SUCCESS OF FARM MECHANIZATION KEY TO BRINGING OPPORTUNITIES TO FARMERS

Pilgrims peacefully visit pagodas across nation

Tatmadaw arranges transport for 70 quarantine-completed fishers

Announcement of Union Election Commission
21 March 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and on the ground withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers of 44 townships (except Cocogyun) in the Yangon Region.

2. According to the inspection findings, the previous election commission released 6,135,581 eligible voters in 44 townships of the Yangon Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 3,978,534 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 747,099 citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 11,070 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 269,412 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.

3. Findings in the inspection were as follows:

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council held a 3/2021 press conference at the Ministry of Information yesterday afternoon, and Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun, member of the Union Election Commission and representatives of departmental information team replied to queries raised by media.

Leader of the Information Team Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun clarified the situation of the State Administration Council to assume State duty because of voting frauds and vote-rigging in the 2020 election across the nation, neglecting the requests of the Tatmadaw to solve problems of voting frauds under the law in accord with the practice of democracy but now emphasizing negotiation, the transformation of peaceful protests to riots, then to anarchic mobs and rebellion, destruction of six public-owned offices, 30 police stations, 12 police outposts and five buildings in 30 townships in riotous rebellion, setting fire to schools three times, the bridge once, ATM and banks two times, communication towers, once, fire stations once, vehicles four times, houses two times, shops two times and rail tracks two times. Destruction of railroads which play a key role in transportation, was very dangerous for the State.

In Yangon Region, 10 garment factories, two garment machinery factories, one electronic factory, one fertilizer plant, one bag factory, one polyethylene bag factory and one polystyrene foam factory totaling 17 were set on fire from 14 to 19 March. Tens of thousands of workers and dependents became jobless. Fire trucks were violently barred not to leave the stations.

MoHS holds meeting on opening of postgraduate medical courses

Four kinds of offertories, day meals donated to monasteries, nunneries, religious teaching centres

Venerable Sayadaws, government staff, locals receive COVID-19 vaccines

Detainees from Shwepyitha and Hlinethaya riots given respective sentences

Angry protestors attack security forces in Mandalay

Information Team of State Administration Council meets media at 3/2021 press conference
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

Five future programmes of State Administration Council

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

Pilgrims peacefully visit pagodas across nation

Tatmadaw arranges transport for 70 quarantine-completed fishers

TATMADAW officials arranged transport for a total of 70 fishermen who have completed their quarantine period in the COVID-19 Quarantine Centre in Hline Township, Yangon Region, yesterday. Yangon Region Administration Council Chairman U Hla Soe, Commander of the Yangon command Major General Nyunt Win Swe, Director of the Regional Disaster Management Department U Than Soe and officials greeted them.

According to the instructions of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the fishers were brought back from Andaman Island, India, by Tatmadaw navy vessels. — MNA

ALTHOUGH the pagodas, including buildings or temples of other religions, were temporarily closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, all were reopened as per the COVID-19 health rules starting 8 February.

Meanwhile, the pilgrims and visitors, including monks and nuns, visit the Shwedagon of Yangon Region, Maha Muni Pagoda of Mandalay Region and Uppatasanti Pagoda of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and other pagodas of regions and states following the COVID-19 health rules. Moreover, Islamic religious schools, Churches and Hindu temples across the nation are also reopened under the COVID-19 health rules, and the people of respective religions peacefully do their religious affairs. — MNA
It is also essential to serve the country's interest without corruption

IN questioning people from the NLD, we treat them properly. Some of their revelations during the process have been announced. At the same time, there are plans to announce further revelations. Action will be taken against responsible officials at the state, region and union levels involved in corruption. It is also essential to serve the country’s interest without corruption when the SAC is discharging duties.

(Excerpt from the speech to the 6/2021 meeting of the State Administration Council made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 16 March 2020)
MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states keep providing medical treatments to the people to solve their healthcare services difficulties. A total of 89,551 outpatients and 4,092 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 4,120 major operations and 2,193 minor operations. The senior doctors treat serious cases. These hospitals managed for the birth of 5,674 babies while bringing 5,674 pregnant women to the respective medical hospitals. Of those 2259 cases are done in caesarean section and 3415 cases in ordinary delivery.

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

A local seen receiving healthcare services provided by Tatmadaw medical corps at the public hospital in Latpadan.
Four kinds of offertories, day meals donated to monasteries, nunneries, religious teaching centres

OFFICERS, other ranks and service personnel from Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) donate rice, cooking oil, salt, gram and other offerings as well as day meals to monasteries, nunneries and religious teaching centres for ensuring smooth arrangements for alms in townships of respective military commands. Moreover, health care services are also provided.

Today, commanders and officials offered four kinds of offerings, medical supplies for COVID-19 prevention and offertories to 13 monasteries and Buddhist learning centres in Taunggyi, Kunhing, Monghsat, Mawlamyine, Thaton, Hlaingbwe, Hlegu, Kawhmu, Sittway, MraukU and Taungoo and day meals to 15 monasteries and nunneries in Mawlamyine, Pathein, Sittway, MraukU, Patheingyi, Pyigyitagon and Taungoo.

Tatmadaw medical teams performed medical checkups on members of the Sangha, nuns and local people from Kounghsan, Wamhonggang and Maiknyaung monasteries in Wamhong Village of Monghsat in Shan State (East). — MNA

A monk is seen receiving offertories donated by the Tatmadaw.

Venerable Sayadaws, government staff, locals receive COVID-19 vaccines

On 22 and 23 March, the department staff and locals of Lashio and Laukkai in Northern Shan State received COVID-19 vaccines. Likewise, the venerable Sayadaws, departmental staff and residents from the townships of southern and eastern Shan State, Kayah State, Mon State, Yan gon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Sagaing Region and Bago Region also received the COVID-19 vaccine.

The commanders of respective region commands inspected the medical services for the local populace and paid homage to the Sayadaws. — MNA

Sayadaws are seen getting COVID vaccine jabs.

Briefing ceremony on strategy development for ethnic rights held

THE Ministry of Ethnic Affairs held the briefing ceremony on the development of a strategy for the rights of Myanmar’s ethnic nationalities yesterday morning in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention rules.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister said his ministry would coordinate with the Ministry of Education to give priority to local people and allow them to receive higher salaries regarding the appointment of Teaching Assistants (TA) and Language Teacher (LT). He continued his ministry will coordinate with relevant ministries regarding the verification of ethnic nationality in applying for the national identity card. He added the importance of formulating and implementing necessary policies and visions in the ministry to have a strategy as a roadmap for the ministry to achieve its goals.

The strategic goal that is being drafted is to ensure that all ethnic groups enjoy equal citizenship rights, to have full access to constitutional rights and to Achieve Myanmar’s Sustainable and Balanced Development Plan in accordance with the Objectives of the Law for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic Nationalities.

It was found that it was an essential strategy for ethnic nationalities to enjoy their legal rights and development. It is hoped that the development gap will be narrowed as the strategic role can be implemented year by year. In formulating the strategy, the policy of the government. The Union Minister said it also needs to be in line with the policies and goals of the State Government.

He said the government is committed to building a democratic federal union as well as national reconciliation and peace and it is well known that ethnic issues play an important role in achieving peace. He stressed his ministry must work effectively to achieve the national goals of the Union Government, and he called for the final drafting of the strategy and its successful implementation within ten years from 2021 to 2030.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, the Permanent Secretary, Directors General and officials. — MNA

Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint presides over the briefing ceremony on ethnic rights yesterday.

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### Announcements of Union Election Commission

#### 21 March 2021

**Findings on township-wise voting list of Yangon Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Total polling stations</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Withdrawn</th>
<th>Remaining</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>Extra</th>
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4. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining numbers of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of 44 townships (except Cocogyun) in Yangon Region, together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrator according to Section 53 of the Hluttaw Election Law.

5. There are a total of 5,807 polling stations in 44 townships, and 6,687,638 ballots withdrawn, 4,084,281 ballot receipts, 2,603,357 ballots in exact remaining, and 2,336,870 ballots remaining on the ground. There are differences –337,957 missing and 91,450 extra ballots. It was found that there were township-wise missing and extra ballots as well as constituency-wise illegally printed ballot papers.

#### On the ground inspections on township-wise election list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Total polling stations</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Withdrawn</th>
<th>Remaining</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>Extra</th>
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<td>Hmaynly (West)</td>
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<td>Dagon Myothit (Seikkyi)</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>44 townships</td>
<td>5,807</td>
<td>6,133,581</td>
<td>3,978,054</td>
<td>747,099</td>
<td>11,670</td>
<td>269,412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. According to the inspection of 44 townships (except Cocogyun) in Yangon Region, the voter lists of the township election sub-commission exceeded by 2,156,647 those of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population’s eligible voters who had turned 18, citizens, associate citizens, naturalized citizens, and voters under Section 6(a) of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law.

7. It was inspected that there were 747,099 non-identity voters. Though Section 15(c) of Chapter VI of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law provides, “Whoever has the right to vote in any constituency shall not be included in the voting roll of any constituency other than that of the constituency concerned at the same time”, it was found that there included 11,670 repeated voters for three times and above and 269,412 for two times in the Yangon Region. Thus, the voting roll of the Yangon Region was not in conformity with the law.

8. The following are on the ground inspection findings in 44 townships (except Cocogyun) of Yangon Region:
   (a) Though there were 4,186,853 voters and 4,084,281 ballot papers were used, 102,572 ballots were in shortage.
   (b) There were differences between withdrawal and use of the ballot papers, and 357,937 were missing.
   (c) There were 91,450 extra ballot papers at some polling stations.
   (d) The ward/village tract election sub-commissions failed to return the receipts of advance voting ballots and extra ballot papers.
   (e) There remained ballot papers and used receipts at the hands of ward/village-tract election sub-commissions.

9. It was found that the voting list (except Cocogyun) under inspection showed there were errors that were contrary to the law. There were shortages, losses or missing illegal extra ballot papers on the ground. Ballot papers were illegally printed as they should be done at exact numbers constituency-wise according to the law.

The names of voters, signatures or fingerprints, the voter lists, the numbers of polling stations, and the names of wards/village-tracts were not filled in. It was also scrutinized that ballot papers exceeded eligible voter lists. Thus, it is announced that all these are not in conformity with the relevant Hluttaw election law and rules.

Detainees from Shwepyitha and Hlinethaya riots given respective sentences

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force’s statement, those arrested during the riots in Shwepyitha and Hlinethaya townships in Yangon Region were given respective sentences.

Aung Pyae Phyo, son of U Hla Myint; Sein Thaung, son of U Hla Myint; Soe Than, son of U Hla Win; Tin Tun, son of U Soe Thein; Kyaw Thet, son of U Tin Win, were respectively detained for carrying sharp knives and dangerous weapons during the riots in Hlinethaya Township happened from 14 to 18 March. After a military tribunal investigated them, they were respectively sentenced to 3 years in prison with punitive labour due to the possession of any weapon without the right to possess it under the provisions of Section 19 (e) of the Arms Act (1879) on 19 March. Similarly, Min Htet (a) Linn Htet Paing, son of U Than Tun and Hla Win, son of U Sein Maung, arrested for burning Solamoda garment factory on 16 March in Shwepyitha, were sentenced to 20 years in prison with labour under Section 436 of the Penal Code for committing arson.

Aung Tun (a) Sarmi, Aung Thet Paing (a) Pijay and Win Ko Ko were sentenced to 3 years in prison with labour under Section 414 of the Penal Code for buying items stolen from Myanmar Hong Bao Mechanical Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd on 14 March.

Kyaw Thein Win (a) Ko Ko Win, Thilla (a) San-shaung, Yan Naing and Naing Min, who participated in the terrorist groups and incited civil service personnel to disobey the codes of conducts at work on 15, 16 and 18 March, were sentenced to 3 years in prison with labour under Section 405 A (c) of the Penal Code on 22 March.

The Martial Law was declared in Hlinethaya Township, Shwepyitha Township, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South), and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and North Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region due to the escalating terrorist attacks on garment factories and schools in the townships.

Twenty-three types of crimes to be tried by military tribunals have been announced in the townships where the Martial Law was declared, and it is reported that effective and immediate legal action will be taken to those who commit these crimes. —MNA
Inequity of COVID-19 vaccines grows ’more grotesque every day’, WHO chief

Women ‘systematically excluded’ from COVID response, despite being worst affected

OPINION

24 MARCH 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

The Theoretical Mechanization Department has opened frontline camps and provides ploughing services at reasonable prices, along with mechanical services for agricultural machinery owned by farmers.

These steps are leading to the agricultural mechanization which is also an important tool in crop production. Farmers who have access to improved tools and technologies have the opportunity to shift from subsistence farming to market-oriented farming. Theoretically, delivering mechanized solutions and providing training to farming cooperatives on equipment, business systems, and soil management can help us raise the living standards of farmers.

However, modern processing machinery and technologies are beyond our farmers’ means. There are many other obstacles, including lack of storage facilities.

Modernizing the agriculture sector is the fastest way to reduce the incidence of poverty, tackle labor shortage, enhance labor capacity, and increase efficiency.

Mechanized farming can not only help resolve labor shortage but also enable existing farmers to form a more productive and cooperative arrangement. Meanwhile, the ministry has pledged to provide administration, financial management to the cooperatives to ensure they can operate in full swing.

Besides, plans are under way to conduct training in agricultural machine operation for those who completed the agro-science institute and technical schools and the trainings will guarantee them to operate the machine in the field.

The Agricultural Mechanization Department has opened frontline camps and provides ploughing services at reasonable prices, along with mechanical services for agricultural machinery owned by farmers.

Women, who are often the key drivers of agricultural productivity, must be allowed to use technology to their fuller potential. This can help women to easily access credit and other inputs, and ensure they can earn a decent living through their own efforts.

The Theoretical Mechanization Department has opened frontline camps and provides ploughing services at reasonable prices, along with mechanical services for agricultural machinery owned by farmers.

Women have suffered the worst impacts of COVID-19 not only on the frontlines of healthcare, but also by the loss of jobs due to informal economy. Women’s contribution to the economy is significant, and a potential for increased productivity and household incomes. At the same time, women have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, with many losing their jobs and facing increased responsibilities at home.

Inequity of COVID-19 vaccines grows ’more grotesque every day’, WHO chief

Women ‘systematically excluded’ from COVID response, despite being worst affected

The United Nations Vaccines (UNV) programme is pleased to support UN partners in ensuring fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX). PHOTO: UN

Women ‘systematically excluded’ from COVID response, despite being worst affected

The United Nations Vaccines (UNV) programme is pleased to support UN partners in ensuring fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX). PHOTO: UN

As long as the virus continues to circulate anywhere, the world will be unable to face it. Traders and travel will continue to be disrupted, and the economic recovery will be further delayed”, he spelled out.

Albertinho, the WHO’s Global Coordinator of Vaccines, recently hosted a meeting on enhancing genomic sequencing of the coronaviruses, to better monitor their evolution in the face of the many mutations that are raising international concern.

Tedros said that while learning when, how and where the virus is evolving, is vital information, it is of limited use if countries do not work together to strengthen surveillance everywhere at the same time.

“If countries won’t share vaccines for the right reasons, we appeal to them to do it out of self-interest”, he said.

AstraZeneca equity commitments

Tedros also informed the journalists that he had spoken to vaccine manufacturers on how to ramp up production, including the AstraZeneca, manufacturer of the Oxford University-AstraZeneca shots which were being fully supported in a group of countries, mainly in Europe, amid concerns over vaccine stockpiling.

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Press release for public information

COMMITTEE Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-CRPH illegally formed with committing high treason and the groups formed by the committee were declared as unlawful associations on 21 March 2021.

According to the report sent by a duty-conscientious person, CRPH members held an online meeting at 9 am on 22-3-2021. The decisions of the meeting were as follows:

(1) Zaw Wai Soe must soonest send his replies to queries raised by the VOA news agency at the interview.
(2) Htin Lin Aung must draft the proposal for NED to raise the fund.
(3) CRPH needs to decide the soonest release of the letter for pension for the aged.
(4) Lwin Ko Latt must release the cabinet protocol on 21-3-2021.
(5) Kyaw Moe Tun must write the draft letter for enabling temporary vice-president Mahn Win Khaing Than to send a secret letter to the president of the United States of America.
(6) Win Myat Aye and Zaw Wai Soe must meet with development partners.
(7) CRPH members must hold a meeting on 22-3-2021 to discuss the issue of ICC in detail.
(8) Htin Lin Aung, Tin Tun Naing and Kyaw Moe Tun must hold a meeting on the offshore issue.
(9) Lwin Ko Latt must be assigned to submit the charter issue in detail at the meeting before NUCC.
(10) CRPH members must hold a meeting to apply the consistently response tactic of media for the Bengali issue.
(11) Phyu Phyu Thin and Lwin Ko Latt must be assigned to seek ways and means for collecting and spending funds in Myanmar.
(12) Win Myat Aye must be assigned to release the work process of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.
(13)Temporary vice-president Mahn Win Khaing Than must release a letter to thank 47 members of the Sangha from the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee for closing their offices.

Moreover, lawsuits have been filed against 15 leading members of the committee and those who accepted illegal assignments of the committee in accord with the existing laws, including high treason. Relevant courts have released warrants to arrest them.

As such, people are requested to inform nearby police stations about the above-mentioned persons, and action will be taken against those who admit those persons under the warrants to arrest.

1. U Saw Shar Phong Uwa, son of U Naw Htwel, 3/Bha-Ah-Na (C) 169831, CRPH representative member, Ywama Ward, Eindu Model Village, Hpa-an Township
2. U Zay Latt, son of U Nyunt Aung, 7/Pa-Kha-Na (C) 176215, CRPH representative member, Ward 2 of Okta Myothit, Bago
3. U Win Naing, son of U Mya Maung, 1/Ma-Ta-Ka (C) 004809, CRPH representative member, Namti, Mogaung Township
4. U Naing Htoo Aung, son of U Aye Swe, 9/Na-Hta-Ka (C) 131238, CRPH representative member, Ward 3 of Okta Myothit, Bago
5. U Myo Naing, son of U San Aye, 9/Ma-Ra-Ma (C) 021317, CRPH representative member, Seiktaaza-mai Ward, Chanayeth-azan Township
6. Daw Myat Thida Tun, daughter of U Ngwe Myint, 10/Tha-Pha-Ra (C) 091036, CRPH representative member, Sathit Ward, Thanyu-zayat
7. Daw Phyu Phyu Thin, daughter of U Hla Tun, 12/U-Ka-Ta (C) 108850, CRPH representative member, Ward 7 of South Okkalapa Township
8. U Tun Myint, son of U Tin Htut, 12/Ba-Ha-Na (C) 086035, CRPH representative member, Bo Sein Hman Ward, Bahan Township
9. U Wai Phyo Aung, son of U Tin Win, 12/Tha-Ka-Ta (C) 138826, CRPH representative member, South 4 Ward, Thakaya Township
10. Daw Zin Mar Aung, daughter of U Aung Kyi, 12/U-Ka-Ta (C) 019919, CRPH representative member, Ward 3, Yankin Township
11. U Lwin Ko Latt, son of U Hla Win, 12/Tha-La-Na (C) 008396, CRPH representative member, Thahtaykwin Village, Thanlyin Township
12. U Nay Myo (aka) U Win (aka) Myint Do, son of U Kyi, 13/Nya-Ra-Na (C) 057829, CRPH representative member, Nandawun 6 Ward, Nyaungshwe Township
13. U Zaw Min Thein, son of U Ngwe Shein, 14/La-Ma-Na (C) 053024, CRPH representative member, Zaytaalay Ward, Laymyethna Township
14. U Yi Mon (aka) Maung Tin Thit, son of U Kyaw Swe, 9/Pa-Ma-Na (C) 13895, CRPH representative member, Ward 3, Kyitaungkan, Pobbathiri Township
15. U Okkar Min, son of U Myint Soe, 6/Ma-Ma-Na (C) 114942, CRPH representative member, Theinmyinnuang Road, Kanyya Ward, Myelk Township
Angry protestors attack security forces in Mandalay

The rioters attempted to kill the security forces in some townships of regions and states. They also created weapons to use in riots. Therefore, the security forces conducted the investigation in relevant areas to take action, according to the Myanmar Police Force’s statement.

According to the tip-off, the police raided the U Myint Tun workshop in Kawthoung on 23 March together with harmful materials in front of Shit Myat Monastery in Sone Kone Ward, Pyin Ma Pin Village of Min Hla Lay, together with gas bottles and handmade arms of PVC, knife, jingalis, and gas mask.

Similarly, the security forces also arrested Than Lwin Oo (aka) Lwin Lwin, aged 40, son of U Si Kinh Si, Aung Naing Soe, aged 20, son of U Kyaw Shwe, Kaung Kyaw Htet, aged 15, son of U Than Lwin, Aung Moe Oo, aged 18 son fo U Khin Maung Oo, Sit Phyo Paing, aged 18, son of U Zaw Naing and Khin Maung Oo, Sit Phyo Paing, aged 18 son of U Than Lwin, aged 27, son of U Ba.

The locals of Aung Win Htilke at their house in South Okkalapa Township faced tortured, and another five police members were injured due to the shots by protestors in bags, four military members, including officers, were killed in Pekon, Ma Win Thandar Swe, wife of the military officer in Hlinethaya Township, was also killed. So these cases can irk the security forces. If they use their weapons carelessly due to anger, those who committed such crimes might face casualties.

But, the security forces maintained the situation as per the directives of the State Administration Council, 1956 crowd and riot manual, 2015 crowd control manual of Myanmar Police Force. Therefore, the security forces detained 45 men participating in the riot on 105th street between 52nd and 53rd streets in Chanmyathazi Township without any injuries to conduct further investigations, it is learnt. —MNA
Paris metro operator sued over air pollution

A French air quality association has filed a complaint against the Paris metro operator accusing it of downplaying pollution risks for public transport users, who are unwittingly exposed to dangerous levels of harmful compounds.

The Respire (“Breathe”) group said it filed its suit in Paris on Monday after its own analyses at several stations, as well as pollution readings by the state-owned RATP operator, had revealed alarming levels of particle pollution in recent years.

It alleged that the RATP was refusing to provide commuters with data showing the true pollution risks, “which constitute an aggravated deceit and causing unintentional injuries.”

Some four million people use the metro system each day, and the RATP employs tens of thousands of drivers and other workers.

The concentration of fine particles, which can penetrate deep into a person’s lungs, are compounded by limited ventilation as well as the braking action on the trains’ metal wheels.

“The RATP practices a sort of omerta on air pollution in the metro. It pretends there’s no problem, but it needs to tell people the truth. Its denial is a key part of the problem,” Respire’s director Olivier Blond said in a statement.

Contacted by AFP, the RATP contested the pollution levels cited by Respire, saying the organisation used portable, non-certified measuring equipment whose readings could not be compared with its own.

It also insisted that it was investing in its ventilation systems and experimenting with air treatment technologies as well as “electronic braking” that would release fewer fine particles as trains enter stations.

—AFP ■

Yemen’s Socotra archipelago awaits ecotourists

WITH its lush landscape, distinctive trees, unique animals and turquoise waters home to dolphins, Yemen is hoping its Socotra archipelago will become a dream destination despite the country’s nightmarish conflict.

Lying in the Indian Ocean some 200 kilometres (120 miles) off the Yemeni coast, the four islands and two rocky islets are home to some 50,000 people and have remained relatively untouched by the war that has devastated the mainland.

While most of Yemen is embroiled in a conflict that erupted in 2014 between Huthi rebels and the government -- plus the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic -- adventurous travellers are showing a growing interest in visiting Socotra.

Many set off from the wealthy United Arab Emirates, which is close to the authorities that control the islands.

“Fortunately, Socotra has never been affected by the war dynamics of the Yemeni mainland,” local travel agency Welcome to Socotra told AFP.

“No tensions or fights have ever been reported, hence there is no reason for tourists to worry.”

Since flights resumed with a chartered Air Arabia aircraft once a week from Abu Dhabi, the agency has received “hundreds” of requests, it said.

—AFP ■

Fire, wind and water: The new normal in a land Down Under

This latest disaster in the Windsor area in northwestern Sydney -- which hit during government-imposed travel restrictions to prevent the spread of coronavirus -- was not unexpected.

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Rory Kirkland has lived in Australia for three years, but he has already experienced the full range of the country’s extreme weather, from searing heat to unexciting, valleys and lush farmland of Australia’s east coast before it merges with the South Pacific.

But a week-long downpour has swollen the 16-million-year-old watercourse and several nearby rivers into 13-metre (43-foot) high mud-brown torrents.

The floods have been laden with leaves, branches, plastic bags, sewage, cars, shipping containers -- and at least one house.

“This is my front garden,” says a welly-clad Kirkland gesturing to a handful of treetops jutting out of what looks like a vast inland lake.

“That tree is about eight or nine-foot (three metres) tall, so you can see there is only a foot of tree left. The water has come right up.” —AFP ■

’Catastrophic’ Australia floods prompt helicopter rescues

Helicopters and boats were deployed to rescue residents stranded by “catastrophic” floods in eastern Australia Tuesday, as authorities warned more areas were now under threat.

A relentless week-long downpour has soaked most of New South Wales, causing surging rivers to burst their banks, swallowing homes, roads, bridges and farmland.

Strained emergency services -- which just one year ago were battling drought and unprecedented bushfires -- used military aircraft and watersports equipment to access cut-off communities.

So far, around 850 people have been winched or ferried to safety, but tens of thousands have been told to flee their homes and wild weather has spread to more inland areas.

In hard-hit Windsor, near Sydney, residents traversed the murky debris-laden torrent on jet skis and other vessels normally seen off the city’s golden beaches.

—AFP ■

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Analysts said that while the rate had cooled thanks to the UK government’s jobs support package paying the bulk of wages for millions of private-sector workers, unemployment was set to shoot higher once the furlough schemes shut down.

“The stability of the unemployment rate at... 5.0 per cent in January highlights once again the extent to which the government’s job furlough scheme has protected jobs during the pandemic,” said Ruth Gregory, senior UK economist at Capital Economics research group.—AFP

SALES of new homes in the United States plunged in February, government data said on Tuesday, as bad winter weather chilled the hot housing market.

Sales decreased 18.2 percent from January’s upwardly revised rate to a seasonally adjusted rate of 775,000 annualized, much worse than analysts had expected and the worst reading since May of last year.

Real estate has been in high demand even as the COVID-19 pandemic harmed the wider US economy, and analysts said the sharp decline in sales last month was partly due to tightening inventory and rising prices that kept some buyers away.

But the decline was sharpened by poor winter weather, which also caused drops in home-building and existing home sales.

“Winter weather probably depressed sales as sales fell sharply in all regions. We look for new home sales to moderate over the course of 2021 as high prices crimp affordability, but still look for sales to be up about four percent for the year,” said Randy H Thường of Oxford Economics. —AFP

Asian markets drop as inflation spectre hangs

ASIAN markets fell on Tuesday as investors extended recent sell-offs on concerns about rising prices. There is a reluctance on trading floors to push a year-long rally any further, while a stuttering vaccine roll-out and new lockdowns in Europe are adding to the caution.

Focus this week will be on the first joint congressional testimony by Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who will answer questions on their policy response to the pandemic. It comes as rates are rattled by a sharp rise in US Treasury yields in recent weeks that have been fuelled by bets that the forecast strong bounce in economic activity this year will fan inflation and force the bank to lift interest rates before 2024, as it has indicated.

The pair have repeatedly said they do not see the spike in inflation lasting and will maintain ultra-loose monetary policies — including record-low rates — until they have a grip on unemployment, and price rises are above two percent for an extended period. —AFP

Oil prices slump on renewed lockdowns

Oil market tanks fell on Tuesday as investors extended recent sell-offs on concerns about rising prices.

European stock markets were mixed and US stock indices drifted lower after sharp losses in Asia. On currency markets, the Turkish lira stabilised a day after plunging in re-action to news that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sacked the country’s market-friendly central bank chief, raising concerns about another round of financial turbulence. Germany will meanwhile enter a strict lockdown for five days over Easter amid surging virus rates, Chancellor Angela Merkel and regional leaders agreed Tuesday.

Neighbouring France should be vaccinating “morning, noon and evening”, President Emmanuel Macron said as he tackles criticism that the Covid-19 immunisation drive has been too slow. France is facing a third wave of infections but is lagging behind many Western countries in terms of the number of people vaccinated. Events in Europe are “hurting demand projections for crude oil”, noted ThinkMarkets analyst Fawad Razaqzada.

“Everything else being equal, it means that growth will be slower to start and feed through to the crude market. Pressures are likely to be weaker than previously thought.” Across the Atlantic, the focus is on the first joint congressional testimony by Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who were due Tuesday to answer questions on their policy response to the pandemic.—AFP

UK unemployment dips to 5% – official data

BRITAIN’S unemployment rate dipped to 5.0 per cent in the three months to the end of January remaining close to five-year highs on the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, official data showed on Tuesday.

The rate compared with 5.1 per cent in the three months to the end of December, the office for National Statistics said in a statement.

“The UK unemployment rate, in the three months to January 2021, was estimated at 5.0 per cent, a percentage point lower than a year earlier,” the ONS said.

US new home sales plunge 18.2% in February: govt

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Myanma Port Authority

“Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.08 feet to 20.14 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of March 30th to March 31st, 2020. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Global New Light of Myanmar
Israel voters take fourth shot at deciding Netanyahu’s fate

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara cast their ballots at a polling station in Jerusalem.

ISRAELIS were voting Tuesday in their fourth election in less than two years, with the nation deeply split on whether veteran Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should remain in power.

Election workers in full Covid protective gear staffed polling stations for voters currently in quarantine – but thanks to a world-leading vaccination effort most citizens wore only face masks.

Netanyahu, 71, is Israel’s longest-serving premier and its most popular politician, but his inability to unite a stable governing majority behind him has mired the country in unprecedented political gridlock.

He hopes to be rewarded by voters for the campaign that has inoculated half of Israel’s roughly nine million people against the coronavirus, a pace envied by much of the world, and for striking historic diplomatic normalization deals with several Arab states.

But while his right-wing Likud party appears set to win the most seats, Netanyahu will need coalition partners to secure a majority in the 120-seat Knesset.

That means Israel is looking at three possible outcomes: another coalition under Netanyahu who has been in power for 12 straight years, an ideologically divided government unitied only by its opposition to him, or a looming fifth election. As he cast his ballot in Jerusalem, Netanyahu voiced hope for an end to the gridlock, saying: “I hope this is the last election.”

Norway vetoes sale of Rolls-Royce unit to Russian group

Norway, a NATO member, two weeks ago asked Rolls-Royce to temporarily halt the sale of Bergen Engines while it examined the consequences a sale would have on national security.

“We now have enough information to conclude that it is absolutely necessary to prevent the sale of the company to a company controlled by a country with which we have no cooperation in the field of security,” Justice and Public Security Minister Monica Maeland said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Norwegian government explained that “the technology used by Bergen Engines and the engines it manufactures would be of great military importance to Russia.

“It would strengthen Russia’s military capacity in a way that would clearly be contrary to the best interests of the Norwegian and allied security policy,” it said.

Bergen Engines, which employs 950 people, has been part of Rolls-Royce since 1999, servicing engines for Norwegian Navy vessels and, according to local media reports, for the top-secret intelligence gathering ship Morjata. The veto risks angering Moscow.

On March 9, when the sale was temporarily halted, the Russian embassy in Oslo criticized the “anti-Russian implications” of the decision.

Dozens die in migrant ship fire off Libya: charity

ROUGHLY 60 migrants are presumed dead after their boat engine caught fire off the Libyan coast during an attempted Mediterranean crossing, a rescue charity said on Tuesday.

Alarm Phone, a volunteer-run Mediterranean rescue hotline, said it had spoken to survivors of the March 18 accident in which the engine of a wooden boat carrying more than 100 people caught fire.

“Several survivors reported to Alarm Phone that there had been more victims than survivors,” the group said in a statement.

Also on Tuesday, European humanitarian group SOS Mediterranee said Italy would allow 116 migrants to leave its

14 jihadists sentenced to death over plot to kill Bangladesh PM

FOURTEEN jihadists were sentenced to death in Bangladeshi court on Tuesday for attempting to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina more than two decades ago, a prosecutor said.

The 2000 bombing plot was one of several attempts on Hasina’s life in a wave of violence by Islamic extremists who were angry at her secular stance at the time.

Since then, a major crackdown against homegrown Islamist groups has seen more than 100 extremists killed in raids by police and more than 1,000 suspects arrested.

A fast-track court handed down death sentences to all 14 accused – five of them absconding – after they were found guilty of sedition and criminal conspiracy, prosecutor Abu Abdullah Bhuyian told AFP.

They planted two bombs in the grounds of a college where Hasina was due to address a rally. The devices were discovered and defused.

Ethiopia’s PM Abiy admits Eritrean forces are in Tigray

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed admitted Tuesday that troops from neighbouring Eritrea were present in the conflict-torn Tigray region and suggested they may have been involved in abuses against civilians.

The admission comes after months of denials from Addis Ababa and Asmara, despite mounting accusations from rights groups and residents that soldiers from neighbouring Eritrea had carried out atrocities in Tigray.

Abiy sent troops into the semi-autonomous region of Tigray on November 4 after he blamed the state ruling party, the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), for attacks on federal army camps.

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Five dead in stampede while mourning Tanzania’s Magufuli

A woman and four children were killed in a stampede in Tanzania as crowds rushed to mourn Tanzania’s late president John Magufuli at the weekend, a relative told AFP on Tuesday.

A second woman was also missing after going to Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, where tens of thousands gathered to mourn Magufuli whose sudden death after a mysterious short illness was announced last week.

“The women lost their lives in the stampede, and they were late to arrive at the stadium, but it turned tragic when there was a stampede,” Gerald Mtuwa, a relative of the dead woman, told AFP by phone from Dar es Salaam.

The children were aged between five and 12 years old, he said. The woman killed was mother to two of them, while the other two were her nephews. Mtuwa said the family has checked hospitals and morgues in the financial capital for the missing woman, but she has not been found and the family fear the worst.

The stampede occurred as mourners crammed the streets around the stadium where Magufuli’s casket was in state at the weekend. The government announced on March 17 that Magufuli, 61, had died from a long-running heart condition and declared 21 days of mourning.

But the announcement followed a mysterious absence of almost three weeks and questions remain over the true cause of his death, which the opposition has said was from Covid-19. —AFP

A man reads a newspaper with a headline announcing the death of Tanzania’s President John Magufuli in Dar es Salaam, on March 18, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

Mass shooting at Colorado grocery store

A gunman killed at least 10 people including a police officer at a grocery store in Colorado on Monday, police said, in the latest shooting to hit the western state — scene of two of the most infamous US mass murders.

The shooter is being held in custody and was injured, said Michael Dougherty, district attorney for Boulder County, located 30 miles (50 kilometres) northwest of the state capital Denver.

Among those dead was “heroic” police officer Eric Talley, 51, who was the first to respond to the scene at a King Soopers supermarket, said police chief Maris Herold.

“We know of 10 fatalities at the scene, including one of our Boulder PD officers... Officer Talley responded to the scene — was first on the scene — and he was fatally shot,” said Herold. Live-streamed video earlier had showed a white middle-aged man — shirtless and seemingly covered in blood— detained by police and led from the supermarket.

The suspect in custody was the only person suffering “serious injuries at this point,” said police commander Kerry Yamaguchi, without confirming that the man in the video was the suspect, or any possible motive.

President Joe Biden — who last month called on Congress to enact “commonsense” gun law reforms — had been briefed on the shooting, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki tweeted.

Majority leader Chuck Schumer said the Senate “must and will move forward on legislation to help stop the epidemic of gun violence.” —AFP

An ambulance leaves the parking lot of the King Soopers grocery store in Boulder, Colorado. PHOTO: AFP

Banksy painting to raise millions for UK health service

A painting by UK street artist Banksy is expected to raise millions of pounds for the staff of Britain’s state-run National Health Service (NHS) at auction on Tuesday.

The painting by the elusive artist, titled “Game Changer”, first appeared at Southampton General Hospital on England’s south coast, during the first wave of the global health crisis last May.

The black-and-white painting shows a small boy playing with a nurse doll wearing a mask and a cape. Spiderman and Batman superhero toys lie discarded in a bin behind him.

“The artist — who first emerged out of Bristol’s graffiti scene in the 1990s — left a note with the painting thanking hospital staff for their work battling the pandemic. ‘Thanks for all you’re doing. I hope this brightens up the place a bit, even if it’s only in black and white,’ he wrote. —AFP

The artist left a note with the painting thanking hospital staff for their work battling the pandemic. PHOTO: AFP
**Referees prepare for FIFA Futsal World Cup 2021**

Special decisions for the work parts of the tourney were made by the FIFA Referee Committee Chairman Pierluigi Collina and FIFA Director of Refereeing Massimo Busacca, according to the Asian Football Confederation. Ahead of the tourney, Brian Hall, member of FIFA’s Referees Committee supervising Futsal said, “The Road to Lithuania 2021 is a first in the preparation of FIFA’s best Futsal referees and speaks highly of FIFA’s focus to provide the highest quality officials for their top Futsal competition”.

“It highlights FIFA’s commitment to providing only the best referees for the Futsal World Cup. Every effort is being made to engage the pool of referee candidates almost nine months prior to the first match. As the referees begin their journey on the Road to Lithuania, they will be challenged both mentally and physically, and they will need to earn the right to step on the pitch in Lithuania. The aim is to reach uniformity and consistency in their way of officiating games and in taking decisions”, Brian Hall added. — GNLM

**European teams start World Cup qualifying campaign amid COVID chaos**

PARIS – Holders France begin their defence of the World Cup this week as European qualifying for the 2022 finals in Qatar gets underway against a backdrop of confusion and chaos over the release of players in a worrying health context across the continent.

While this month’s scheduled qualifiers in South America were postponed, players in Europe are having to work their way around travel restrictions to join up with national teams. FIFA’s decision to relax rules forcing clubs to release players during an international window remains in place until the end of April, with world football’s governing body unable to ignore the wider context of the COVID-19 crisis.

**Solskjaer blames fatigue for Man Utd’s FA Cup exit**

LEICESTER, UNITED KINGDOM– Ole Gunnar Solskjaer defended his decision to field a weakened team as Manchester United crashed out of the FA Cup with a 3-1 quarter-final defeat at Leicester early yesterday. Solskjaer made five changes from the United side that beat AC Milan in the Europa League last-16 second leg on Thursday.

Paul Pogba was back in the starting line-up but Bruno Fernandes was left on the bench until the second half, while Marcus Rashford was missing from the squad. United responded to the switches with a lethargic display as they were beaten for the first time in 30 domestic away games. Mason Greenwood cancelled out Kelechi Iheanacho’s opener, but second-half goals from Younou Tielmans and Iheanacho killed off United.

It leaves Solskjaer with only the Europa League left as a realistic opportunity to win the first silverware of his reign as United boss. — AFP

**Del Potro targets Tokyo with fourth knee operation**

LOS ANGELES — JUAN Martin del Potro said Monday he will undergo a fourth operation on his right knee in a bid to be fit for the Olympic Games tennis tournament in Tokyo.

The 32-year-old Argentine star, winner of 22 ATP titles including the 2009 US Open championship, has not played since June 2019 after fracturing his knee cap at the Queen’s Club Championships in London.

Del Potro, winner of a bronze medal at the 2012 Olympics and silver four years later in Rio, said in a statement on social media that he would undergo surgery in Chicago on Tuesday.

“I’ve been consulting Dr. Jorge Chahla and the news is that tomorrow I’ll undergo another surgery on my knee,” del Potro wrote. “We’ve tried conservative therapy but the pain is still there. (Dr Chahla) knows I want to play tennis again and be able to play the Olympics, so we agreed that surgery should be done as soon as possible.

“I hope I can overcome this painful situation. I won’t stop trying.”

Del Potro has undergone three operations to his knee since his injury at Queen’s, in June 2019, January 2020 and August 2020. — AFP

Argentine’s Juan Martin del Potro is to have a fourth operation on his right knee in a bid to be fit for the Tokyo Olympics. — PHOTO: AFP

Kylian Mbappe and France begin their defence of the World Cup trophy against Ukraine as European qualifying begins despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic. — PHOTO: AFP

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Manchester United’s caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. — PHOTO: AFP

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Man United's caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. PHOTO: AFP

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Manchester United’s caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. PHOTO: AFP