Nyunt Lwin.—MNA

**Police take actions against two protestors on Shwebo-YeU Road**

POLICE yesterday took actions against two protestors on the Shwebo-YeU Highway Road, according to the Shwebo Township Police Force.

The two protestors including Thiha Naing (21-years-old) involved in the 50 rioters on the road and police force seized them according to the issued law.

The protestors are being charged under the law at Shwebo Township Police Station, according to the police force. —MNA

**Announcement to health workers**

THE medical expert U Zaw Wai Soe, who served duties at the University of Medicine (1), colludes with the “Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)” formed by the unofficial Hluttaw MPs committing high treason, and he also conducts various incitements to health workers to join with him.

Regarding the crimes committed by U Zaw Wai Soe, the Ministry of Home Affairs has opened cases and further action will be taken against him for committing high treason. Therefore, the health workers should not perform support measures for him, and if they make such moves, action will be taken.

Ministry of Health and Sports

**Release of information about the cause of death of Ma Kyal Zin died in riot, Mandalay**

SECURITY Forces and responsible administration officials dispersed the mass protest on 64th street and 38th street with minimum force, after requesting to be dispersed for several times.

Although Myanmar Police Force tried to investigate the death of the young woman who was killed of injury during the riot, relatives to the deceased person refused to do so and buried the body.

Since it is necessary for the Myanmar Police Force to investigate the cause of death in accordance with the law, the body was excavated from the tomb with the permission of the judge, by the officials from the district police chief and officials, forensic pathologists and witnesses. According to the autopsy; the injury was caused in the left of her head right behind her ear and a piece of lead metal of 1.2 centimetre long and 0.7 centimetre wide which is different from the riot control bullets used by the Myanmar Police Force, was found.

Although the security guards on duty at the time of incident were in a face-to-face position to the crowd, the injury was in the back of the deceased person and the lead piece found in the head was a type of ammunition that can be fired with a shotgun with 0.38 round of ammunition. It can be seen that those who do not want stability in the country are attempting to escalate the conflict and actions are being taken to identify those who are behind this and prosecute according to the law.—MNA
Security forces maintain riots in accordance with the law across the country

The security forces had to maintain the riots in some townships in Myanmar in accordance with the law, according to the statement of the Myanmar Police Force.

According to the statement, while efforts are being made for the stability and security of the country, it has been found that all the above-mentioned organizations, which accept the one party’s patronage and ignore the truth, are spending much amount of money to make incitements in various parts of the places. Security forces are focusing to minimize injuries during the riot control by using riot gears, sound bombs, tear gas as there were mass protests, blocking public roads and riots in the country.

Security forces have maintained the situation in accordance with the law in the event of riots in some townships on 6 March 2021.

The statement also said that the public should be careful not to get involved in the protests to prevent the future of their children from being ruined as it is found that young people in less violent areas are being pressured and intimidated with various methods, including rumors to stimulate the emotions of the youth and financial support from behind constantly.—MNA

Violent protesters are seen blocking the public roads and disrupting the smooth flow of transport.
Security measures to ensure community peace

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

The Tatmadaw, police and fire brigade members also jointly continued conducting security measures for the peaceful night and community peace in respective regions and states yesterday, and will keep serving security measures the whole day.—MNA

Tatmadaw, Police Force and Fire Brigade are seen performing security measures in Toungoo and Dawei yesterday.

Administrative mechanisms implemented by opening village/ward administration office

FOR the proper implementation of administrative mechanisms, Security Forces and members of the township administration negotiated with the residents in Wachankar village, Taungtwingyi township, Magway Region and opened the ward administration office which was closed due to the illegal activities, yesterday.

With the aim of undermining community peace and the rule of law in the villages and wards in states and regions, the ward/village administrator are being pressured and rioting in administration office, destroying the signboard of the administration office, writing malicious messages and hanging them in front of the office, locking the door by welding with iron rods in an anarchic manner by the unscrupulous persons.

As a result, the residents do not have the protection of the law and as it is found that the village administration mechanism may malfunction, legal action was taken against those who incited the riots and those involved in the riots, at the request of the residents.—MNA

Blood donated at military hospitals for civilians

MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states have been providing medical treatments to the people to solve their difficulties in healthcare services. A total of 51,689 outpatients and 3,514 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 2,287 major operations and 1,229 minor operations, and the serious cases are treated by the senior doctors. These hospitals managed for the birth of 3,257 babies, while 3,257 pregnant women were taken to the respective military hospitals.

Monks, local residents and Tatmadaw members donated blood in Tatmadaw hospitals in Pyin Oo Lwin and Magway townships as well as officials from the respective commands also provided the patients with foods.—MNA

An administrative office is reopened in Taungtwingyi township.

Military personnel are seen clearing old mines on the Ann-Sittway Union Highway.

An operation is underway for a local patient with leg injury in Bokpyin township.

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

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

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA
Goat breeders earn good profit on upward market in Kalay

WITH the high demand for goats in Chin hills in Kalay town, Sagaing region and Tamu, goat breeders are happy with the upward market. They are earning good profit, according to a manageable-scale goat breeder in Kalay township.

“For me, I have bred five goats on a manageable-scale. We got 10 cups of goat’s milk if we milk the goat once a day. Each cup of goat milk is sold for K1,000, and the breeders are earning around K10,000 daily. Now, the breeders are happy earning a good profit because there are many buyers in this open season,” said a goat breeder in Thazin ward, Kalay town.

There are only a few commercial goat breeders in Kalay Township. Only around ten people are doing a manageable-scale livestock breeding business. Therefore, the goat demand is higher than the supply, and so the breeders are selling them at a higher price. The bucks are sold for around K100,000, while the nanny is sold for around K50,000 or K80,000, depending upon the size.

“Last year, India came to buy the goat in Myanmar. Also, hundreds of goats from Monywa, Pakokku and Myingyan were sold at a good price in the Myanmar-India border. Now, the Myanmar-India border traders are buying less than 100 hundred goats,” said a goat trader on the Tamu border. —Chindwintha/GNLM

Growers suffer falling price of ripe chillies in Nyaung-U

THE chilli growers suffer from ripe chilli’s falling price in harvest season in Nyaung-U township, Mandalay region. The growers could not profit because they could not store the ripe chilli at the price falling time.

The growers from villages in Latpanchhayaw, Thakauktae and Thit Daung village-tracts are growing the chilli using the underground water. Consequently, the chilli cultivation succeeded, and the chilli yielded abundantly. In the harvest season, the chilli price is ranging between K1,000 and K1,200 per viss. The local people are growing Auk Swe Thi chilli species. The chillies are cultivated within an enclosed space. After 15 days, the chillies are transplanted to the farmlands and it needs to put the water into the farms every five days. After one month of transplanting into the fields, the chillies bloom and bear fruits.

The chilli growers harvest only the ripe chillies to sell them in the market. The chillies are dried and collected to be sold at the same time to save much money. The growers sell the fresh chillies only to solve their current livelihood problem. They have to hire labourers to pick the chillies.

It costs the farmers K2,000 for one person for the morning session only and K4,000 per person for the whole day. Daw Nyo Lone from Ywar That Gone village said.

Although the chillies fetched K1,000 or K1,200 per viss in the ripe chillies harvest time, they are sold for K450 or 500 per viss now. As chilli’s price has dropped half, some growers could not stockpile the ripe chillies and sell the chillies immediately, said U Win Tin, a chilli grower. — Ko Hlein (YPD)/GNLM
Ensuring fair price for paddy key to protect farmer interest

A price for paddy reached lower than the set price of the basic price, the Myanmar Rice Federation and warehouse businesses are also urged to purchase the paddy at the set price when the cost is lower than the actual market price.

The merchants must purchase the paddy at the set price when the cost is lower than the actual market price. If the market price is above the basic price, they are obliged to purchase the paddy at the present market price.

Growers are facing financial hardships due to low price offered at harvest time, coupled with high input costs and shortages of farm workers. To promote the livelihood of farmers who make up over 70 per cent of the total population of Myanmar, we need to make legislation which can protect them.

This is because crops that grow well in the past may no longer continue to do so due to climate change, and crops are getting damaged by floods or droughts every year.

The international investigation into the Covid-19 pandemic's origins is expected to be published in two stages: an initial summary in February followed by the full text. However, they will be made available at the same time, said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The First Covid-19 cases were reported in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019. The international investigation in the city only began in January 2021 and wrapped up last month. A team of international scientific experts spent four weeks in Wuhan visiting sites linked to early cases.

Experts believe the disease originated in bats and could have been transmitted to humans via another mammal. The first Covid-19 cases were reported in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019. The international investigation in the city only began in January 2021 and wrapped up last month. A team of international scientific experts spent four weeks in Wuhan visiting sites linked to early cases.

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Hunger and famine will persist and there will be no substantial recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate disasters at any time and in any situation and to provide all- round assistance for ensuring social security of the people;

To restore eternal peace based on NCA, without deviat- ing from the Three Main National Causes, as the realization of armed conflicts is the principal requirement in realizing democracy.

To build a strong and compact Standard Army, which has the combat process and combat power to effectively safeguard the State peace and stability and sovereignty.

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Need to distinguish between right and wrong, justice and injustice

By Kanaung

According to the nature of democracy, everybody has their freedom of speech and expression. But, their rights should not affect others.

The State Administration Council held meetings and discussions with the intellectual persons from the respective sectors to improve the all-round development of the State’s economy. These are the five future programmes, and they are also implementing the roadmaps as much faster as possible. But, there are some incitements or destructive elements to disrupt the country’s stable condition these days. The unscrupulous persons organized a red ribbon campaign against the State Administration Council. Then, they asked the people to join CDM.

Trying not to listen to and view the 8 pm news broadcasting

They intentionally commit incitements to the government workers not to go to offices to stop the government mechanism, in addition to the opposition to the government’s efforts. They did like Than Bone Tee campaign. CDM and incitements to take to the streets. The young people, the future of the country, are staging strikes daily in every township. The unscrupulous persons use various ways to unrest riots when they see the youths protesting peacefully on the roads.

Request to government workers to return to their duties

On the other hand, the State Administration Council imposed Section 144 to maintain the peace and stability of the State. Moreover, SAC continuously released public notifications and requests to the public. The council also requested the health workers, engineers, teachers, including government workers, to return to their duties by solving the rumours regarding government staff’s salary by unscrupulous persons.

According to the nature of democracy, everybody has their freedom of speech and expression. But, their rights should not affect others. They should not stop or affect the rights of others. Severe actions will be taken against those detrimental to the State’s peace and stability, the safety of the public and the rule of law. The council has already announced that they will take action as per the law since 5 February.

The unscrupulous persons and destructive elements are still doing the violent acts to the State’s peace and tranquillity despite the announcements, orders and requests of the State Administration Council.

Translated.
Stop inciting young people to take to the streets

By Nay Chi Thway

And witnesses said that the youth, who was died of a gunshot in the abdomen, was shot while hiding behind a tree.

Ma Kyal Zin, who was in the back of the barricades surrounded by many men and crowds in front of her, was shot dead by a bullet that entered her head in Mandalay.

I read the news that a teenage girl has died during the demonstration. I do grieve when I see the word of the young generation's deaths from all over the country. I do sympathize with them as they are the ages of my children.

According to the people who were present at the demonstration and the CCTV footage of the event that happened on 30th street in Mandalay, the crowd eventually backed off when the security forces used tear gas to disperse them. And witnesses said that the youth, who was died of a gunshot in the abdomen, was shot while hiding behind a tree.

Ma Kyal Zin, who was in the back of the barricades surrounded by many men and crowds in front of her, was hit dead by a bullet that entered her head in Mandalay.

I also noticed that pre-death photos of her were immediately circulating online from various points of view.

Another girl was also shot dead to the head during the riot in Nay Pyi Taw. When inspecting the bullet, it was found that the shot is not the type of ammunition used by police. However, the police shooting pictures, which coincided with her fall, are being posted on social media.

I even doubt that a person or an organization pre-planned to target young people. The pictures of them before being shot were taken with an exact and precise resolution. I think seeing them online simultaneously as their death is a source of hatred, resentment, and sadness towards the people.

It was seen that people are saying they were shot on the ground when the security forces fired in the air as the first warning. Some people instructed to destroy the CCTV footage. The front line of the protesting crowds was not shot but the young people in the middle. They also refused to inspect the incidents, and the pictures of the bullets spread on social media immediately after every gun shooting. The worst thing is that people who are not from the security forces are seen as armed with weapons.

No matter how much the wood is big, it can be easily divided once it is wedged. A wedge is a tool to break the massive thing. If we deliberate on the happenings across the country, we found that the arrest of the person who dropped the gun in Htauk Kyant; pistols found at the motorbike accident in Mandalay; the angry crowd saying they want guns and serve the country as public militia. I want to remind you that people are intentionally pushing the country towards a worse situation.

As the protests continue day after day, all can see that people are getting tired and facing financial difficulties and lives are affected by unstable and insecure circumstances. I assume that unscrupulous persons are likely to make incitements to accelerate the demonstrations for various reasons. We have seen they are inciting to let people die so that they will be provoked, which will lead to an intensified mass explosion.

Carrying fuel by charity vehicles and inviting the USA and UN by asking how many lives will be needed to be sacrificed leads to negative impacts than positive ones. The false news circulated on social media also raises public concern.

When young people are agitated, evil persons are pleased. In the 1988 revolution, there was this kind of crowd dispersal, as per my experience. Then, arms brokers tried to sell the weapons to the civilians. Similarly, this time, they will make the young people provoked and give them weapons. However, as people have no enough time to be trained, they will be the ones who will suffer.

What I want to appeal to the young protesters is that they should not try to risk confrontation. People who are inciting young people do not come forward anymore. They are not protecting young people from the frontline in the shooting. The bullets can be from the front of them as well as from behind. I condemn those who intentionally incite the public towards violence against the government, and I suggest the young people make conscious decisions.

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Translated.
PANDEMIC: ROLLING UPDATE

PANDEMIC: ROLLING UPDATE

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel warned Saturday that the pandemic risked rolling back progress made on gender equality, as women take on the lion’s share of childcare in lockdown and are more likely to work in at-risk jobs.

“We have to make sure that the pandemic does not lead us to fall back into old gender patterns we thought we had overcome,” Merkel said in a video message ahead of International Women’s Day on March 8.

Women have been disproportionately affected by the health crisis, she said, while being underrepresented in decision-making positions. “Once again it’s more often women who have to muster the balancing act between

Holden Getty

Commission aims to secure vaccine materials from US

THE EU will open talks with Washington Monday to ensure its supply of US-made materials for coronavirus vaccines, a European source said Saturday, items currently under tough export restrictions.

Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton – Brussel’s’ pointman on vaccine production – will confer with White House Covid-19 coordinator Jeffery Zients, the source familiar with the talks told AFP. The EU and US want to “work together in a coordinated way to avoid bottlenecks” for European vaccine producers, the source said.

Among the restricted goods under discussion are bags fitted to the manufacturers’ vats – often either made in the EU by American firms or in the US by European companies – as well as vials, syringes and so-called “nanolipid particles” used to encapsulate some messenger RNA vaccines.

All vaccine materials require specific authorisations from Washington to export. “The idea isn’t to relegate” the rules but to “ease and speed up... administrative procedures,” the European source said.

“We’re taking action in advance. When the time comes that vaccine production in Europe steps up sharply, we want to be sure that all the materials will be there,” the source added.

The EU’s own export control system only applies to ready-to-use vaccines, and was recently used to block a shipment of 250,000 AstraZeneca doses to Australia. The Swedish-British firm has notified the EU’s 27 member countries that it will only be able to deliver one-third of the initially promised number of doses to the bloc in the first quarter.

Monday’s talks “do not aim to negotiate on doses” of finished vaccines with the US, the European source said, saying that was “up to businesses”.

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The study found that the pandemic “has exacerbated existing inequalities between women and men in almost all areas of life”.

More than 75 per cent of those working in the health sector are women, from doctor’s offices and hospitals, to labs and pharmacies,” Merkel said – yet women account for barely 30 per cent of management positions in those areas.

Merkel’s warnings were echoed in the EU’s annual report on gender equality released earlier this week. The study found that the pandemic “has exacerbated existing inequalities between women and men in almost all areas of life”.

On top of increased childcare burdens from school and nursery closures, it said women were also more likely to work in low-paid jobs in the services sector worst affected by the shutdowns, leaving them at higher risk of unemployment.

The United States recorded fewer than 40,000 new daily cases of Covid-19 for the first time in five months at the weekend, a piece of promising news as Pakistan steps up efforts to vaccinate its population against the virus.

New US daily virus cases at five-month low

In the United States, the world’s hardest-hit country, the number of daily cases peaked at nearly 300,000 in early January following the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s holidays. With cases declining and vaccines rolling out, several US states have begun jettisoning mask-wearing rules – much to the chagrin of President Joe Biden, who called the move “Neanderthal thinking.” While his administration says it is committed to vaccinate 180 million people

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China vows to create 11m jobs in 2021, back at pre-epidemic level

CHINA is planning to create 11 million jobs in 2021, a jump from the 9 million in 2020, which analysts said suggests that the country’s job policy will steer toward the post-pandemic era as the COVID-19 situation in the world’s second-largest economy is firmly contained.

While officials and economists also pointed out that as the country is expected to have about 15 million new urban workers this year, the challenges in the job market will be more severe than ever. The job creation target was made in the country’s 2021 Government Work Report, which was delivered by Premier Li Keqiang on Friday at the opening of the fourth session of the 13th National People’s Congress, China’s top legislative body.

“We will continue to improve the employment-first policy to enhance its performance,” said Premier Li, adding that the country will work to keep the employment situation stable, provide adequate fiscal, tax, and financial policy support to businesses that do not cut jobs or only cut a small number of them. The government also vowed to ensure employment for key groups such as college graduates, ex-service members, and rural migrant workers, support the development of new forms of employment and expand the scope of the use of vocational skills training funds. — Xinhua

U.S. trade deficit with Japan shrinks 25.9% in January

THE U.S. goods trade deficit with Japan shrank 25.9 per cent in January from the previous month to $4.34 billion, the Commerce Department said Friday. The deficit with China fell 3.6 per cent to $26.25 billion, while that with Mexico declined 4.0 per cent to $9.56 billion, the department said.

For the reporting month, Japan ranked as having the fifth-largest trade deficit with the United States after China, Mexico, Vietnam and Germany. Globally, the U.S. deficit in trade of both goods and services grew 1.9 per cent to $68.21 billion. U.S. exports rose 1.0 per cent to $191.94 billion, while imports climbed 1.2 per cent to $260.16 billion, the highest since August 2019, according to the department.

The global trade figures are measured on a balance-of-payments basis after seasonal adjustment, and the country-by-country and regional breakdowns are based on unadjusted customs-cleared data. — Kyodo

Biden’s Covid rescue plan grinds towards Senate approval

US Democrats were on track Saturday for a final vote on President Joe Biden’s massive Covid-19 relief package after agreeing to scale back unemployment benefits, with passage increasingly likely in the evenly divided Senate.

With the sun rising in Washington, bleary-eyed senators continued their all-night session voting on nearly two dozen amendments and counting as they hammered out the $1.9 trillion stimulus bill, which Biden insists will revive the pandemic-hit US economy.

Negotiations in the Senate had frozen the chamber’s action for more than 10 hours Friday before the Democrats reached a compromise with moderate Senator Joe Manchin, who had balled at the scale of the benefits.

“This agreement allows us to move forward on the urgently needed American Rescue Plan,” White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

Republicans have stood uniformly opposed to the giant package, but Democrats – who cannot afford to lose a simple vote – united to beat back repeated efforts to derail the legislation.

The action came against a backdrop of strong US economic data signaling that the world’s largest economy may finally be healing. —AFP

U.S., EU agree on suspension of tariffs over aircraft subsidy dispute

THE United States said Friday that it has agreed with the European Union to suspend for four months tariffs imposed over their aircraft subsidy row, as they look to work together to address challenges posed by new entrants to the civil aviation market such as China.

As a result of their disputes at the World Trade Organization over their respective subsidies for Boeing Co. and Airbus SE, tariffs by the United States on $7.5 billion worth of EU products and by the EU on nearly $4 billion of U.S. imports have been allowed. The four-month truce will affect all tariffs, including those on aircraft as well as non-aircraft products, enabling the two sides to “focus efforts towards resolving these long running disputes at the WTO,” the United States and the EU said in their joint statement. The two also said they will seek a “comprehensive and durable negotiated solution” in their disputes, which will include addressing “the trade restrictive practices and of challenges posed by new entrants to the sector from non-market economies, such as China”. Concerns linger that a protracted trade dispute between the United States and the EU could benefit companies such as the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd., observers say. The administration of President Joe Biden is hoping to tackle what the United States views as China’s unfair trade practices by working closely with allies and partners. —Kyodo

UK finance firm Greensill on the brink, with 50,000 jobs at risk

Troubled UK finance firm Greensill is reportedly on the brink of bankruptcy – a development which would send shockwaves through the sector, ensnaring clients and risking up to 50,000 jobs worldwide.

Greensill specializes in short-term supply chain financing to provide capital for businesses around the world, but now faces mounting questions over its opaque and complex accounting methods.

The London-headquartered finance firm, founded in 2011 by Australian Lex Greensill with activities spanning Australia and the United States, is preparing to file for insolvency according to the Financial Times and Bloomberg News.

However, an industry source told AFP that private equity firm Apollo Global Management Fund and partner Athene were nearing a rescue deal that could provide $100 million in new financing. —AFP

U.S., EU agree on suspension of tariffs over aircraft subsidy dispute
Pakistan PM survives confidence vote boycotted by opposition

Khan secured 178 votes in the 340-seat National Assembly through an open ballot, boycotted by main opposition parties. PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan survived a vote of confidence by the country’s parliament on Saturday, days after his party lost a key Senate seat to an opposition candidate.

Ruling party and opposition activists clashed briefly outside the parliament ahead of the vote, with local TV channels showing a shoe being thrown at former interior minister Ahsan Iqbal.

Khan secured 178 votes in the 340-seat National Assembly through an open ballot, boycotted by the main opposition parties, the Pakistan Muslim League and Pakistan Peoples Party.

The vote followed the contentious results of Wednesday’s election to Pakistan’s Senate, whose members are chosen by provincial parliaments and lawmakers from the lower house.

In a sign of growing ruptures within his ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Khan’s finance minister lost his seat to an opposition candidate, suggesting some members of the party had switched their loyalty. Khan -- who came to power in 2018 after a fiery campaign vowing to clean up corruption -- accused the opposition of horse-trading and buying some of his party’s parliamentarians in a bid to ward off graft investigations.—AFP

90 killed in 24 hours as fighting rocks Yemen’s Marib

FIERCE fighting between Yemeni pro-government forces and Iran-backed Houthi rebels has killed at least 90 combatants on both sides in the past 24 hours, government military sources said Saturday.

The Shi’ite rebels launched an offensive last month to seize Marib, the last stronghold in northern Yemen of pro-government forces who are backed by a Saudi-led military coalition.

The clashes in the oil-rich province left 32 dead among government forces and loyalist tribes, while 58 Houthi rebels were killed in coalition air strikes, the sources told AFP.

They said heavy clashes broke out on six fronts as government forces were able to counter attacks by the Houthis who managed to advance only on the Kassara front northwest of Marib city.

The fighting also left dozens of people wounded, the sources added.

The loss of Marib would be a huge blow for the Yemeni government, but would also threaten en masse for civilians, including hundreds of thousands of displaced people sheltering in desolate camps in the surrounding desert.

It would also be a major setback for Saudi Arabia, which has been the target of increasingly frequent Houthi missile attacks in recent weeks. Shrapnel from Houthi drones intercepted by the Saudis on Friday wounded two civilians, including a 10-year-old, in the southwest of the kingdom, the official SPA news agency reported.—AFP

Syria Kurds hand 12 children to their Iraqi Yazidi mothers

SYRIAN Kurds have handed over 12 children of alleged Islamic State members to their mothers from Iraq’s Yazidi minority, a Kurdish official said Friday.

"The children, aged two to five, were all born to Yazidi mothers and fathered by IS members. They were handed over to their mothers" on Thursday, said Syrian Kurdish official Zeyneb Saroukhan.

Dozens of Yazidi women and girls survived sex slavery at the hands of IS jihadists in Syria and have since returned to Iraq, but many were forced to leave their children behind or risk being shunned by their community.

Saroukhan said this was the first time children had been given back to their mothers. —AFP

Twitter working on a way to ‘undo’ fresh tweets

TWITTER on Friday confirmed that it is working on a button that would give people a chance to take back freshly fired-off tweets before they are posted.

While the feature would not be an edit option long clamoured for by Twitter users, it would provide a brief window of opportunity of several seconds to "undo" a tweet after sending.

"We can confirm we are testing this feature," a Twitter spokeswoman said in reply to an AFP inquiry.

The feature would be in addition to the delete function but would prevent a tweet from appearing on a user’s timeline. Google’s free Gmail service provides a similar chance to reconsider emails being sent. Twitter put out word this week that it would be testing products throughout the year, and "hopefully" some would be rolled out.

Plans shared by Twitter recently include a possible subscription service in which users would pay for special content from high-profile accounts, part of an economic model to diversify its revenue.—AFP

Ecuador’s interior minister quits after prison riots

Ecuador’s interior minister resigned Friday in the wake of simultaneous riots in four prisons that left 79 people dead.

“It is my own personal decision to submit my irrevocable resignation as minister,” Patricia Pazmino said in a letter to President Lenin Moreno, which was made public on Twitter.

Pazmino, a reserve police officer, said his “management at the head of the ministry has been questioned,” without giving further details.

On Monday, the National Assembly called for the removal of Pazmino, as well as the head of the police and the prison service.

Pazmino’s resignation came a week after the riots, which Moreno called an outbreak of “barbarism”.

Authorities said the riots were triggered by clashes between rival criminal gangs vying for power and which are allegedly linked to Mexican and Colombian cartels.—AFP

Relatives of inmates protest with signs outside the prison in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on February 25, 2021, after riots in which at least 79 prisoners died. PHOTO: AFP

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Ivory Coast holds legislative elections after political turmoil

A voter casts a ballot at a polling station in the working class district of Vodougou in Abidjan during Ivory Coast’s legislative elections. **PHOTO: AFP**

PEOPLE in Ivory Coast cast ballots in a parliamentary vote on Saturday, in a key test of stability after presidential elections last year marked by violence. Grappling with a deep political crisis, President Alassane Ouattara has offered an olive branch to his former rival, Laurent Gbagbo, whose party has now lifted a decade-long boycott of polls. At a polling station at a school in Abidjan, Micheline Irielou, a 43-year-old businesswoman, talked of the need for change in people’s lives. “We’re tired. We don’t have much to eat. In my (Plateau) neighbourhood we don’t have water and that’s why I came to vote. So that it changes.”

His Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) is the driving force of a centre-left coalition named Together for Democracy and Solidarity (EDS). More than 1,500 candidates are vying for the votes of roughly seven million people in a contest for the 255-seat National Assembly.

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In contrast to the bloodshed of elections and signed up to a code of conduct. “The prospect (of a high turnout) favours peaceful elections,” said Adama Bictogo, a candidate for the constituency of Agboville, near Abidjan. In the last legislative vote in December 2016, Ouattara’s RHDP party teamed up with the centre-right Ivory Coast Democratic Party (FDC), winning an absolute majority with 167 seats. —**AFP**

Peru’s victims of ‘forced sterilizations’ hope for Fujimori apology

THE start of court proceedings against Peru’s former president Alberto Fujimori for a programme blamed for forcibly sterilizing thousands of poor, mostly indigenous women has generated hope among victims that justice will finally be served. “We’ve been waiting more than 20 years for justice. I want them to recognize us, to apologize to all the women” threatened or coerced into being sterilized, Gloria Basilio Huaman told AFP. She said authorities tricked her into getting her fallopian tubes tied when she was 27, as part of a family planning program blamed for forcibly sterilizing thousands of poor, mostly indigenous women. Fujimori has admitted to criticizing him for a programme blamed for forcibly sterilizing thousands of poor, mostly indigenous women.

The coronavirus epidemic is expanding in Paraguay and officials admit the threat is grave. “We are in a critical situation,” said health ministry spokesman Hernan Martinez. —**AFP**

Paraguay protests erupt over government handling of Covid-19

PROTESTORS angry over the Paraguay government’s handling of the coronavirus crisis clashed with police late Friday, with shops ransacked and cars set on fire. Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets as clashes in the centre of the capital Asuncion left around 20 injured, according to AFP estimates. Protestors rallied earlier outside the Congress building to demand the resignation of President Mario Abdo Benitez. Health Minister Julio Mazzoleni, who has been under attack from lawmakers, including some from the ruling party, and by health worker unions, submitted his resignation, which he made public on Friday after a meeting with the president. On Thursday, the Senate adopted by 30 votes out of 45 a resolution calling for Mazzoleni to step down.

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**PHOTO: AFP**

Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani told Pope Francis that Iraq’s ancient but often persecuted Christian community should live “in peace and security, and with their full constitutional rights”. **PHOTO: AFP**

President Mario Abdo Benitez.

The meeting, on the second day of the first-ever papal visit to Iraq, marked a landmark moment in modern religious history and a milestone in Francis’s efforts to deepen dialogue with other religions. He later addressed the rich spectrum of Iraq’s religious communities at Ur, tradition’s birthplace of the Prophet Abraham, a central figure in the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths, where he made an impassioned plea for “unity” after conflict.

The 84-year-old pontiff’s trip to Iraq is an effort to both comfort the country’s ancient but dwindling Christian community and deepen his dialogue with other faiths.

His meeting with the grand ayatollah lasted 50 minutes, with Sistani’s office putting out a statement shortly afterwards thanking Francis for visiting the holy city of Najaf.

Sistani, 90, “affirmed his concern that Christian citizens should live like all Iraqis in peace and security, and with their full constitutional rights,” it said. His office published an image of the two, neither wearing masks: Sistani in a black turban and white, looking directly at the grand ayatollah. —**AFP**

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ONE Fists of Fury II: Kang knocks out Amir at round one

Kang Ji Won of South Korea beat Amir Aliakbari of Iran via knockout at 1:54 minute of the round one at main bout of the ONE Championship: Fists of Fury II event held on 5 March at Singapore Stadium in Singapore.

As the bout was a main fight, “Mighty Warrior” or Kang Ji Won put more efforts to finish the fight via knockout even in the very first minute of the round one with continuous strikes and punches.

In the other Heavyweight fight, Anatoly Malykhin or “Spartak” defeats Alexandre Machado or “Bebezao” via Technical Knockout at 3:28 minutes of the round one.

Next in the Featherweight bout, Tang Kai shaped his victory over Ryogo Takahashi via knockout at 1:59 of the round one.

In the other Featherweight fight, Yoshiki Nakahara made a win over Ruslan Emibek Uulu via Technical Knockout at 1:30 minute of the round one.

In the Bantamweight Muay Thai bout, Han Zi Hao beat Adam Noi via unanimous decision.

In the other Bantamweight fight, Mark Fairtex Abelardo defeats Emilio Urrutia via knockout at 3:20 minute of the round two. —GNLM

Roland Garros confident of May-June return, ‘maximize number of fans’

PARIS — Roland Garros chiefs said Friday (Mar 5) they fully expected the Grand Slam event to return to its traditional May-June slot this year while being able to “maximize the number” of fans.

Last year’s tournament was switched unilaterally from spring to September-October as the coronavirus sent the sport into a five-month suspension.

When the clay court show-piece was eventually staged, health protocols saw a daily limit of only 1,000 fans allowed onto the Roland Garros site.

“Our desire is to be able, in accordance with the decisions of the government and with the extremely ambitious and rigorous application of a very well-crafted health protocol, to organize Roland Garros on the dates scheduled, from May 17 to Jun 6 (qualifying included),” said Amelie Oudea-Castera, the French Tennis Federation’s (FFT) new director-general. —AFP

Man City face Man Utd test on march towards history

LONDON — Manchester City have history in their sights as the runaway leaders bid to take a huge step towards the Premier League title in Sunday’s showdown with fading challengers Manchester United.

City are 14 points clear of United with 11 games left and will set a new club record if they avoid defeat this weekend, which would also take them to the brink of their own record of 18 successive Premier League wins, a mark shared with Liverpool.

—AFP

Ibrahimovic poised for Sweden comeback: reports

STOCKHOLM — Zlatan Ibrahimovic will return to international football at the age of 39, Swedish media reported on Saturday.

Sweden, coached by Janne Andersson, have qualified for the Euros and kick off their campaign against Spain in Bilbao on June 14.

The return has been under discussion for several months, according to reports, but has not been confirmed by the Swedish football federation (SvFF).

“It is certain that the Milan star is making a comeback in Janne Andersson’s squad for the World Cup qualifiers,” said the site Fotbollsdirekt, in a report that was picked up by the Swedish national press.

The striker, who has 116 caps and 62 goals, has not worn the Swedish jersey since Euro 2016, where he was captain but failed to score as Sweden finished bottom of their group. —AFP