THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Every Tatmadaw personnel ever need to raise the comradeship referred as the compassion, attachment and loyalty on each other: Senior General

HAVING duty consciousness among the country and people, loyalty and a variety of selfless performances with a spirit of goodwill by Tatmadaw have been witnessed in the past, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the passing out parade of the 8th Intake of Graduate Female Cadet Course at the parade ground of the Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School (Hmawby) in Yangon yesterday morning.

The Senior General took the salute of the cadet companies and inspected the graduate cadet company. Then, the cadet companies saluted the Senior General through slow-march past and quick-march past.

The Senior General presented the Best Cadet Award to Cadet May Thet Nwe.

In his speech, the Senior General said: We soldiers, always have to safeguard our three main national causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the National Solidarity, Perpetuation of National Sovereignty as a national duty for the Union in which over 100 ethnic people live. National affairs mean safeguarding national interests, and religion, religion, traditional culture and customs.

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State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing addresses the cadet companies of the Eighth Intake of Graduate Female Cadet Course at the parade ground of the Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School (Hmawby) in Yangon on 22 December 2021.

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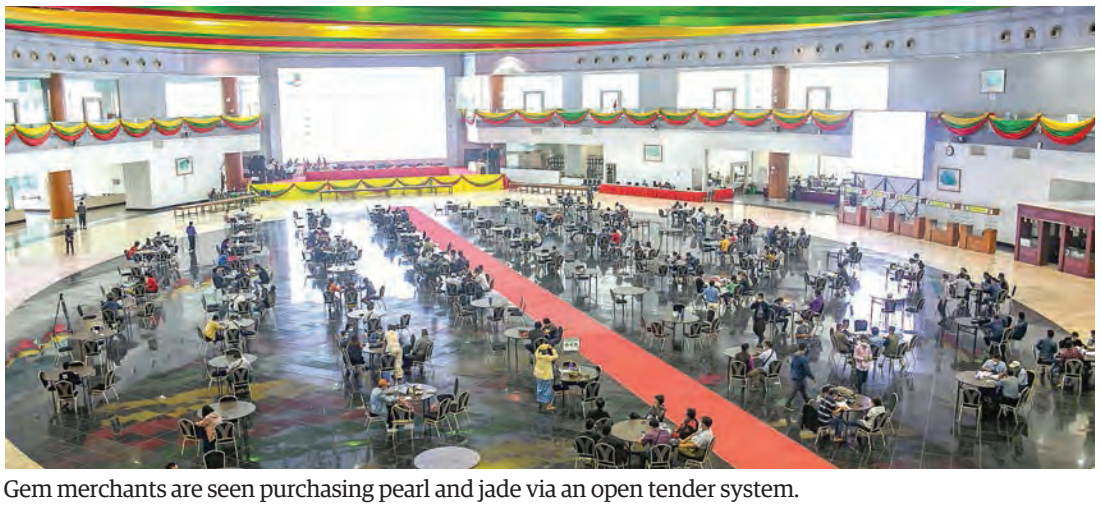
Public Notice

1. The government seizes/uncovers illegal arms and ammunition, mines, communication equipment and other related materials in addition to terrorist attacks of NUG and CRPH, which were declared as terrorist groups in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and their subordinates PDF groups with homemade guns, gunpowder, mines and accessories, as well as arms and ammunition, mines, communication equipment and other materials imported via border areas by some ethnic armed organizations aiming to make political and military profits on a daily basis, and it also exposes the cases of the terrorists who possess firearms in various ways.
2. Moreover, some terrorists take advantage of the honesty of the people and they make them keep their illegal arms and ammunition, mines, communication devices and other related materials, including restricted materials using different ways and forms.
3. Therefore, in order to prevent unnecessary legal action against those who are not related to the terrorists, all the citizens should hand over the illegal arms and ammunition, mines, communication equipment and other related materials, including drugs banned by the government according to the law no later than 31 December 2021 to the respective wards/village administration offices/security forces if they keep these things in their houses, apartments and other places for various reasons and ways, and if they are found after the deadline, action will be taken against them under the existing laws.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Mini Gems Emporium 2021 concludes successfully



Gem merchants are seen purchasing pearl and jade via an open tender system.

Gem traders are seen observing the jade lots at the emporium.

THE Mini Gems Emporium 2021, which was held in line with the COVID-19 restrictions, successfully concluded at Mani Yadana Jade Hall yesterday.

On the final day of the emporium, 280 jade lots, out of the number of jade lots from 501 to 780, were on sale through an open tender system and 228 jade lots have been sold.

During the emporium, a total of 1,110 lots, including 330 pearl lots and 780 jade lots were put on sale under the open tender system. The local and foreign merchants openly observed pearl and jade lots displayed at the hall and a total of 952 lots, including 330 pearl lots and 622 jade lots, were sold out during the five-day emporium, according to the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee.

Myanmar has held Gems Emporiums since 1964. A total of 114 emporiums was held successfully. Nineteen out of 114 emporiums were on sale in local currency and this is the 96th emporium on sale in foreign currency. — MNA

Four national objectives of 74th Anniversary of Independence Day 2022

1. All ethnic nationals to safeguard non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, and perpetuation of sovereignty;
2. To ensure the emergence of a good and clean government and administrative system by implementing a genuine disciplined democracy;
3. All ethnic nationals to amicably and unitedly cooperate in the country development based on the genuine Union spirit;
4. To strive for restoring perpetual peace the entire people aspire.

Myanmar Press Council Statement (9/2021) 4th Waning of Nadaw 1383 ME

22 December 2021

1. Media and Press Personnel (MPP) are required to abide by the Media Law, regulations and current regulatory framework while observing press freedom.
2. MPP are required to state the appropriate designations for government office holders under the Law.
3. Myanmar Press Council (MPC) has noted some media agencies and press personnel stating the designations of office holders under previous administration as if they are holding the respective positions, presently. Myanmar Press Council (MPC) would like to advise MPP not to continue using such wrong designations and titles.
4. Myanmar Press Council (MPC) would not intervene in cases of actions taken as a result of such non-compliance.

Myanmar Press Council

199 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 December, total figure rises to 528,838

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 528,838 after 199 new cases were reported on 22 December 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 506,306 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,235 after 5 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 21-12-2021, a total of 20,109,495 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 14,118,039 people have been vaccinated two times and 5,991,456 people once.—MNA

Special care cannot be given to every single crop

We work everyday to govern an entire nation. So, we don't have leisure time. In governing an entire nation, it is impossible to focus at the same time on every issue affecting the people. But, in reality, our government is working with many difficulties, we saw success in some issues and not in others.

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at the meeting with journalists on 30 May 1947)

Every Tatmadaw personnel ever need to raise the comradeship ...

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing returns the salute of the female cadet companies at the OTS parade ground (Hmawby) in Yangon yesterday.

FROM PAGE-1

Let the nation be led by any political system or any government, as our national policy, Tatmadaw has to maintain the Three Main National Causes concerning all nationalities. I would like to urge that Tatmadaw will implement it harmoniously with the people for national politics.

In the study of developed countries, it is found that human resources are fully applied. In utilizing human resources to develop the country, there is no gender discrimination. Every country tends to carry the National Interests in performing the development of human resources. As women make up over 52 per cent of the total population in the country, we have been promoting the role of women.

Every Tatmadaw personnel always need to raise the comradeship referred to as **compassion, attachment and loyalty on each other.** Thus,

In utilizing human resources to develop the country, there is no gender discrimination. Every country tends to carry the National Interest in performing the development of human resources. As women make up over 52 per cent of the total population in the country, we have been promoting the role of women.

The Senior General inspects the female cadet companies at the OTS (Hmawby) parade ground in Yangon yesterday.

strong unity within an organization can be built.

To be a good soldier, Comrades need **to steadfastly uphold the virtuous Sixty Codes of Conduct** which are meant for soldiery. Thus, you will become disciplined and entrusted soldiery for the country and the people. Since the well-disciplined soldiery is willing to do their assigned duties to be accomplished, I would like to impart you who are to serve as junior officers to **be the quintessence of discipline and to conduct close supervision on your subordinates** to do so even though it is a mere trifle.

To be dutiful individually, military subjects enlightened by Military Training Depots or Academies need to apply, along with the motto **"Study, Practise, Comply"**, in a practical

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Every Tatmadaw personnel ever need to raise the comradeship ...

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field precisely and effectively while serving national defence duty. Comrades were encouraged to **study** the most up-to-date military equipment and tactics juxtaposed with the modern world to enable them to use, to **practise** physical training to be much healthier and to **comply** with the fundamental procedures of military and front-line disciplines in the practical field.

Having duty consciousness among the country and people, loyalty and a variety of selfless performances with a spirit of goodwill by Tatmadaw have been witnessed in the past. Currently, Tatmadaw is also steering and monitoring to be straightforward on building the Union rooted in democracy and the federal system having peace and tranquillity, and community development. I would like to highlight that every effort partaken by Tatmadaw tend to be beneficial for our motherland and ethnic people, and Tatmadaw also performs the tasks with a spirit of goodwill to be able to stand rigidly as a country among the world.

After taking the salute of the cadet companies, the Senior General left the parade.

Afterwards, the Senior General received Best Cadet Award winner Cadet May Thet Nwe, Excellent Award in Shooting Cadet Eint Hmu Thet Chei, Excellent Award in Training Cadet Poe Ekari Swe and Excellent Award in Fitness Cadet Hsu Pyae Sone Lin at the parlour of the headquarters of the school and spoke words of honour.

In his speech, the Senior General said female graduate cadets have learnt undergraduate and postgraduate studies in addition to critical thinking and lifestyles. As they can secure victory with hard work, they have to continuously apply the basic practice of hard work throughout their lives. As female military personnel are being turned out for the State and the Tatmadaw due to demand, they have to uplift their capacity to be reliable and good leaders with self-control. If they cannot control themselves, they will derail from their goals, and if they indulge themselves, they may face loss. Hence, they have to seek their ways of life with righteousness, hardworking and self-control for upgrading the prestige of the Tatmadaw. They do take pride in joining the Tatmadaw with the spirit of serving the State defence duty. They have to maintain the sound foundation given by the training school with a set aim for the improvement of their lives. — MNA

The Senior General presents the silver sword to Best Cadet awardee.

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing receives the four best and excellent awardees at the parlour of the OTS headquarters yesterday.

Certificates of commissioned officers presented to graduate officers of 8th Intake of Graduate Female Cadet Course

THE appointment of commissioned officers to graduates from the 8th Intake of Graduate Female Cadet Course of the Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School (Hmawby) took place at Myawady Hall of the school yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Lin Aung presented certificates of the appointment of commissioned officers to graduate female cadets and then delivered a speech.

Graduate female cadets were appointed at the rank of Second Lieutenant at the ceremony. The training school (Hmawby) has been conducting the training for graduate female cadets since 2014 for turning out the qualified staff officers for the Tatmadaw. So far, the school has conducted the 8th intake of the female cadet courses. The graduate female officers will be assigned to the respective corps of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air). — MNA

The Military Appointment-General gives the certificate of appointment to one of the graduate female cadets.

Those who have been vaccinated may face lesser percentage of impact

ALTHOUGH the Omicron virus has not infected the country yet, such kind of virus spreads in some neighbouring countries and regional countries. It is reported that those who have been vaccinated may face the lesser percentage of impact. If the infection rate is high, treatment will be given at the hospitals and clinics where preparations have been made.

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 18/2021 of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 13-12-2021)

All need to be always alert to the danger of natural disasters, ready to respond and emphasize long term preventive measures, says Vice-Senior General

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the meeting 2/2021 of the Natural Disaster Management Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 December 2021.

CONTINUOUS assessments must be conducted for the outbreak of unexpected natural disasters due to climate change, said Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting 2/2021 of the Management Committee at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said the meeting is to focus on preparations for subsequent natural disasters of La Nina, prevention of high heat in summer and fire preventive measures, preparations for strong winds in the pre-monsoon, and tasks to be coordinated among ministries and region and state governments.

Currently, it can be seen impacts of natural disasters and global climate change are not severe and these are regular natural disasters across the world. Hence, it is necessary to seek the best way to minimize the loss and damage in natural disasters after observing the nature of disasters and destructiveness. All need to be always alert to the danger of natural disasters, ready to respond and emphasize long term preventive measures.

According to the geographical conditions and climatic conditions, it is necessary to take preventive measures against natural disasters depending on regions and seasons and the possibility of falling disasters at any time with the response to them.

In observing the latest period of breaking out the natural disasters in seasons, although the lesser number of natural disasters may happen in the cold season, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued the press release on condition of La Nina found on 20 November and changes of the situation to the outbreak of moderate level of La Nina in December. Although La Nina starts in the Pacific Ocean, it may affect storms in the Bay of Bengal in the winter, with more coolness in night temperature in Myanmar due to northeast monsoon winds, effects of whirlwind from the east and untimely raining.

Despite the lesser possibility of natural disasters in a normal situation, unexpected disasters may depend on the La Nina. As such, it is necessary to assess the possibility of natural disasters based on the La Nina, issuance of forecasts and warnings.

Likewise, although the cold season faces lesser temperature, it is necessary to notice the danger of fire due to dryness. The time is related to between winter and summer, so efforts must be expedited to prevent the danger of fire. The danger of fire is a disaster to cause heavy loss of housings and property and it brings great loss to the people and the State. Hence, the formation of firefighter troops, stockpiling of fire extinguishers and vehicles must be coordinated among relevant departments and organizations for raising awareness of the danger of fire and fire preventive measures of the people.

It can be seen that strong winds hit at the end of summer and early monsoon with torrential rains and falls of hailstones. Annually, strong winds cause housing damage with terrible impacts on the people. Especially, such impacts fall on poor families. Hence, it is necessary to make preparations against the danger of strong winds.

In summary, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need for respective regions and states to make management for prevention of dangers over coolness, fire and strong winds in three seasons. Continuous assessments must be conducted for the outbreak of unexpected natural disasters due to climate change.

It is necessary to organize social organizations, professional organizations, entrepreneurs and entire people to participate in the measures of disaster risk reduction. Moreover, preparedness and proper ways and means must be arranged for responding to natural disasters under effective management.

The Vice-Senior General urged all to place more emphasis on the prevention of natural disasters, create a connection with international organizations and follow the frameworks and agreements by applying the technologies.

Vice-Chairman of the management committee Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut reported on the progress of the management work committees and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine on management for national natural disasters. The secretary of the management committee reported on the outbreak of natural disasters, holding of meetings and accomplishment of the minutes of the meeting 1/2021. The Secretary of the management work committee sought approvals for management fund, income and spending and balance sheet.

Union Ministers Lt-Gen Soe Htut, U Ko Ko Hlaing and Dr Thet Thet Khine discussed measures for the national natural disasters management.

Later, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to initiate the table talk exercise for disaster management and taking exercises with the participation of entire people for prevention of disasters with least loss in respective regions. —MNA

Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control holds meeting 1/2021

THE Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control held a meeting 1/2021 at the hall of Myanmar Police Force in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 December afternoon under the health guidelines of the COVID-19.

Member of the State Administration Council Chairman of CCDAC Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut said the new Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law was enacted on 14 February 2018. Special operations on drug abuse control have so far been launched 34 times. Thanks to alternative development projects, the poppy sowed acreage of Myanmar has been declining yearly. A total of 33,100 hectares of poppy plantation in 2019, 29,500 hectares in 2020, 508 metric tons in 2019 and 405 metric tons in 2020.

Thanks to concerted efforts among the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department in joint preventive measures, they seized more than 2.2 tonnes of opium, 2.4 tonnes of heroin, over 193.3 million stimulant tablets, over 13.5 tonnes of Ice, 762 kilogrammes of ketamine in addition to narcotic drugs and chemical precursors, totalling more than K947 billion from 1 January to 20 December 2021. As control of chemical precursors plays a key role in reducing narcotic drug production, it is necessary to restrict the flow of illegal chemicals from the borderlands.

Secretary of CCDAC Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Than Hlaing reported on assessment over the efforts to control the narcotic drugs and Joint Secretary Commander of Drug Enforcement Division Police Brig-Gen Win Naing on efforts for drug eradication and future plans. —MNA

Myanmar signs purchasing, production agreement for 10 million doses of Sinopharm COVID vaccines

THE signing ceremony of the agreement to purchase and produce Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in Myanmar was held yesterday evening at Lotte Hotel, in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Supervision of COVID-19 Vaccine Production Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe, Deputy Minister for Industry U Ko Ko Lwin, Yangon Region Minister for Natural Resources U Zaw Win, Director of the Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, and officials from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry attended the ceremony.

First, Union Minister Dr Charlie Than said COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease that is now spreading around the world, and vaccination is the most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Efforts are also being made to develop the COVID-19 vaccine in various parts of the world. By 2021, Myanmar had purchased 26 million doses of the Sinopharm vaccine.

According to the Ministry of Health, the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to have fewer side effects and is more effective. Efforts were made to purchase the COVID-19 vaccine from Sinopharm CNBG as Ready to Fill Bulk. Today, the acquisition of RTF Bulk to produce 10 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine is a new step in cooperation between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China.

In collaboration with Sinopharm CNBG, we hope to develop not only important vaccines for Myanmar's healthcare sector but also other drugs. The Ministry of Industry is working to produce and distribute more medicines needed by the people, the Union minister continued.

He also said that the upcoming Chinese New Year 2022 will be a "tiger" year, so wishing to have good health, happiness and success.

Afterwards, Ambassador Mr Chen Hai of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar said that the first step in cooperation between Myanmar and China was to develop the vaccine produced by Sinopharm CNBG in Myanmar.

China is distributing the COVID-19 vaccines to 120 countries and is stepping up research to develop a special treatment for the disease, he said.

At the time of the third wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar, China was the largest supplier of the COVID vaccine. Most of the COVID-19 vaccines that have been injected in Myanmar are made in China, and the signing of the RTF Bulk Agreement will greatly assist in the control of the pandemic in Myanmar, the Ambassador continued.

Next, Chairman Mr Jingzhen Liu of Sinopharm Group said Sinopharm CNBG is a leading manufacturer and exporter of pharmaceuticals in China.

It is engaged in medical treatment and industry and is the second-largest pharmaceutical manufacturer in Asia.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the emergency use of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines produced by the company.

He also said that he will continue to cooperate in the prevention and control of the pandemic in Myanmar through the virtual system.

Next, an agreement to purchase 10 million RTF Bulk Doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine was signed by Managing Director of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Enterprise U Myo Zar Ni Win and Mr Yang on behalf of Sinopharm China National Biotech Group. — MNA

Myanmar nationals return via border camps

A total of 206 people – 97 males and 109 females – returned to Muse Township of Shan State (North) via the border camp on 20 December, while another 124 returnees – 78 males and 46 females to Laukkai Township.

The respective township hospital officials and Tatmadaw medics conducted medical checks and provided documents for quarantine processes.

Then, the township administrative officials sent them to their respective regions and isolated the positive patients at the designated places. — MNA

MoI Union Minister, MIFER Union Minister give interviews to foreign media

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo yesterday afternoon virtually met reporters from CCTV, People's Daily, Guanming Daily and Xinhua News Agency of the People's Republic of China and replied to questions on the endeavours of the government in battling the COVID-19 pandemic, the promotion of border trade between two countries, efforts to resurge the State economy, bilateral cooperation and implementation of projects, and measures on stability, safety and tranquillity.

The Union Ministers are pictured in giving the online interview to the foreign media correspondents.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said the government and the people successfully overcame the challenges of the COVID-19 third wave. At present, basic education schools are being opened and a plan is underway to reopen universities soon. The country is peaceful, tranquil and safe to some degree due to the cooperation of the people as security measures are being implemented step by step. Neighbouring countries including China are of great importance in making peace and stability and development.

Myanmar is striving for the soonest resumption of the development and infrastructure projects with primary trade partner China. The Union Minister expressed thanks on behalf of the government to the China and Chinese citizens for their contribution of COVID-19 vaccines Myanmar required during the outbreak of the pandemic.

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo also said China is important in trade and business cooperation with Myanmar including border trade. Currently, Myanmar is making efforts for regaining the normal conditions of businesses including bilateral border trade because the international community faces economic delay based on the COVID-19. Then, the Union ministers cordially replied to the questions.

A ceremony to sign the agreement to manufacture 10 million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 RTF bulk in Myanmar in cooperation with China, took place at Lotte Hotel in Mayangon Township yesterday evening.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn viewed a screening of Anyeint programme of Har Style Anyeint troupe in honour of Independence Day, at the studio-2 of the MRTV (Yangon), cordially greeted artistes and presented cash assistance. He also viewed the covering of the song contest at studio-1. —MNA

Handover Ceremony held for Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines donated by China

China-donated Sinovac vaccines handover event in progress.

ONE million doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by the People's Republic of China to Myanmar arrived at Yangon International Airport by CZ 8083 Airlines at 10 am yesterday.

The handover ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr Chen Hai.

At the ceremony, the Chinese ambassador explained the reasons for donating vaccines.

He said that one million doses of the Sinovac vaccine arrived here are the first batch of the two million doses of vaccine donated by the People's Republic of China to Myanmar.

The remaining one million vaccines will be donated across the Sino-Myanmar border early next year, the ambassador said.

He said that it will be able to play an important role in research and staff training after completion of the training programme for the Myanmar Center for Disease Control, which is funded by the Chinese government.

The Sino-Myanmar joint venture successfully opened the COVID-19 Medical Zone at the Muse 105th Mile Trade Centre.

He said that China and Myanmar will work together to eradicate epidemics in a friendly manner.

The Union Minister thanked the two countries for their mutual benefit during the 70 years of Sino-Myanmar diplomatic relations.

"We can see that we have been able to set development models together. We thank the President and Government of the People's Republic of China for donating 10.3 million COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Government of the People's Republic of China to pause the pandemic.

"Under the leadership of the Chairman of the State Administrative Council, Myanmar was able to control the third wave of COVID-19 well and successfully overcome it.

China has donated vaccines to Myanmar, as well as multi-disciplinary cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 disease and also facilitated the import of oxygen generators and medical equipment," the Union Minister said.

He also said that the two countries will strengthen cooperation in the field of epidemic control in the Sino-Myanmar border area, which will help revive border trade.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and the ambassador signed a memorandum of understanding on the transfer of vaccines and the Union Minister returned the certificate of appreciation.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and the ambassador inspected the incoming vaccines at Yangon International Airport.

Officials from the Ministry of Health, representatives from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department also attended the event. —MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

23 DECEMBER 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Choose the best option for a learning opportunity

THE good news is waiting for the students who would take the matriculation examination. Indeed, such good news in detail has never come out so far.

The government created a great chance for the students of the matriculation examination. Those who secured high marks in English, Biology and Chemistry subjects will have the opportunity to enter the entry test to the universities of medicine.

Moreover, the government plans to provide stipends to those students pursuing medical education at these universities. But, duty and opportunity are interrelated. It is because those who graduated from medical universities need to serve as public service personnel for at least ten years.

> Now, the best option has been created for matriculation students. The best plan for the nation has been laid down to recruit the best students. The arena of healthcare service is waiting for newcomers. All the national people should pray for the best.

Those not wishing to serve as the public service personnel can refund the learning cost to the government. Truly, the policy is fair. It gives options to the students. They have a chance to decide how to do it and why to do it.

The policy is based on a root cause. Myanmar has established many medical universities. These institutions have turned out more than 30,000 medical doctors from 1995 to 2020. But, some 10,000 medical graduates only became in-service medical doctors. The rest do not accept the life of public servants to provide healthcare services to ethnic nationals. Hence, the country faces a great loss for the creation of learning opportunities for those medical doctors.

Hence, the government adopts a policy to recruit new medical doctors by giving them a chance to matriculate students for the sake of the nation and the people. If those students can be recruited for medical education, they will be reliable medical staff for the country in the future.

Due to the new policy, the students keenly interested in medical education will come out one after another. In the past, some students were allowed to learn medical education depending on their high marks in the matriculation examination. When they graduated from medical universities, they did not take their professions but did different careers. So, the good and able persons missed the chance due to limited admission to the institutions.

Now, the best option has been created for matriculation students. The best plan for the nation has been laid down to recruit the best students. The arena of healthcare service is waiting for newcomers. All the national people should pray for the best.

■■■

Hailing the 74th Anniversary of Independence Day

Let's safeguard independence and sovereignty as a national duty

Guard of Honour and attendees salute the State Flag at the ceremony to celebrate the 70th Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA (FILE-PHOTO)**

By Aung Kyaw Thant

EVERY Myanmar citizen knows Myanmar lost its independence to the colonialists after facing three Anglo-Myanmar aggressive wars. These aggressive wars were based on the weakness of arms and lack of efficient training of Myanmar forces which were unable the shoulder to shoulder with that of colonialists. At that time, troops of colonialists holding modern arms and ammunition have had a full capacity of training in their profession. Nonetheless, it should not put blame on the endeavours of the Myanmar kings in ruling the country and it should praise those Myanmar kings for their relentless efforts in comprehensively managing the country even though they faced various kinds of destructive acts and dangers imposed by colonialists.

Soon after Myanmar fell under colonial rule, various ethnic people led by some royal family members such as Prince Shwe Gyo Phyu and Prince Linpin, Saophas (Chieftains) of Shan Plateau, town and village leaders fought against the colonialists in many parts of the country for decades. Despite holding just knives, spears, bows and sticks, they showed off their brilliant courage, with the sacrifice of blood and lives in the battles.

Although the British colonialists declared Myanmar as its occupied country in 1886, Myanmar people from all walks of life residing in hilly and plain areas had been fighting against them in various forms such as boycotts of students from the Yangon University, all workers' boycotts, the rebellion of Saya San (peasants' revolution), the 1300 Revolution, until the time when Myanmar regained independence in 1948.

Throughout the colonial period when Myanmar lost its independence and sovereignty, all the national people motivated by a strong genuine Union Spirit and a nationalistic spirit fought against the colonists and they had to make vigorous efforts taking the risk on the way to regain independence.

All the Myanmar people lost their rights during the period under the rule of colonialists and Fascists. But the people waited for the great chance to stage the uprisings against the colonialists and the Fascists in their respective eras. When the British colonialists left Myanmar, Fascist Japanese troops entered the country to rule the nation and the people as their slaves. After the Fascist Japanese troops had been driven out by the Myanmar Tatmadaw and the people in cooperation with the Allied Forces, the British colonialists entered the country again to implement the white paper project which was meant to take a long time for ruling Myanmar.

All Myanmar people knew the moves of colonialists how to implement their future plans. At that time, Myanmar people were not worried about their future. They had established a reliable armed force called the Myanmar Tatmadaw. Whenever the country and the people faced important issues, the Tatmadaw had saved them many times.

The Tatmadaw born of the people took a gigantic role in the independence struggle of the entire nation. Thirty-comrades of the Tatmadaw led the entire people to drive out the colonialists and the fascists. General Aung San demanded independence for Myanmar within one year from the British government with the strength of the people shown in the mass rally on the terrace of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Moreover, the Panglong Agreement signed by most of the ethnic leaders as well as Myanmar leaders including General Aung San contributed a great deal to the process for regaining independence from the British government. As such, the strength and unity of the Myanmar ethnic national people shook the British Empire.

On 4 January 1948, Myanmar regained its Independence the entire people longed for. Truly, regaining Independence is a definition for the country to possess not only Independence but also sovereignty. Everybody has to consider the opportunity and the responsibility. Those wishing to grasp the opportunity must accept the responsibility. It is a give-and-take system of the Universal truth.

All the people from the independent country have the responsibilities to safeguard Independence and sovereignty. If the people have to regain their independence, they are responsible to defend the State without putting reliance on any other. If they want to enjoy the right to manage the natural resources of the country, they are responsible for uplifting their capacity deserved to manage these natural resources. To be able to do all things, the people have to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the nation as an inborn duty. If the country loses its sovereignty, it also loses its independence. Only when the country safeguards its sovereignty, will its independence exist for a long time.

The people residing in the independent country are responsible for safeguarding the country not to lose its independence again. Likewise, if the country loses its sovereignty, the country will fall under the rule of others automatically and the country will have so-called independence. Moreover, people need to always widen their scope of knowledge about global issues. It is because neo-colonialism does not need to occupy any country but they gradually manipulate these target countries in various ways and means. Mostly, the big power countries are seeking the best opportunities to colonialize the small and weak countries by influencing over them with political, economic, social and many other affairs. One day, these small countries would unavoidably become the puppets of those powerful countries.

The people living in the independent country will have to enjoy all the fundamental rights. Hence, their lives are so different from those of the non-independent countries. The independent people can create their fortune on their own. However, they have to consider the peace, prosperity and tranquillity of the nation. If so, all the people can enjoy the taste deserved of independence.

That is right. However, the people have to abide by the prescribed laws, rules and regulations which support the standing of the country. All their acts should not harm others. All their moves must be based on disciplines. If so, the whole country will be free from crime and will be prosperous. Consequently, Myanmar society can see its brighter future.

All ethnic nationals must be united under the single State Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They all have to join hands in nation-building endeavours. They must pledge not to secede from the Union. Currently, Myanmar initiates building itself as a Union based on democracy and federalism. Such a political aim is the aspiration of the entire people.

Now, Myanmar is an independent and sovereign country. They all have a national duty to safeguard the independence and the sovereignty of the nation forever. If so, Myanmar will powerfully stand tall among the global countries perpetually. Now is an opportune time. Let's safeguard the independence and the sovereignty of the nation as a national duty.

■■■

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Permanent Secretary

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Nyunt Win, Director-General of the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labour, concurrently as Permanent Secretary of the same ministry.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 22 December 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 23 December, 2021: Light rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay Region and isolated in Sagaing, Yangon Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Kachin and Northern Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 December, 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 December, 2021: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 December, 2021: Isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (07:00) hours M.S.T on 22-12-2021

ACCORDING to the observations at (05:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over South Andaman Sea and adjoining Malacca Strait has reached to Northern Malacca Strait and it is forecast weaken gradually.

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm
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Fisheries sector generates annual revenue of K6 bln

MYANMAR received annual revenue of K6 billion generated by the fisheries export in the past 2020-2021 financial year, according to a coordination meeting on the development of the fisheries sector, held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on 22 December.

Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation addressed the meeting to conduct effective research for water resource management, strengthen public-private partnership in research methodology, carry out research on freshwater and saltwater fish and shrimp species which have high potentials to bolster hatch rate of the resident fish species, implement sustainable hatcheries, make efforts to establish Fisheries University for genetic technologies, extend vocation courses for fisheries industry, develop human resource capacity, lay down policies, collect data, combatting corruption during inspection of food safety standards, food safety and adhere to the code of conduct and ethical standards.

The MoALI Union Minister addresses the coordination meeting on the development of the fisheries sector.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi stressed project procedures of the Fisheries Department in each financial year and capacity-building of the government employees.

After that U Wai Lin Maung, Director-General of the Fisheries Department explained the completed projects and upcoming projects in each financial year. The respective heads of the fisheries departments in the regions and states also discussed project completion and future matters.

The fisheries sector is of vital importance for food security, food safety, nutrition and job creation.

The sector contributes to 4.7 per cent of GDP in the 2019-2020 financial year. The aquaculture export topped over US$786 million in the 2020-2021FY, which indicated a daily income of US$2 million generated by this sector.

The Fisheries Department is striving for sustainable development in the fisheries sector, formulation of laws regarding aquaculture sustainability to the benefits of the current and future generations and aquaculture conservation, supporting private sectors to enhance exports in compliance with the ASEAN agreements and international guidelines, importation of Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia-GIFT (Tilapia) species and distribution to the hatcheries, potential freshwater fish hatchery on a trial run and improving hatch rate and growth rate.

The department has successfully produced 21 commercially important fish species at the hatcheries, which contributes to domestic fish security and export promotion. — MNA

11th Ceremony of Paying Obeisance to elderly musicians held

THE 11th Anniversary of Paying Obeisance Ceremony to elderly musicians was held on 22 December at Sky Star Hotel in Tamway Township, Yangon Region, keeping in line with the rules and regulations of COVID-19.

The ceremony was hosted by the Myanmar Music Association (Central), and officials from the Ministry of Information and departments from Yangon Region attended the ceremony.

"We, the Ministry of Information, are always in touch with the art world, so it is a must-attend event. All the musicians and artistes have been revered and cherished since we were young.

"Artistes have a good tradition throughout their life, carrying the interests of the country and the people. Their efforts are appreciated.

"Thanks to the organizers of this annual event in accordance with COVID-19 rules, and it is not a big event, but it is a celebration of our annual tradition," said Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint.

He also wished the veteran musicians have a long and healthy life in the years to come, and wished the musicians to be healthy and prosperous.

"We, the executive and all members of the Ministry of Information, must adhere to the Ministry of Information's guideline to make the weary hearts of the people happy, and we must serve the weary people. We will work with music to make people smile," the deputy minister added.

"At today's event, we were unable to invite all the senior musicians, but only 15 were invited.

The 11th ceremony for paying respect to the elderly music entertainers in progress. **PHOTO: AIK THONE**

"We will pay respect to senior musicians from different states and regions," said U Lwin Myint, Chairman of the Myanmar Music Association (Central).

K10 million from the State Administration Council, K5 million from the Ministry of Information, K500,000 from Forever Group and another K500,000 from 77 Cake were donated to the Myanmar Music Association (Central).

Certificates of honour to the donors were given by the music association (central).

A total of 147 senior musicians were honoured at the ceremony.

Each of the 79 veteran musicians aged over 80 will receive K200,000 and 68 veteran musicians aged over 75 will be paid K150,000 each, according to the ceremony. — Aik Thone/GNLM

Over 19.8 mln people in Myanmar receive COVID vaccines until 18 December

MORE than 19.8 million individuals in Myanmar have so far been vaccinated COVID vaccine as of 18 December, according to a release from the Ministry of Health.

The country is administrating the vaccines to 36.9 million people aged 18 and above. Up to 18 November, there were 13.74 million people who completed full doses of vaccine and about 6.05 million people received single doses of COVID vaccine, according to the ministry.

Earlier, those above 65 years old were in the priority group to be vaccinated. Now, the priority lists for COVID jabs have been increased and the lists include people above 55 years of age. Besides, COVID vaccines have been provided to above 45-year-olds starting from 17 October and to above 40s starting from 9 November, according to them.

A total of 40,168,800 doses of vaccines have arrived in Myanmar as of 21 November with 9,168,800 doses being donated and 31 million doses being purchased, according to the Ministry.

As per the sale contract on the purchase of the China-made Sinopharm COVID vaccine, all 24 million doses have arrived in Myanmar. Those vaccines will be given to about 50 per cent of the target groups in December, the ministry stated.

The country has been administering COVID vaccines to the people since January 2021, using the China-made Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines, across states and regions. — Aye Maung/GNLM

YGEA needs CBM's nod to use TT system for gold export, import transaction

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has not responded to the request submitted by Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) to resume the Telegraph Transfer (TT) system for gold export and import transaction, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

At present, gold export has come to a stop after the international remittance for the gold transaction was changed from Telegraph Transfer (TT) to Letter of Credit (LC), he added.

One of the jewellery outlets.

"Gold export is not going well. Only through the TT system, the trade will go smooth. As the transaction is permitted only with LC, the trade is completely halted. We have requested the CBM regarding that matter. The officials said they will proceed with it. Yet the official notification of the resumption of the TT is not released. We will be connected again to the international market upon the TT system," U Myo Myint elaborated.

As per the notification released by the Ministry of Commerce on 12 August 2020, the transaction for gold export and import can be done only with the LC system.

Myanmar is placed on the Grey List by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the inter-governmental body that sets anti-money laundering standards. Therefore, the country needs to monitor the gold and jewellery exports and imports in order to ensure there is no illegal income. As per the notification released by the Trade Department, the payment method was changed to LC.

The payment using LC can take about two months, cost banking service changes by two sides, and increase the charges for security matter in transport. Consequently, gold trading in the international market has also stalled due to volatile prices, YGEA stated.

The suspension in gold export left more than 10,000 goldsmiths unemployed.

The domestic gold market might recover if the resumption of the TT system is permitted.

Gold and other pieces of jewellery are primarily purchased by Japan and the Republic of Korea, and other tourists also buy them, the YGEA stated. — NN/GNLM

Shwe Padauk Fish Market in Yangon daily distributes 500,000 visses of seafood

SHWE Padauk Fish Market has become a distribution hub across the country, with estimated 500,000 visses daily sent to other cities across the country.

Shwe Padauk Fish Market was established on 24 April 2014, with a small number of stalls. Kyimyindine Fish Market was bustling then. The number of vendors has been steadily growing in Shwe Padauk Fish Market since 26 April 2020 and it has become the leading wholesale distribution market for seafood.

The market is 8.122 acres wide, having 444 shops and 120 stalls for vendors. The aquatic products are daily delivered to the mountain regions, border areas and upper Myanmar regions.

"Earlier, less than 20,000 visses of seafood were sold per day. The average daily sales volume accumulates about 500,000 visses for now. It brings about financial benefits for the breeders, traders, wholesalers and retailers. Some products are also placed in the external market. The freshwater fishery products primarily came from Ayeyawady Region, whereas Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region are the main suppliers for saltwater fish products. The market has taken fire safety measures and two water tankers are also purchased. If the market is promoted as the modern hub for seafood distribution, it will become the central point both for domestic and export markets. There are over 8,000-10,000 buyers and sellers in the market so the market development committee is coordinating with Yangon City Development Committee for sanitation and the security measures," said U Kyin Saw, chair of the Shwe Padauk Fish Market committee.

The market requires vacant places for vehicles, warehouses, a better drainage system and improved fresh fish handling methods. Fish processing and seafood packaging technologies are also essential to meet the criteria in the international market.

The market is next to Thiri Mingala Vegetable Market. The traffic congestion happens on Bayintnaung Road in the morning and evening, causing delays in freight flow. The truck drivers, government personnel, company staff and other commuters are facing irresistible rush hours every day. If the modern market emerges, it will help ease the congestion and facilitate the trade flow. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ GNLM

About 20,000 visses of winter tomato destine for Monywa market daily

The price of tomatoes in the Monywa market fetched K1,800 per viss on 22 December, K2,300 per viss on 21 December and K2,500 per viss in these days.

ABOUT 20,000 visses of winter tomato are destined for Monywa market daily, it is learnt from the local traders on 22 December.

"The Monywa market receives about 20,000 visses of tomato daily. This is the highly harvested season of the tomato. But, the production of the tomato will be decreased later," said Ko Pyay Lin, tomato grower from Kan Su village, Yinmabin township.

The tomatoes from Bantbwe, Kankone, Kansu, Silaung, Kyaukpyot villages, in Yinmabin Township, on the western bank of the Chindwin River are conveyed to the Monywa market daily by motorbike.

"The tomatoes are fetching good prices this year. This time last year, the tomato price dipped below K1,000 per viss in the market. But this year, the price has increased to over K2,000 per viss, said Ko Pyay Lin.

After growing for three or four months, the tomato plants begin the fruits. Instead of growing other species of tomatoes, the growers from mentioned villages mainly cultivate only Kyar Chayyar tomato species yearly and are selling them at the Monywa market.

The price of tomatoes in the Monywa market fetched K1,800 per viss on 22 December, K2,300 per viss on 21 December and K2,500 per viss in these days.

"For the fresh crops, if the yields become too high, the price is usually going down. Also, transport is one more reason the prices of tomatoes are going down. The Chindwin bridge opens at 6 am and thus people cannot come as early as before. Earlier, the tomatoes were conveyed two times daily, said a tomato grower. — Lu Lay/GNLM

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain, Norway, seal first post-Brexit fishing deal

BRITAIN and Norway have signed their first post-Brexit fishing deal, allowing each country access to the other's waters and reciprocal quotas, the government in Oslo announced Tuesday.

Under the agreement, which covers 2022, both countries can fish up to 30,000 tonnes of demersal, or deep-water stocks, and 17,000 tonnes of herring in the waters of the other.

Britain will also be allowed to fish up to 6,550 tonnes of cod around Svalbard, in the Barents Sea, the scene of past fishing disputes between the two countries.

Fisheries Minister Bjornar Skjaran expressed satisfaction with the agreement, describing it as the first such accord between the two countries, having failed to reach one covering 2021.—AFP ■

Lebanon needs $12-15 bn to kickstart recovery: central bank

LEBANON needs to receive 12 to 15 billion dollars from its partners to kickstart its economic recovery and shore up fast-diminishing foreign currency reserves, Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh said Tuesday.

Lebanon is grappling with an unprecedented economic crisis branded by the World Bank as one of the planet's worst in modern times.

More than 80 per cent of the population lives in poverty and the currency has lost more than 90 per cent of its black market value amid political squabbling that has delayed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

"Our quota in the International Monetary Fund is 4 billion," Salameh said in an AFP interview. "If countries add to it, we could reach 12 to 15 billion, an amount that could help start Lebanon's recovery and restore confidence," he said.

Lebanon defaulted on its debt for the first time last year but political leaders have continued to resist key reforms demanded by donors to unlock necessary funds.—AFP ■

Russians face soaring costs and tough choices this New Year

WALKING through a freezing market in Moscow earlier this month, 60-year-old Sergei Borisovich recalled that he rang in the last New Year at a table laden with festive delicacies.

This year, the factory worker, who declined to give his last name, said a spike in prices meant he would have to forego caviar and other treats so he could afford a bottle of bubbly for the countdown on Russia's biggest holiday.

People are making sacrifices across the country, with soaring inflation pushing up costs and forcing cash-strapped Russians to make difficult decisions around the holidays.

"Everything is getting more expensive but wages aren't going up," said Sergei Borisovich, who was shocked that a loaf of bread now costs 100 rubles ($1.35).

Red caviar, a favourite among Russians for New Year's Eve, is the most expensive it's been in more than 20 years. **PHOTO: AFP**

President Vladimir Putin has described prices as a key concern and the embattled opposition is hoping to leverage the economic woes.

This month, inflation reached its highest since 2016, with rising everyday costs hitting hard a population whose average monthly income is 40,402 rubles ($545).

Adding to that, some 43 per cent of Russians do not have any savings, according to a recent survey by recruitment website SuperJob.

Sergei Borisovich said the table this year would be topped only with a salad of potatoes and peas.

"I'll buy some Shampanskoye if I can," he said referring to sparkling wine popular during the Soviet Union.

Red caviar, served with bread and butter on New Year's Eve, is the most expensive it has been since monitoring began in 2000.— AFP ■

Canada announces challenge to US lumber tariffs

Canada is the world's largest exporter of softwood lumber while the United States is the largest market. **PHOTO: DEMOSTENES ANGEL/ AFP**

OTTAWA said Tuesday it will challenge US anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Canadian softwood lumber, saying they harm both Canadian producers and US consumers.

The challenge will be filed under Chapter 10 of the trilateral free trade agreement with the United States and Mexico, or USMCA, the Canadian government said in a statement.

"Rulings on this issue have consistently found Canada to be a fair trading partner, and Canada is confident that rulings will continue to find Canada to be one," Trade Minister Mary Ng said.

"These unjustified duties not only harm Canadian communities, businesses, and workers, but they are also a tax on US consumers, raising the costs of housing, renovations, and rentals," she said.

The lumber dispute has plagued relations between Washington and Ottawa for 35 years.

US producers accuse their Canadian counterparts of selling wood below the market price to promote exports, which Ottawa denies.

Canada is the world's largest exporter of softwood lumber while the United States is the largest market.

Last month, as lumber prices surged, the United States doubled tariffs on Canadian lumber to 17.9 per cent.

Ng said Ottawa remains "extremely disappointed" with the US tariff move and renewed calls for Washington "to stop imposing unwarranted duties on Canadian softwood lumber products."

Canadian forestry associations applauded Ottawa's challenge of the tariffs. —AFP ■

Sri Lanka hikes fuel prices as economic crisis worsens

SRI Lanka raised fuel prices Tuesday and warned of possible petrol rationing with importers struggling to pay for oil, in a worsening economic crisis that has also sparked food shortages.

The move comes just days after international ratings agency Fitch downgraded the country over fears of a sovereign default on its $26 billion foreign debt.

Foreign exchange reserves are almost depleted and authorities shuttered the island's only refinery last month. "The latest price increase is aimed at discouraging consumption," an official from the state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation told AFP.

"Given the dollar crisis, we may have to introduce fuel rationing unless consumption is brought down." The CPC and Lanka IOC, the island's sole fuel retailers, hiked petrol prices more than 10 per cent to 210 rupees ($1.05) per litre, with smaller raises for kerosene and diesel. Traders in Sri Lanka have struggled to get dollars to finance imports of food, medicine and raw materials after the island's tourism-dependent economy was hammered by the pandemic.—AFP ■

A mahout rides an elephant among the traffic down a street in Piliyandala, a suburb of Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo. **PHOTO: AFP / LAKRUWAN WANNIARACHCHI/FILE**

China develops complete BDS industrial chain

CHINA has developed a complete industrial chain of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), according to the China Satellite Navigation Office (CSNO).

BDS has become a global constellation in stable operation. By now, 45 in-orbit BDS satellites are operational and in good mechanical health, ensuring the sustainable development of the industrial chain, said the CSNO.

China has developed a complete BDS industrial chain with innovative breakthroughs in basic BDS products such as the basic chips, modules, boards and antennas, and leapfrog development in performance and large-scale application.

China officially commissioned BDS on July 31, 2020, opening the new BDS-3 system to global users.

Photo taken on 16 September 2021 shows the first International Summit on BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) Applications, in Changsha, Central China's Hunan province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China-developed BDS is now operating alongside three other systems: GPS of the United States; Galileo of the European Union; and GLONASS of Russia.

The BDS can provide diverse services and powerful functions. Globally, the system can provide services of positioning, navigation and timing (PNT), global message communication, and international search and rescue. In the Asia-Pacific region, its services include regional short message communication, precise point positioning, satellite-based augmentation, and ground-based augmentation.

In 2020, the total output value of China's satellite navigation and positioning services industry reached 403.3 billion yuan (about 63.3 billion US dollars), up 16.9 per cent compared with the volume in 2019.—Xinhua ■

New virus wave, inflation cool German consumers' mood

GERMAN consumer sentiment worsened for the second month running, a key survey said Tuesday, as Europe's largest economy braces itself for rising inflation and the spread of the Omicron coronavirus variant.

Pollster GfK's forward-looking barometer fell to -6.8 from a revised figure of -1.8 for December.

"The high incidence of the virus due to the fourth wave of the coronavirus pandemic with further restrictions and higher prices are increasingly weighing on the consumer climate," said GfK consumer expert Rolf Buerkl. New rules barring the unvaccinated from non-essential shops had dealt retailers "a hard blow", Buerkl said.

Warnings that the Omicron variant could begin to spread quickly in the country had also "dampened prospects for the new year", he commented.

Already under pressure from rising infections in recent weeks, Germany could face a "massive fifth wave" of the virus caused by the more infectious new strain, Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said Friday.

On inflation, consumer prices rose at an annual rate of 5.2 per cent in November, a 29-year high driven by the soaring cost of energy and widespread supply bottlenecks. The GfK survey of some 2,000 people found that Germans were significantly more pessimistic about the state of the European Union's largest economy than last month, the third drop in a row for that sub-section of the survey.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

UPS orders 19 Boeing 767 cargo jets

BOEING announced Tuesday that it sealed an order to sell 19 freighter planes to UPS in the latest sign of how surging e-commerce use is boosting the air cargo market.

Based on list prices, the order would be worth $4.2 billion, but companies rarely pay full price for such bulk orders.

The deal comes on the heels of earlier orders for 80 new Boeing widebody freighters and more than 80 conversions to freighters, part of what the US aviation giant called a "record" cargo performance in 2021, according to a news release.

Recent backlogs at ports have boosted demand for air cargo, but experts expect the trend to extend beyond the pandemic given rising e-commerce demand.

Boeing has projected an annual increase of four per cent in air cargo demand over the next 20 years.—AFP ■

McDonald's Japan only sells fries in small sizes due to supply crunch

MCDONALD'S Co. (Japan) will only offer french fries in small sizes as potato imports from North America have been delayed due to flooding near a Vancouver port and a worldwide logistics disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sale of medium- and large-size fries will be stopped from Friday to 30 December as the potato supply falls, McDonald's said in a statement on Tuesday. The hamburger chain continues to sell small-size offerings as it tries to make sure customers can enjoy the popular item despite the shortage.

McDonald's said it is expediting the procurement of potatoes and plans to put medium- and large-size fries back on the menu by 10:30 am on 31 December .—Kyodo ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE

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MESWAK

The above trademark is used in respect of "Toothpaste, toothpowder, mouthwash and other dentifrice products" included in International Class 3.

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

U Bo Bo
Advocate (Reg. No. 10664)
For **Dabur India Limited**
C/o **Fame Myanmar Law Firm**
No. 45/C, 2nd Floor, 50th Street (Lower Block),
Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.
Dated: 23rd December 2021

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1116)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1116)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-12-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE

Hobi Kozmetik Imalat Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S., a company organized under the laws of the Republic of Turkey and having its principal office at Cevizli Mahalles Tugayyolu Caddesi No: 20/A Ofisim Istanbul Plazalari A Blok Kat: 11 No: 49-50-51-52 Maltepe/Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey is the owner and proprietor of the following trademark;

HOBBY

The above trademark is used in respect of "Skin care preparation, hair care preparation, body care preparation, soap, liquid hand soap, bleaching preparation, wipes for cosmetic purpose" included in International Class 3.

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above marks will be dealt with according to law.

U Bo Bo
Advocate (Reg. No. 10664)
For **Hobi Kozmetik Imalat Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S.**
C/o **Fame Myanmar Law Firm**
No. 45/C, 2nd Floor, 50th Street (Lower Block), Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.
Dated: 23rd December 2021

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm
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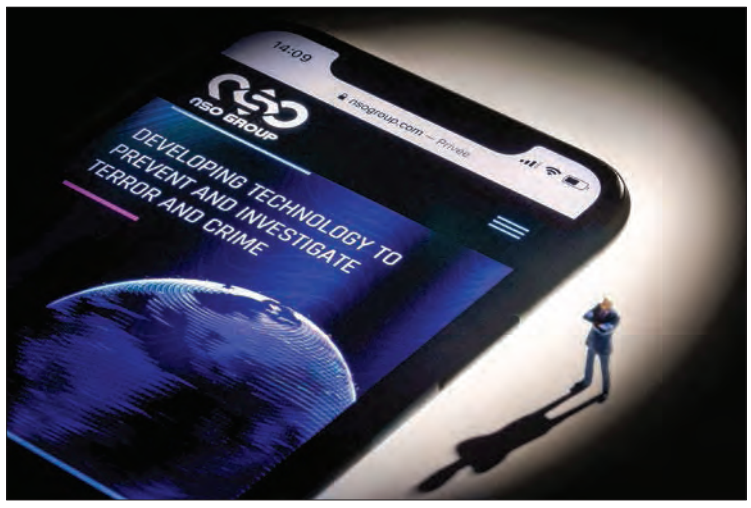
Poland rejects accusations of 'political' spyware use

POLAND on Tuesday rejected accusations that it had used Pegasus spying software for political ends after a top lawyer opposed to the current government said he had been targeted.

"The suggestion that Polish services used operational methods for political ends is unjustified," said Stanislaw Zaryn, spokesman for the ministry in charge of the secret services.

Roman Giertych, a lawyer involved in several cases against the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party, told Gazeta Wyborcza that Poland was using the spyware "to fight the democratic opposition".

"Using this type of programme to fight the opposition completely eliminates the sense of democratic elections," he said, explaining that the spyware was used ahead of the 2019 elections.



NSO has consistently denied any wrongdoing and defended use of its Pegasus software **PHOTO: AFP/JOEL SAGET0**

Ewa Wrzosek, a prosecutor and opposition figure, also said the spyware had been used against her. She had been alerted by Apple, she added.

Citizen Lab, a cyber-security watchdog based in Canada, confirmed it had looked into the use of Pegasus against Giertych and Wrzosek.

"We conducted these investigations and provided confirmation to the two named individuals that they were repeatedly infected with Pegasus spyware," John Scott Railton, a senior researcher at Citizen Lab, told AFP.

Controversial spyware

Smartphones infected with Pegasus are essentially turned into pocket spying devices, allowing the user to read the target's messages, look through their photos, track their location and even turn on their camera without them knowing.

The Polish channel TVN in 2019 reported that the country's anti-corruption agency had spent 7.6 million euros ($8.6 million) on phone spyware.

Zaryn said Tuesday the activities of "operational control" were carried out in accordance with the law only after obtaining the consent of the Prosecutor General and a court order.

He did not confirm or deny if Poland used Pegasus.

The NSO Group, the Israeli owner of Pegasus, told AFP it was sold "only to legitimate law enforcement agencies who use these systems under warrants to fight criminals, terrorists and corruption.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgians vow mass hunger-strike after reports ex-leader 'tortured'

SEVERAL thousand supporters of Georgia's jailed opposition leader and ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili rallied Tuesday vowing a "mass hunger-strike" to secure his release after doctors said he was tortured in custody.

Waving Georgia's five-cross flag and holding banners that read "Free Saakashvili!" protesters marched through the capital Tbilisi before gathering outside parliament for the rally timed to coincide with the politician's 54th birthday. Saakashvili's arrest exacerbated a political crisis stemming from parliamentary polls last year that the opposition denounced as fraudulent.—AFP ■

Fresh blow for Kim Dotcom in US extradition fight

NEW ZEALAND'S top court rejected Kim Dotcom's latest bid to avoid extradition to the United States on Tuesday, in a fresh blow to the tech entrepreneur's decade-long battle against online piracy charges.

Dotcom, who is accused of netting millions from his Megaupload file-sharing service, faces charges of racketeering, fraud and money laundering in the United States, carrying jail terms of up to 20 years.—AFP ■

Belgian military in five-day battle against cyberattack

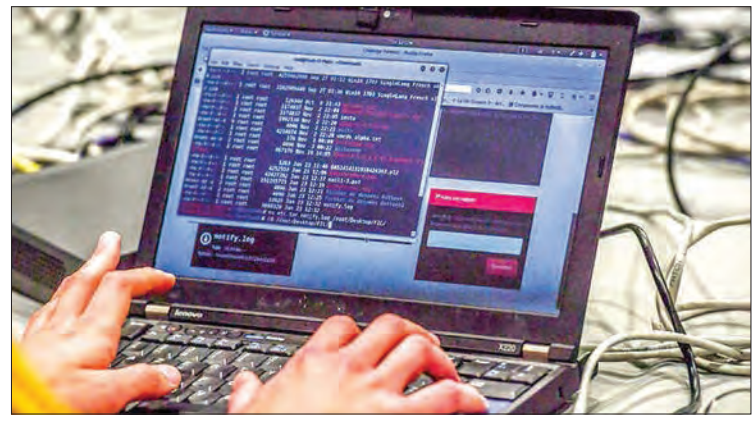
THE Belgian military said on Tuesday it had been hit with a cyberattack five days ago and was still battling to restore affected parts of its system.

Military spokesman Olivier Severin told AFP that elements hit by last Thursday's attack, which contaminated services connected to the internet, were still being analyzed and restored.

Severin did not name any group suspected of the attack and gave no further details of the systems involved.

The attackers are believed to have targeted a vulnerability in Log4j, a logging library that keeps track of events on a system.

The flaw, which was publicized earlier this month, was labelled "the single biggest, most critical vulnerability of the last decade" by US cybersecurity firm Tenable.



The Belgian military said on Tuesday it had been hit with a cyberattack five days ago and was still battling to restore affected parts of its system. **PHOTO: AFP**

It can allow attackers to take control of a machine, move around the victim's network and deploy ransomware and spyware.

The Belgian military imposed "quarantine measures" to "contain the infected elements", Severin told the Belga press agency on Monday.

Log4j is a common piece of code and the vulnerability has led to widespread concern, but no other attacks on major companies or institutions have yet been reported.— AFP ■

Saudi-led strikes halt aid flights into rebel-held Yemen capital

A UN humanitarian flight brings Yemeni twins Mohamed and Ahmed back to the rebel-held capital Sanaa last month following successful surgery in Jordan to separate them after they were born conjoined last year. **PHOTO: UNICEF/AFP**

UN aid flights into Yemen's rebel-held capital Sanaa have been halted by air strikes carried out by the Saudi-led coalition which supports the government, an airport official said Tuesday.

Because of coalition air strikes targeting the Huthi rebels, "the airport is no longer able to receive aircraft operated by the United Nations or international humanitarian organisations", the official told AFP.

Flights into Sanaa airport have been largely halted by a Saudi-led blockade since August 2016, but there have been exemptions for aid flights that are a key lifeline for the population.

The airport official, who asked not to be identified, called on the United Nations to secure a halt to the raids so that the airport could resume operations.

On Monday evening, the coalition said it had carried out "a limited number of precision strikes on legitimate military targets in Sanaa international airport".

"The operation was mounted in response to the threat and use of airport infrastructure to carry out cross-border attacks," it said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

Coalition aircraft hit six targets in the airport, including sites used to "control attacks by drones loaded with explosives" or to "train terrorist elements" for such operations, the statement said. The coalition insisted that its strikes were "in accordance with international humanitarian law" and should have no impact on the airport's operational capacity.—AFP ■

Putin warns West of military measures over Ukraine threats

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin warned Tuesday that Russia was prepared to take military steps in response to "unfriendly" Western actions over the Ukraine conflict, in a sharp escalation of rhetoric.

He also called for "serious negotiations" on Russian security demands put to the United States and NATO during his first call with new German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who in turn called for "de-escalation".

The Russian president has for weeks accused the United States and the Washington-led NATO military alliance of stoking tensions near Moscow's borders, but these were his first comments hinting at potential conflict.

Putin told defence ministry officials that if the West continued its "obviously aggressive stance" Russia would take "appropriate retaliatory military-technical measures".

Russia "will react toughly to unfriendly steps", he said, adding that he wanted to underscore that "we have every right to do so".

The United States has been sounding the alarm since mid-November that Moscow could be planning a large-scale attack on its ex-Soviet neighbour Ukraine and has warned Putin of unprecedented sanctions.

Western governments have accused Moscow of amassing some 100,000 troops near its border with eastern Ukraine, where Kiev has been fighting pro-Russia separatists since 2014.

'Doorstep of our house'

Russia denies plotting an invasion and has demanded legal guarantees over its security from the United States and NATO, demanding the alliance stop an eastward expansion.—AFP ■

The fighting in eastern Ukraine has claimed more than 13,000 lives. **PHOTO: AFP**

London court orders Dubai ruler to pay 'record' divorce settlement

Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, the former wife of Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, leaves the Royal Courts of Justice with her lawyer Baroness Fiona Shackleton in London on 31 July 2019. **PHOTO: ADRIAN DENNIS/ AFP**

THE ruler of Dubai was on Tuesday ordered to pay his former wife and children around £550 million ($730 million) in what is thought to be the highest divorce settlement set by an English court.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum was told he must pay Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, a half-sister of Jordan's King Abdullah II, a lump sum of £251.5 million and provide a bank guarantee of £290 million to cover children's maintenance and security as adults.

The 72-year-old ruler of the emirate of Dubai has long been locked in a bitter legal battle with his 47-year-old former wife, who lives in London with their two children, aged 13 and nine.

The High Court ruled in October this year that the sheikh had authorized the use of spying software to hack his ex-wife's phone, and a judge said he had "harassed and intimidated (her) both before her departure to England and since".

Judge Philip Moor in his divorce settlement ruling said that Sheikh Mohammed had "accepted that his wealth was sufficient to meet any reasonable order".

His spokesperson said afterwards that the Sheikh "has always ensured that his children are provided for" and "the court has now made its ruling on finances and he does not intend to comment further".

Previously the largest settlement was approximately £450 million to Tatiana Akhmedova, the ex-wife of a Russian billionaire, in 2016.

The case was held behind closed doors in the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales.

Sheikh Mohammed, who is also vice-president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, last year failed in a legal bid to block publication of its judgments.— AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australians warned of surge in human trafficking

AUSTRALIA'S top law enforcement agency has warned of a surge in human trafficking as international borders reopen.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) on Wednesday urged Australians to be aware of the signs of human trafficking as the number of people travelling in and out of the country increases.

AFP Detective Superintendent Jayne Crossling said the range of purposes that people are trafficked for, including servitude, forced marriage and sexual slavery, makes it a difficult crime to police.

"The victim doesn't have to present as if they're in shackles. There are so many other ways (offenders) can coerce them and make them feel like they can't get away," she told Nine Entertainment newspapers.

"It's about exploiting those vulnerabilities. In many instances, it's hiding in the domestic setting, and there are ways in which the perpetrator is able to hide that particular behaviour," she said.—AFP ■

Only weeks left to revive Iran nuclear deal: US negotiator

THERE are only "some weeks" left to revive the nuclear deal with Iran if it continues its nuclear activities at the current pace, US negotiator Rob Malley said Tuesday. Malley, in an interview with CNN, warned of a "period of escalating crisis" if diplomacy failed to restore the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Negotiations restarted in November, after a five-month hiatus, to try to restore the deal with Iran, which the United States withdrew from under former president Donald Trump in 2018.—AFP ■

Armed groups deploy in Libya capital

ARMED groups deployed in the suburbs of Libya's capital on Tuesday, sparking security fears ahead of an expected delay of presidential elections, as three key candidates met in the country's east. Images posted online in the morning showed a tank and pickup trucks mounted with machine guns in Fornaj district, where armed men guarding sandbags blocked some roads.

Schools and the University of Tripoli closed as a precaution but there were no firefights, residents said. The mobilizations came as Libyans await an official announcement that presidential elections, set for Friday, have been postponed. The vote is meant to cap a United Nations-led peace process aiming to move the oil-rich North African country past a decade of conflict since the country's 2011 revolt.

But divisions over the election's legal basis and the candidacies of divisive figures have undermined the process.

While no party has officially announced the polls will be delayed, such a move is widely viewed as a foregone conclusion, partly due to the difficulty of holding a free and fair vote given the fragile security situation.

On Tuesday, two leading presidential candidates from western Libya, ex-interior minister Fathi Bashagha and former deputy prime minister Ahmed Maiteeq, met in Benghazi with eastern strongman Khalifa Haftar, who is also seeking the presidency.—AFP ■

Workers in Libya's capital Tripoli pass an electoral billboard reading in Arabic, 'Register and vote before missing your chance' — but a postponement of the ballot is widely expected. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.

(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

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

(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international inves tment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Striker Maung Maung Lwin (left) is seen with the team jersey after signing his contract. **PHOTO: LAMPHUN WARRIORS F.C.**

Striker Maung Maung Lwin joins Thai League II Club

MYANMAR national team captain Maung Maung Lwin, who competed in the 2020 ASEAN Suzuki Cup, joined Lamphun Warriors F.C., a Thai League-2 club this week.

Maung Maung Lwin went to Thailand directly after the Suzuki tourney to finalize his contract with the team, according to a statement released by Lamphun Warriors FC on 21 December. Maung Maung Lwin is playing abroad for the first time.

The Lamphun Warriors have qualified for the Thai League II this season and are fourth in the table after the first leg.

Maung Maung Lwin is a member of the Myanmar team that qualified for the 2015 U-20 World Cup and has been a regular member of the Myanmar national team.

Maung Maung Lwin started his professional career with Hantharwady United and moved to Yangon United in the 2018 season, and his contract with Yangon United was terminated last month.

Maung Maung Lwin's teammate Aung Thu is currently playing for Thai League I Club Buriram United, and Kyaw Ko Ko in Thai League II Club Phrae United.

Meanwhile, Zaw Min Tun is playing for Trat FC of Thai League II Club and Aung Kyaw Naing in Pattaya FC of Thai League III. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Nketiah hat-trick sends Arsenal into League Cup semi-finals

EDDIE Nketiah scored a hat-trick as a much-changed Arsenal marched into the League Cup semi-finals by beating Sunderland 5-1 on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old striker is out of contract at the end of the season and gave potential suitors in the January transfer window a reminder of his predatory prowess in front of goal.

Nicolas Pepe and Charlie Patino on his debut were also on target for the Gunners as the match went ahead at the Emirates without any restrictions on crowd numbers despite London mayor Sadiq Khan declaring a "major incident" in the English capital due to spiralling coronavirus infection numbers.

Arsenal were one of just eight sides in Premier League action last weekend as the wave of Covid cases caused by the new Omicron variant decimated the English football calendar.

Mikel Arteta made nine changes from the side that thrashed Leeds 4-1, but Arsenal were never in danger of suffering an upset.

Nketiah opened the scoring on 17 minutes as he bundled the ball home from close range after Rob Holding's header was parried by Sunderland goalkeeper Lee Burge.

Pepe remains Arsenal's record signing, but has been dropped down the pecking order this season due to the form of youngsters Bukayo Saka, Emile Smith Rowe and Gabriel Martinelli. — AFP ■

Tottenham to appeal 'incredible' expulsion from Europe - Conte

TOTTENHAM manager Antonio Conte described UEFA's decision throw his side out of the Europa Conference League as "incredible" and suggested Spurs will launch an appeal through the courts.

Spurs were handed a 3-0 defeat for their final group stage match against Rennes after the match was postponed due to a wave of positive coronavirus cases among Tottenham players and staff.

A new date before the deadline of 31 December could then not be agreed between the clubs.

Tottenham had needed to win their final game against the French side, who had already secured top spot in the group, to progress ahead of Vitesse Arnhem.

"It is not definitive, but there is another step to confirm or not this incredible decision," Conte said on Tuesday.

"We are very, very confident for the next step and I repeat we deserve to play the qualification on the pitch, not in the court.

"I can't accept this. We are very, very disappointed with UEFA for this decision."

Tottenham manager Antonio Conte described UEFA's decision throw his side out of the Europa Conference League as "incredible" and suggested Spurs will launch an appeal through the courts. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Should Spurs fail to overturn that decision, one chance for Conte to end the club's trophy drought stretching back to 2008 will have gone. — AFP ■